



BULLETIN OF THE **POLONUS** PHILATELIC SOCIETY

530

Spring 2007/8



ABC's of Expertization

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Membership: Members receive quarterly Polonus Bulletin, have complete access to the Society website (www.polonus.org), and participate in the services and activities offered by the Society. The two membership categories are: **Regular Member - \$25.00** and **Junior Member (under the age of 16) - \$10.00**.

Dues are payable in US funds no later than the end of March of each calendar year. New members will receive all the Bulletins for the year in which they join. Memberships are based upon a calendar 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 the Editor.

Membership queries to be sent to the Membership Chairman.

General Society matters and complaints to be sent to the President. (see addresses above)

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ABC's of EXPERTIZING and TYPING of STAMPS and COVERS

By Hank Bieniecki

For the purposes of this article "expertizing" and "authentication" have the same meaning

During the last couple of years I have been working to establish a Polonus "sponsored" expertizing service. Implementing this service proved to be far more challenging than originally anticipated. The first challenge arose from the inherent complexity of Polish philatelic material and the lack of qualified parties in the US to perform this work. The second challenge arose from a significant difference in expertizing standards in the USA and Poland which was further complicated by the need to provide Certificates of Authenticity written in English.

Typical Expertization in USA:

Cat. No.	Issue	Denom.	Color
919a	1943	5¢	gray, red
919	1943	5¢	gray, red

The typical standard for authentication in the USA involves a collector (dealer etc) submitting a philatelic item with the expertizing organization's submission form requesting an opinion as to whether or not the submitted item is in fact the stamp as designated by country, catalog number and description. The collector receives the form and stamp back with a photograph of the stamp affixed stating that "in the opinion" of the committee or organization that the submitted item is or is not the item as described. The Chairman signs the Certificate on behalf of the committee. **Figure 1** illustrates a typical US certificate. It states that the "Expert Committee" has found the item to be genuine, never hinged. Such a certificate would not be acceptable in Poland or other European countries as it does not provide a detailed description of the condition of the stamp.

Key Expertizing Differences between USA and Poland:

The first difference between expertizing in the USA and Poland (as well as most of Europe) arises from the fact that in Poland, expert candidates must study and pass a series of examinations to be certified as an "Expert" by that country's Philatelic Union (centralized national organization) which

determines via testing and ongoing monitoring who is qualified to be an Expert.

Figure 1: Typical Certificate of Authenticity Issued in United States

Certain members are designated as an Expert for a limited area such as Port Gdansk. Other members who spend years of study, subsequently pass all levels of examination, and are sponsored by other Experts, may be designated by the Polish Philatelists Union as Experts for all Polish philatelic items. In Fischer Catalogs you will find a listing of all of the Experts of the Polish Philatelists Union including their areas of expertise.

A second difference arises from the fact that Experts in Poland are potentially financially liable for any error they make when expertizing an item. The Expert personally guarantees that the item is not only genuine, but also is as described. The difference between the US standard of issuing a committee opinion without liability, and an individual Polish Expert issuing a guarantee for which they have financial liability necessitates the use of additional standardized symbols to protect both the party submitting the items as well as the Expert rendering his findings.

Authentication Service Options:

Depending on the value of the philatelic item in question, the collector's objective in having the items expertized, and the fees associated with the different levels of authentication services, the collector may elect to have the item (1) signed, (2) signed and typed (3) or have a Certificate of Authenticity issued for the item.

Authentication by Expert Signature on Philatelic Item:

The oldest and most traditional method used by an Expert to designate a philatelic item as genuine is to sign that item manually or by use of a stamp imprint. Stamps are typically signed on the reverse. Depending on various factors, covers may be signed on the lower right corner, on the reverse, or near the stamps. Today it is possible to encounter stamps that have been signed by multiple generations of Experts. As virtually anyone may create an imprinting stamp and apply it to the back of a stamp it is critical for the collector to know whose signatures they can rely on. An excellent source for information and examples of signatures of experts for all countries, including Poland, is located on line at Philatelic Experts www.filatelia.fi/experts.

Over time, the Polish Philatelist Union adopted a series of additional marks for use by experts that provide additional information concerning the condition of signed stamps. A circle with a "4" inside indicates that the stamp has been repaired/restored to some degree. The letter "G" indicates that part or some of the gum is not original or missing. These additional marks essentially serve as warning signs. They do not indicate the degree of the problem, but simply that the stamp is not perfect. It could be that on an otherwise VF Poland #1 that one perf is a little short or several perforations have been improved, or that a tiny natural tear exists from the perforation process. It could also indicate a major repair was made to the stamp. In all cases, if not directed to prepare a Certificate of Authenticity, the Expert would apply the circle containing a "4" if he agreed to sign the stamp. In such cases a Certificate of Authenticity is preferable for both the party submitting and the Expert, as a full description will be provided.



Fig. 2: *Genuine Krakow Issued Signed and Plated by Experts*

The 1919 Krakow Issues (Scott 41-60) represent one of several cases in which all Polish Experts are required to plate the stamp (give the stamp's position in the sheet) as well as sign the stamp. This is not "typing" which is discussed in the next section. It requires the expert to make detailed measurements of the overprint and confirm that it matches exactly the measurements of a

Since the original type was reassembled and used to make unauthorized overprints while the original stamps were in still circulation, this is the only method that ensures that

the Krakow overprint is from the original authorized printing. **Figure 2** illustrates the front and back of a 40 Heller Krakow postage due bearing the signatures of Z. Korszen, L. Schmutz and Mikstein and plating IIA 91.

Typing of Philatelic Items:

Before the age of electronics and quality printing machines, printing was more art than science. To further complicate matters, a single issue of a stamp could be printed on various types of paper, having various color shades and finally, different types of perforations. For this article I will use Scott 21 (Fischer 12) as an example. Scott in its infinite wisdom lists Poland 21 as blue and 21a as ultramarine. The catalog value of an unused 21 blue is \$0.20 whereas a unused 21a is \$750.00. The reality is that there are six distinct different color types of Scott 21 rather than the two listed in Scott. Sapphire and dark blue colors are scarce and catalog far more than the common blue and violet blue types. For such stamps the collector wants the Expert to tell him if the stamp is authentic and the type. The Type is noted on the reverse along with the signature.

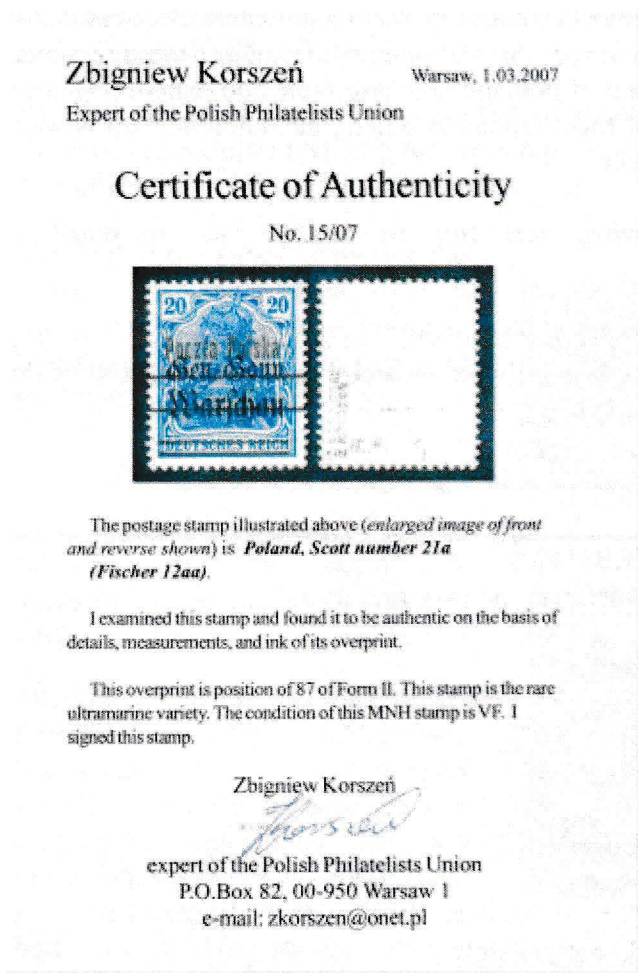


Figure 3: Typical Certificate of Authenticity in English Issued by Polish Expert.

Certificate of Authenticity:

A Certificate of Authenticity is the gold standard for providing proof of authenticity, typing and the specific condition of the stamp. No question is left unanswered with a certificate. Any flaw of any type must be indicated by the Expert. As a general rule of thumb, when buying a philatelic item with a retail value of

Figure 3 illustrates the a Polish Certificate issued by Zbigniew Korszen for Scott 21a which includes not only that it is genuine, but also provides its type and condition. **Figure 4** illustrates the front and back of Neubrandenburg 5 Ibx5A which has been signed and typed by Z. Korszen. Again Neubrandenburg 5 exists in several types. They range in value from 50 PLN for the most common to 4000 PLN for the rare illustrated Ibx5A (32 copies printed).



Figure 4: Stamp Signed and Typed by Polish Expert Z. Korszen

Many inexpensive stamps such as Warsaw Locals have a multitude of types due to variations in ink, paper etc. For these inexpensive stamps an Expert will charge an additional fee for typing given the amount of time required to do this work. Typically such inexpensive stamps do not justify the cost of a Certificate of Authenticity.

\$200 or more, the purchaser should require a Certificate of Authenticity. I will again use **Figure 3** to illustrate when a Certificate of Authenticity is justified. A VF MLH example of 21a catalogs for approximately \$800 whereas the MNH example shown in the certificate catalogs \$2500.

Summary:

While the terminology associated with expertizing may initially appear confusing, after you understand the basic terms and services available, the process is in fact relatively simple. For less expensive philatelic material, a signature, plus typing when appropriate, by a qualified expert is adequate. As the value and rarity of philatelic items increase, the additional fees associated with a Certificate of Authenticity may be justified. Some day in the future you may wish to sell all or part of your collection. Buyers are typically willing to pay a higher price for material with Certificates of Authenticity as their risk is minimized.

When buying, make sure you are acquiring material that is signed by known experts and give no credence to "mystery markings" that frequently appear on stamps and may be referred to as expertizing marks. For better material require a Certificate of Authenticity. Before buying any philatelic item that is not properly expertized, obtain agreement (written preferred) that the purchase is subject to professional expertizing and that the seller will provide a full refund of both the purchase price and expertizing costs if the items is either not genuine or not as described. Most reputable sellers, including auction houses, will agree to these terms if they are discussed in advance.

If you have additional questions about expertizing, feel free to contact me via email at hank@biistamp.com.

In the next issue of the Bulletin I will be providing all members with the details of how to use the Polonus-sponsored expertizing service which will rely primarily on authentication by member(s) of the Polish Philatelists Union.

USEFUL WEBSITES

Following is a list of web-sites relating to Polish philately that you may find useful.

American Association of Exhibitors – www.aape.org/index
American Philatelic Society – www.stamps.org
Cherrystone Auctions – www.cherrystoneauctions.com
E-bay – www.ebay.com
Fischer Catalogue – www.fischer.pl
History of Poland on Stamps – www.gopoland.com/history
Polish Collecting – www.polishstamps@yahoo.com
Polish Post Office – www.poczta-polska.pl
Polish Philatelic Literature in English – www.kulpinski.net/philately
Polish Philatelic Society – www.polonus.org
Polish Stamp Auction – www.stamps-pl.com
Polish Stamp Encyclopedia – www.home.zonnet.nl/ben_nieborg
Stamp Domain – www.stampdomain.com
Translation site – www.poltran.com/pl.php4
Worldwide Experts and Forgeries – www.filatelia.fi

Woldenberg Virtuti Militari Series

By Roman Sobus

Every nation has had to endure war at some point in its history, and Poland, with its turbulent past, has suffered through more than its fair share of conflicts. The burden of defending the homeland falls on the shoulders of the soldier, and every country has ways of recognizing display exceptional heroism or leadership. A very few are singled out for the highest possible distinction.

In the United States, that award is the Congressional Medal of Honor, in Australia, Canada, and England, the Victoria Cross, and Poland, the Virtuti Militari. The Order of Virtuti Militari was introduced on June 22, 1792 by King Stanislaw August Poniatowski, after Polish forces defeated the Czar's army at the battle of Raclawice. To the Polish officers interned by the Germans in 1939 at Oflag IIC, the Order of Virtuti Militari was known to be special indeed. A mere handful of the 7500 officers interned there had been so honored.

For the 150th anniversary of the inception of the order, a series of five stamps in three designs along with a special cancel were prepared for the camp's internal post. **(Figure 1)** The designs for the stamps were the collaboration of various artists.

Fig. #1

The first in the series, depicting the banner of the order, in a denomination of 5f, was designed by Edmund Czaniecki and engraved by Eugeniusz Pichelle. It was first issued in brown on May 8, 1942 and subsequently in red on July 2, 1942.



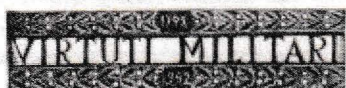
The second design shows modern soldiers advancing against a background of an 18th century battle.



The 10f stamp was the work of Lt. Pichelle. It was also issued in two colors, red on June 15, and green on June 25, 1942. The wooden die was cleaned at some point after the green impressions were made, and additional stamps were printed in both colors. The stamps of the second printing can be identified by a more defined image of the engraving. The difference in the stamp due to the cleaning of the wooden die is obvious in Fig. 1. The third stamp, a 20f in blue, depicting the

Virtuti Militari medal itself, was the work of Jan Knothe and Stefan Michalski.

There are a wide range of color variations of all three stamps. They remained in circulation until January 31, 1943. The three stamps were incorporated into a special sheet commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Raclawice. Two impressions of the 10f and one each of the 5f and 20f were used, this time all in blue, with a header in black. The majority of the 1300 printed were canceled with a fixed date stamp prepared by Lt. Czarniecki and Lt. Buczynski. **(Figure 2)** Sheets not canceled are very scarce. 7



Up to this time, stamps were printed one at a time, each impression made by hand. The sheet, which carried five images, required only two impressions due to an improvised press, which accommodated several dies. The first impression utilized the three designs, (Figure 3) with the second, the fourth stamp and the header.

Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4



“prototype” utilizes two of the 10f stamps and a hereto unknown design! (Figure 4) The center design is printed in a blue similar to the final item, while the two images flanking it are in the original green color of the stamps.

This article does not cover basic information about printing dates, quantities, etc. in much detail, as much has been already published on the topic and is readily available in catalogs such as Fischer, and there is some very fine literature relating to POW material at www.kulpinski.net/philately

THE RECONSTRUCTION OF POLAND (1918-1921)

AND ITS IMPACT ON POLISH PHILATELY

By Zbigniew Adam Chojczak

Part II

4. Eastern Galicia (Former Austrian partition)

Galicia, the geographic territory of Malopolska, south-east Poland and Western Ukraine with parts of Bukovina, Volhynia, Transcarpathia and Carpathian Ruthenia, has been a part of Poland since the fourteenth century. The majority of the territory of Galicia became incorporated into the Austrian Empire after the first partition of Poland in 1772. Austria annexed the remaining parts of Galicia after the third partition in 1795 and after the Congress of Vienna in 1815. Following the unsuccessful insurrection in 1846, Austria also acquired the Krakow republic, an independent entity since 1815. The main political and administrative centers were located in Krakow and Lwów, with Polish as the official language in Western Galicia and Ukrainian as the official language in Eastern Galicia. This was reflected in the Austrian postal stationery which contained multilingual instructions for various linguistic groups. Postal stationery cards were printed in bilingual German-Polish, German-Ukrainian, German-Czech, German-Hungarian or German-Serbian.

The generic postal forms also had all these languages. Even though the Ukrainians formed a majority of the population in Eastern Galicia, they were mostly concentrated in rural areas and small towns. The Poles formed a majority in larger towns and cities, especially in Lwów. The large Jewish population of this region, mostly belonging to the Hasidic branch of Orthodox Judaism, was also concentrated in urban centers. The three major ethnic groups were often played against each other by the ruling authorities.

The Polish-Ukrainian conflict had developed over many centuries, culminating in periodic rebellions of Ukrainian peasants against Polish landowners. Following the revolutionary and liberal trends of the second half of the nineteenth century, both groups began developing nationalist movements but on diverging courses. The Ukrainians were in favor of a territorial split of Western and Eastern Galicia and demanded full political and cultural rights in their part. The Poles opposed the split, fearing the loss of Lwów, which they considered a Polish city. The Austrian rulers agreed to the division but the token

plans were interrupted by the war. The war years brought heavy demands for manpower and supplies, severely impoverishing the region's already poor economy. With the disintegration of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the local population was ready to carve out an independent state.

The Ukrainian national consciousness, supported by Austria, matured during the war, leading to the formation of the Ukrainian National Council (Rada) and the clandestine Ukrainian General Military Commissariat during the last days of the Austro-Hungarian collapse. The Council consisted of members of the Vienna Parliament, local Ukrainian and Bukovinian diets, and national political groups. When rumors began circulating about a possible Polish takeover of Eastern Galicia, Ukrainian military units moved into Lwów and the Western Ukrainian People's Republic was proclaimed on November 1, 1918.

The new republic claimed sovereignty over Eastern Galicia, and parts of Transcarpathia, Volhynia, Ruthenia and Bukovina. The map below shows the territory of Eastern Galicia and Bukovina with their major rivers, cities and towns. This area, together with the part of Transcarpathia along the Czechoslovak border, formed the short-lived Western Ukrainian People's Republic. To the east is the Ukrainian People's Republic, which later became the Ukrainian Soviet Republic.

Even though the majority of East Galician population was Ukrainian, the Poles refused to accept the new republic, and military confrontations occurred in Stanisławów, Kolomyja, Czerniowce, Zloczow, Przemyśl, Sambor, Stryj, Tarnopol and Rawa Ruska. The Jewish population, on the other hand, remained largely neutral although a minority supported the Ukrainian cause.

On the Polish side, the initial fighting was conducted by local units of the Polish Military Organization and the Military Association of Poles, made up mostly of WWI veterans and students. The Poles recaptured Lwów after three weeks and regular troops were dispatched from the

republic to conduct the counteroffensive against Ukrainian forces still in control over much of the territory. In the meantime, the eastern Ukraine, that is the Ukrainian People's Republic under Semen Petlura, began its western expansion towards the city of Chelm in Volhynia. The Ukrainian People's Republic fought against both the Bolshevik Red Army and Denikin's White armies and it was now confronted by the Polish army led by General Rydz-Smigly. The Poles kept the Ukrainians east of the river Bug until reinforcements arrived for the new offensive. The two Ukraines, west and east, formed a symbolic union in January of 1919 but continued to maintain separate governments and armies.

The Western Ukrainian government enacted new laws the following month, making Ukrainian the official language of this territory and allowing other linguistic groups to conduct legal matters in their own languages. A law was also passed to confiscate

large land estates, largely owned by Polish landlords, and distribute the land among landless peasants. This last measure was bitterly opposed by the landowners, who demanded support from the Polish government.

The troops on the Ukrainian front were reinforced by the army of General Haller and began a new offensive in May. Haller's army was trained in France and was staffed with French officers in anticipation of fighting the Bolsheviks but Pilsudski used this force to break the stalemate in Eastern Galicia, leading to a complete takeover of the Western Ukrainian Republic by July. This act forced the Allies (France, the U.K., the U.S., and Italy at the time) to halt the Polish offensive and call a ceasefire.



Map of Eastern Galicia

The Supreme Council of the Paris Peace Conference finally reached a solution in November by leaving Eastern Galicia in Polish hands with a 25-year mandate. The ruling stated that Eastern Galicia is really outside of Polish territory, that Poland should strive to approve autonomous status for this area and that a plebiscite should be organized to determine popular intentions. The Western Ukrainian government went into exile in Vienna while in the other conflict, the one with the Ukrainian People's Republic, both parties concluded a peace agreement in April of 1920, leaving the Zbrucz river as the border between the two nations. Both sides then formed an alliance against Soviet Russia, with the Poles assisting in the Kiev offensive. The allied troops took Kiev but the Red Army counteroffensive repelled the attackers and quickly took over the People's Republic.

The Poles, on the other hand, were pushed not only out of Ukraine but all the way to the gates of Warsaw.

The unstable, transitional nature of political, economic and social systems in Eastern Galicia was also evident in the transition from the Austrian postal system to the Ukrainian and Polish posts. During WWI this region was still under the authority of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and all the postal activities remained unchanged. Lwów was the administrative center of Galicia and the Lwów

Postal Directorate ruled over Malopolska and Eastern Galicia. As the war was nearing its end, the Austrian-Hungarian empire and its administration became increasingly unstable. Austrian stamps were still in use but the official and postal establishments were slowly disintegrating. This was a process similar to that in the three regions previously discussed in Part I of this series - the two parts of the former Kingdom and Malopolska. Further evolution, however, was halted by the Polish-Ukrainian territorial dispute.

The newly-proclaimed Western Ukrainian Republic issued its first stamps by overprinting four of the existing 1916-1918 Austrian stamps in Kolomyja (translated as Ukr.N.R. -- Ukrainian People's Republic), and new values in 5 and 10 shagiv. This set was very short-lived and another set of overprints was made with a lion and the name of the Western Ukrainian People's Republic. In March of 1919, more Austrian stamps were overprinted in Stanislawów. The same overprint and surcharge was also applied to Austrian military stamps of 1917, military semi-postal stamps of 1918, and postage due stamps of Bosnia. In May of 1919 the Austrian stamps of 1916-18 were overprinted with the trident in a shield and letters Z.U.N.R. -- Zahidno Ukrainska Narodna Republika, or Western Ukrainian People's Republic.



Stanislawów overprints.

Just about all the issues of the Western Ukraine were overprints of existing Austrian stamps. The only exceptions are the Kolomyja registration stamps, which look more like labels for registered mail with printed values. Only the last Stanisławów set is fairly inexpensive because it saw a very limited use and a large supply of mint stamps became available to speculators. All the other sets, however, are in high demand, fairly expensive and with many counterfeits. All these issues became invalid after the disintegration of the Western Ukrainian Republic, and the area became subject to the postal regulations of the Lwów Ministry of Posts. Eastern Galicia acquired the same status as Western Galicia (Malopolska) and used stamps intended for the former Austrian partition.

After the currency reform, both parts of Galicia became subordinate to the central Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs in Warsaw.

The Polish-Ukrainian conflict did not disappear with the signing of the peace treaty in Riga in March of 1921, nor was it solved by the interventions of the Council of Ambassadors of the League of Nations in 1923. Poland did not seriously address the question of Ukrainian autonomy and nationalistic clashes flared up often in the years between the two world wars, finding their outlet during the Nazi occupation.

5. Wielkopolska (Greater Poland)

The province of Poznan, called Wielkopolska, is considered the historical cradle of Poland. The cities of Poznan and Gniezno were Poland's first centers of royal and religious authority in the tenth through twelfth centuries. The province itself enjoyed much prosperity and a high industrial and agricultural level of development. During the Reformation, a number of German Lutheran and other Protestant settlers sought refuge in the north-western parts of Wielkopolska. German migration continued in later times, especially after the second partition in 1793 when Prussia annexed this region. During the Napoleonic wars, Wielkopolska became a part of the Duchy of Warsaw until Napoleon's defeat. The Congress of Vienna of 1815 presided over the "fourth partition" of Poland, which returned all the lost lands to the partitioning powers, especially Russia and Prussia and created the "Congress Kingdom" of Poland as a part of the Russian Empire.

The Congress of Vienna returned Wielkopolska to Prussia which gave it an autonomous status under the

name of the Grand Duchy of Posen. The territory was divided into two districts, Posen (Poznan) and Bromberg (Bydgoszcz) with 26 counties (kreise). During the November uprising in Congress Poland in 1830, Wielkopolska supported the insurgents, which led later to political repressions and the loss of property and civil rights. The wave of revolutionary movements of 1846 and 1848 deepened the rift between the Poles and the Germans and almost led to the division of the province. The territory was formally renamed as the Province of Poznan in 1849, but it continued to be a part of Germany and to be unofficially called the Duchy of Posen until 1918.

At the end of the nineteenth century the Poznan Province was divided again, this time into 40 counties and two municipal districts. This administrative system survived until the end of WWI. The map below shows the names of the county seats, 28 in the Poznan district and 14 in the Bydgoszcz district.

Poznan District (Rejencja Poznanska, Regierungsbezirk Posen):

Babimost (Bomst), Gostyn (Gostyn), Grodzisk Wielkopolski (Graetz), Jarocin (Jarotschin), Kepno (Kempen), Koscian (Kosten), Kozmin (Koschmin), Krotoszyn (Krotoschin), Leszno (Lissa), Miedzichód (Birnbau), Miedzyrzecz (Meseritz), Nowy Tomysl (Neutomischel), Oborniki Wielkopolskie (Obornik), Odolanów (Adelna), Ostrów Wielkopolski (Ostrowo), Ostrzeszów (Schildberg), Pleszew (Pleschen), Poznan City (Posen Stadt), Poznan East (Posen Ost), Poznan West (Posen West), Rawicz (Rawitsch), Skwierzyna ((Schwerin a/Warthe) [is this a typo? Sam], Szamotuly (Samter), Smigiel (Schmiegel), Srem (Shrimm), Sroda Wielkopolska (Schroda), Wrzesnia (Wreschen), Wschowa (Fraustadt).

Bydgoszcz District (Rejencja Bydgoska, Regierungsbezirk Bromberg):

Bydgoszcz City (Bromberg Stadt), Bydgoszcz (Bromberg), Chodzież (Kolmar), Czarnków (Czarnikau), Gniezno (Gnesen), Inowroclaw (Hohensalza), Mogilno, Strzelno (Strelno), Szubin (Schubin), Wagrowiec (Wongrowitz), Wyrzysk (Wirnitz), Znin (Znin).

As WWI was approaching its end, the future of Wielkopolska became a multifaceted dilemma. One of the fourteen points formulated by the US President, Woodrow Wilson, called for the establishment of independent Poland and therefore threatened the balance of power. The British foreign policy was based on keeping France and her allies, including Poland, as weak as possible. The Germans felt that they were victorious in the East and did not lose major battles in the West until the US entered the war. The German military budget could not match US reserves and put a tremendous strain on German economy, leading to revolutionary unrest. The Poles, on the other hand, began forming clandestine and open citizens committees in preparation for possible changes.

A month before the armistice, Polish organizations throughout the German partition declared their intention to regain independence. When the revolution broke out in Germany at the beginning of November 1918, it also engulfed the German partition of Poland, leading to the formation of workers and soldiers councils by the victorious Social Democrats. The Polish civilian and military population demonstrated in most cities and towns of Wielkopolska, taking over public buildings, destroying imperial symbols, displaying Polish banners, and forming their own councils.

On November 11, the day of the armistice, the Citizens Guard (Straz Obywatelska), renamed shortly thereafter as the People's Guard (Straz Ludowa), was charged with keeping peace in the province. A temporary commission was formed with Stanislaw Adamski, Wojciech Korfanty and Adam Poszwinski, to function as a "Free Poznan government," as it were. Additional changes in the Poznan City Hall gave Poles the local control. On November 18, elections to the county councils and to the Regional Polish Diet took place and led to the selection of the new 80-member Supreme People's Council (Naczelna Rada Narodowa). The Council included representatives from all the regions of the former Prussian Partition and the Commissariat became its executive organ. The members of the Commissariat included Stefan Laszewski from Eastern Pomerania, Poszwinski from Kujawy, Korfanty and Józef Rymer from Silesia and Adamski and Wladyslaw Seyda from Wielkopolska. The democratic election results created a lot of uneasiness among the Germans and led to a number of demonstrations and increasing tensions.

The situation became so stressful that when German authorities tried to prevent Ignacy Paderewski's visit to Poznan on the 26th of December, the Polish reaction was adamantly defiant. Paderewski's arrival was a signal for an all-out expression of Polish nationalism which culminated the following day in an armed confrontation with German military and public service units. The insurgents seized public buildings, military barracks, warehouses, armories, postal installations and railroad stations. The uprising spread almost overnight to the entire province with the spontaneous arising of voluntary military units in every major city and town.

By the end of the year the Poles took control in Grodzisk, Klecko, Wielichowo, Gostyn, Witkowo, Wronki, Wagrowiec, Golancz, Koscian, Oborniki and Ostrów. In the beginning of January the German High Military Command was arrested and the City of Poznan with its environs became liberated. The insurgents, led by Major Stanislaw Taczak, continued the liberating offensive in Jarocin, Krotoszyn, Mogilno, Czarnków, Naklo, Nowy Tomysl, Rawicz, Strzelno and Koscierzyna.

The scope and the range of the uprising was a total surprise not only for the Germans but also for the leaders of the National Council and the Polish government in Warszawa. The Commissariat of the Supreme Council secretly assumed control over the uprising on January 2 and made it official a week later by publicly announcing the assumption of all civil and military responsibilities and by making General Dowbór-Musnicki the supreme commander. Pilsudski's government in Warszawa could not assist the insurgents in any way, fearing repressions from the Allies and a possible war with Germany.

It did help secretly, however, sending officers and small military detachments. When the revolution in Berlin was finally put down, the Germans were able to redirect more troops and attention to Wielkopolska. The counteroffensive at the end of January secured the Berlin-Torun railroad line in the Bydgoszcz region and led to lengthy, bloody engagements in Szubin, Znin, Labiszyn, Kcynia and Rynarzewo. The Western Allies finally stepped in and began to discuss the validation of the ceasefire ending WWI. With the help of France, the ceasefire was extended to Wielkopolska in an agreement signed in Trier on February 16, 1919, establishing the front line as the official demarcation line, acknowledging the uprising units as the legal organs of authority, and recognizing the Army of Wielkopolska as a member of the Allied Forces.

The ceasefire agreement did not end the problem of reuniting Wielkopolska with the Polish Republic. Military confrontations with Germany continued on a light scale until early June, 1919. In the meantime, the Supreme People's Council continued to acquire more experience and authority in passing legislature aimed at liquidating the remnants of Germanized administrative, judicial and educational institutions.

On June 28, 1919, the Allied peacemakers finally reached a decision in Versailles and officially ceded Wielkopolska and Eastern Pomerania to Poland. The Legislative Diet of the Republic voted to establish a temporary government in the province and created a Ministry of Former Prussian Partition to facilitate the unification with the rest of the country. Following this, the Supreme People's Council was liquidated and the Army of Wielkopolska became officially incorporated into the Polish Army as the Regional Corps VII, with headquarters in Poznan.

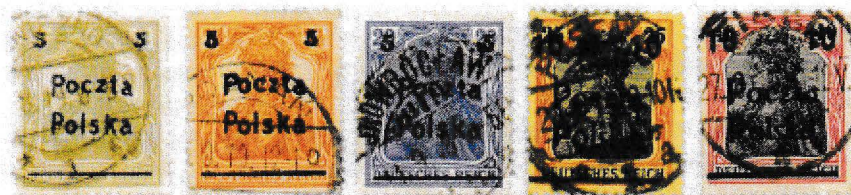
On January 10, 1920, the Treaty of Versailles became formally ratified, allowing the Polish troops to begin taking control of the small areas of Wielkopolska still in German hands and the territory of East Pomerania. By March 8, the military front of Wielkopolska was officially liquidated and some of the troops stationed there were transferred to the Soviet Front.

The Wielkopolska uprising was the most decisive factor in reuniting the province with the rest of the Polish Republic. The sacrifice and the determination of Polish patriots, coupled with political turmoil in Germany, led to a complete taking over of the territory. This, in turn, impressed upon the Allied peacemakers the seriousness of the Polish claim and influenced their decision at Versailles. Moreover, Polish determination in Wielkopolska contributed also to the Allies decision regarding Eastern Pomerania.

The development of postal services in Wielkopolska occurred in parallel with the development of

political and social-economic institutions, but it did not follow the same course as in the area of the former German occupation. The Poznan Province was annexed by Prussia in 1793 and its ownership did not change with the end of WWI. Postal services continued their function as in other parts of Germany. The provisional Polish government in Warszawa had no authority over this territory even after the outbreak of the uprising. In fact, Pilsudski's government would have hurt Polish chances during the Paris Peace Conference by siding openly with the insurgents and offering them aid. The insurgents were victorious for the most part and were in total control by the middle of February, 1919. After the ceasefire, the Allies recognized the uprising forces as the legal organs of authority in the province. The period between February and June, when the Versailles Treaty was signed, was used to strengthen the effectiveness of these organs and to establish a number of institutions facilitating the return to the Republic.

One of these changes was the creation of the Directorate of Posts and Telegraphs in Poznan as a branch of the central postal authorities in Warszawa. The Ministry of Post and Telegraphs began to function at the end of 1918 as an evolutionary development of postal services in the area of the former Kingdom of Poland. The withdrawal of the German occupational forces created a vacuum which was filled with former Polish employees utilizing remaining materials, nationalizing canceling devices and authorizing local overprints. When the occupational supplies became exhausted, provisional stamps and stationary were printed and, finally, the first definitive issues. The Ministry of Posts issued its first set for the area of the former German partition in January of 1919. The stamps with values in Polish pfennigs and marks were used in liberated parts of Wielkopolska alongside regular German stamps. The same can be said for the First Session of the National Assembly issue of June, 1919. These stamps were eventually replaced in February 1920 with the set issued for the entire Polish Republic after the unification of currency



Poznan Overprints

MAP OF WIELKOPOLSKA (GREATER POLAND)



In August, 1919, the postal authorities of the Directorate issued the first provisional issue for the area of the former German partition. The set, which became known as the Poznań issue, consisted of typographic overprints of the Germania stamps of 1905-1918. The four-line overprint, with new value

of 5 or 10 pfennig, Poczta, Polska and a bar, was created in order to meet a shortage of 5 and 10 pf. values, meaning that the other Germania values were still being used. The scan above shows the five

overprinted values used in August and September of 1919 with Polish or German language cancels for Gniezno, Poznan, Inowroclaw, Posen and Zirke.

Two different forms were used to make the overprints, one for the 5 pf. value and the other for the 10 pf. value. Because of that, all stamps in each form show the same printing flaws, and there are couple of dozen of each type. Form I shows significant shifts in the overprint and double printing on the gum side. The overprint of the 2 pf. gray Germania varies from navy blue to deep navy blue black. Form II became damaged during the overprinting of the 40 pf. value, deforming the digit 1 in the left 10 pf. value, and creating a break in the left end of the horizontal bar. The issue was forged extensively, especially the values which were printed in lesser quantities, i.e., the 5/2 pf gray (84,000) and the 10/25 pf. orange (150,000). The forgeries of the 5/2 pf gray are usually in black ink.

The second provisional issue, the two values of overprints of the so-called Gniezno Issue, is somehow shrouded in mystery. The set was issued in October 1919, but the Directorate's letter of Nov. 25 states that the overprints were done before the first issue in Poznan, that only 20,000 copies of each were printed, and that the second set was released to the public after the August set.

If the original intention was the issuance of 5 and 10 pfennig values, which were in great demand, then why wait till October, when the two Ministry issues were already in circulation (12 values of the allegorical definitive and the 7 values of the National Assembly/Sejm Ustawodawczy commemoratives)?

The fact that the printing quantities were very low and that the stamps were quickly sold out to philatelists indicated a rather speculative nature of

this set. Only after additional quantities of these stamps were found in 1939 and 1940 was the suspicion of speculation eliminated. The newly-discovered stamps were for the most part completely deteriorated and decayed. The two-value set was sold in the post offices of the following localities: Gniezno, Odolanów, Skalmierzyce, Strzelno, Trzemeszno, Witkowo, Wolsztyn and Wrzesnia. Some unverified sources also include Poznan 1 and Poznan 3. Stamps from original correspondence were cancelled with Gniezno 1, 1b, 1c, 1e, 1f, 2, Jaraczewo, Odolanów, Opalenica, Ostrzeszów, Poznan 1a, 1k, 3b, 3f, 5a, 9c, Skalmierzyce, Skalmierzyce a, Strzelno, Trzemeszno, Witkowo, Wolsztyn, Wrzesnia a, Wrzesnia b. There is a handful of letters with stamps cancelled with German-language date stamps. Most of the registered letters contain registry labels in German. There are many forgeries of this set with typographic and lithographic overprints, especially the inverted ones. Some of the decayed stamps found in 1939 got into private hands, creating original stamps that were repaired and cleaned, with faked gum and overprints.

The first attempt to unify the currency of the Republic took place in January 1919, but it was limited only to the territory of the former Kingdom of Poland, i.e., the area of the Russian partition. The territory of Malopolska and Eastern Galicia continued to use the korona currency. At the beginning of February, 1920, the korona currency was replaced with the Polish mark, and a new set of the definitive eagles and allegories was issued by the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs for the entire Polish Republic, including Wielkopolska. The Treaty of Versailles was officially ratified on January 10, 1920 and this date reconfirms the return of Wielkopolska to Poland.

To Our Members

This is our first attempt producing a Bulletin in full color and we have run into some technical difficulties. We have been able to solve most of them, however, some we're still working on.

As you may have noticed, there is empty space on the pages which is the result of the new printing press that John LaPorta, our printer is using. Converting the text from a pdf file reduces the size of the text, and yet we are limited in controlling the size of the text too that which is allowed in MS Word.

We will have that problem resolved by the next issue. Please feel free to send me any comments and suggestions.

Chris Kulpinski
Editor
chris@kulpinski.net

Message from the President

By the time you receive Bulletin # 530 and read this message, we will be well into 2008. Nevertheless, I still want to take this occasion to wish you a belated Happy and Philatelically Enjoyable New Year!

This leads me to ask, have you made your "philatelic resolution" for the New Year? While reading the January issue of the American Philatelist, I could not help but notice the article, "Make 2008 the Year of the Collector" and the suggestion of a "philatelic resolution". After all, in the culture of the Orient, 2008 is the "Year of the Earth Rat" which symbolizes a new beginning. Hence, what better time to start new ventures, new ideas and new plans for your collecting interests.

For someone who has been struggling with the transition from "accumulator" to "collector", the thought of a philatelic resolution excited me, so I set as a goal to try exhibiting and start with a sixteen-page single-frame exhibit. Thanks to the encouragement and support from members experienced with exhibiting, I have decided to focus on the "First Polish Air Post Issue after World War II".

I have begun the research and hunt for materials to tell my story, and have intentions to make my exhibiting debut at ROMPEX 2008 in Denver. Stay tuned, as I will share my experience and results in future bulletins. Perhaps this will encourage some of you to try exhibiting, if you like me have been stuck on filling album pages with stamps.

Other ideas for a "philatelic resolution" are: (1) encourage a youngster (perhaps a family member) to consider stamps as a hobby, (2) attend ROMPEX 2008, or a local stamp show, (3) join a Polonus Study Group or start a Polonus Chapter, (4) write an article covering your collecting interests or specialty for the Polonus Bulletin, (5) get all your philatelic material (duplicates, stock books, want lists, etc.) organized, and (6) re-focus your collecting interests essential to pure enjoyment and dispose of all non-essential materials. My wife is anxious for me to show progress on the latter.

Hopefully, this message will be food for thought, and possibly serve as motivation for you to add a "philatelic resolution" for 2008. I believe this approach may help reinvigorate your collecting interests, as well as, renew your enjoyment in philately.

Final thoughts..... this bulletin is evidence of our commitment to "continuous improvement"..... dues notices have been sent to all for payment by the end of March along with a request to let us know if you plan to attend ROMPEX 2008 in May as we will have our Annual Meeting at this Exhibition..... we are still looking for volunteers to serve on our standing committees (publication, website, translation, etc.).

Please delete my e-mail addresses previously given in the bulletin and use krpsl@earthlink.net in the future. I welcome your comments, questions and suggestions.

Sincerely, Bob Ogrodnik

Member Want Ad – I am looking for:

1. Correspondence from General Haller's Army – 1917/1920. this would include correspondence from training camps, and mail from the US, Canada and France
2. Polish F.P.O. 1919/1920
3. Brygada Karpacka – 1940/42 (Carpathian Brigade)
4. General Anders (2nd Korp) material from the Soviet Union – 1942

Will provide good exchange material or will purchase any material I need.

Jan Niebrzydowski, 186 Smith St., New Britain, CT 06053

Election Results

This vital information was omitted from the previous Bulletin because of time constraints

A total of 202 ballots were mailed to all eligible members and a total of 120 or 59% were returned. With the exception of five (5) "write-in" candidates receiving a total of six votes, the seven (7) candidates nominated by the Nominating Committee received over 90% of the vote and have been elected by the membership for a three (3) year term - November 2007 to November 2010. They are:

- ✍ Jerzy Kupiec-Weglinski
- ✍ Dan Lubelski
- ✍ Jim Mazepa
- ✍ Paul Phillips
- ✍ Hank Bieniecki
- ✍ Bob Ogrodnik
- ✍ Roman Sobus

A total of 202 ballots were mailed to all eligible members and a total of 120 ballots were returned (59% response). The above mentioned received over 90% of the vote, with five (5) "write-in" candidates receiving a total of six votes.

At the board meeting on November 15th, the incoming directors elected the following Officers by unanimous vote:

- ✍ Chairman - Jim Mazepa
- ✍ President - Bob Ogrodnik
- ✍ Vice President - Hank Bieniecki
- ✍ Treasurer - Dan Lubelski
- ✍ Secretary - Roman Sobus

In addition to these election results and consistent with our By-laws, as the Immediate -Past President and Editor of the Bulletin, Chris Kulpinski becomes an ex-officio voting member of the Board of Directors.

President's Report Chris Kulpinski, President

Although I gave an oral report at the meeting, I would like to report to the membership that Polonus is a very vibrant and growing organization and we are financially solid.

It has taken several years of hard dedicated work by the Board of Directors and other non- Board volunteers to get to the position we are in at the moment. The major results are outlined in the reports given below.

However, past is prologue, so where Polonus is now headed? Nowhere, without input from even more members. We would like to encourage you to become involved as much as possible.

- *- We need more exhibitors. We have a handful of exhibitors who are showing at every show, but we can do better. After some hesitation, Richard Mallow showed for the first time and received Gold. Jan Niebrzydowski showed for the first time and received Gold. Both were one frame exhibits.
- *- We need more contributors to the Bulletin. See my comments as the editor in the report below.
- *- Visit the expanded web-site (www.polonus.org) and offer suggestions on its improvement. It is a work in progress and it will always be evolving. A good way to get involved is to participate in the chat room discussions.

Expertizing Committee Report

Hank Bieniecki, Chairman Expertizing Committee

We continue to work closely with Zbigniew Korszen to establish an administratively functional and relatively efficient process for the expertizing of Polish Philatelic Material. The primary objective of this service is to provide collectors of Polish philately with an incentive to join the Society by providing an expertizing service at discounted rates to members. This service has essentially not existed since the death of Dr. Kronenberg. Income derived from this service will be incidental as a majority of the fees will go to the expert(s).

Key actions taken in 2007 by the Chairman of the Expertizing Committee:

During 2007 a majority of the administrative problems were resolved by running a beta version of this service which was not offered to the general membership or non-members. Expertizing sub-missions have been submitted by a number of members including Jerry Zedlitz, Jerzy Stal, Richard Mallow, Jim Mazepa and others using forms that have been revised during the year. Turn around time on some material sent to Poland was excessive however most members were ultimately pleased with the service.

Action to be taken in 2008:

Information about this service and the forms for submission will be added in pdf format to the Polonus web site and a mailing about this service will be sent directly to all members along with a set of forms. This service will also be promoted to dealers and auction firms.



Editor's Report

Chris Kulpinski, Editor

As you are all aware, the scope, format and size of the bulletin were changed at the beginning of last year. The changes have provoked a very positive response as the membership approved the expansion of articles and the larger format.

However, there was an ongoing problem with clarity of print. Constant dialogue with our printer has resulted in the copy you are now holding in your hands. Our printer, John LaPorta of Custom Impressions (a member) has purchased a new color laser printer, resulting in our ability to print sharper text and images, clearer pictures and scans. The use of a laser printer also allowed us to use a better grade of paper.

Enough of the technical stuff. Let's get to content, as that is equally important, if not more so.

You may have noticed that there have been a number of new contributors with very interesting articles in the last four issues. These people provided their articles because they were asked to do so, and they responded.

On the other hand, I have had comments that we need articles that are geared to the beginner and the intermediate collector. I agree, however, those who are now writing are advanced intermediate or experienced collectors and they (my self included) lose sight of what a beginner needs to know. We all have our levels of knowledge, so how do we address the need for articles that address the needs of our readers?

Easy – contact me (chris@kulpinski.net) and let's discuss how you can contribute. Even suggestions as to the type of articles are of interest to you will help the search toward the creation of an even better Bulletin. A number of you responded in our survey that you were willing to contribute some articles. Some of you have, while others have not had the opportunity.

So, the content will only be as relevant as the contributions of the writers. If you would like to see an expansion of content to included areas that interest you, please consider contributing.

Polonus' 6th Annual Meeting /Exhibition

ROMPEX on May 16-17-18, 2008

Think "springtime in the Rockies" and you will not want to miss attending our 6th Annual Meeting and Exhibition at ROMPEX in Denver, Colorado on May 16th – 18th. The Rocky Mountain Stamp Show (ROMPEX) is expected to draw over 1000 collectors and approximately 5000 philatelic exhibit panes. Gold medal winners at this event get the opportunity to compete in the World Series of Philately.

The location of the event will be the Holiday Inn at Denver International Airport, at 15500 E. 40th Avenue, telephone (303) 371-9494 or (800) 423-0908. Request special room code ROM for best rates. Complimentary airport shuttle service is provided 24 hours daily.

Polonus will be one of four international philatelic societies holding annual meetings at ROMPEX. Others include the Society of Australasian Specialists / Oceania, The Civil Censorship Study Group, and The Military Postal History Society.

Polonus will have a "society table" at which members attending are encouraged to sign-in and pick-up their "Welcome to ROMPEX" packet, which will include a schedule of Polonus activities. You have probably received your 2008 dues notice and found a flyer on ROMPEX. If you are planning to attend, please let us know by returning the completed form or by calling or e-mailing Hank Bieniecki or Bob Ogrodnik to help us with our event planning.

A Board of Directors Meeting will be held on Friday, May 16th and the Annual Membership Meeting will be held on Saturday, May 17th. Polonus will sponsor presentations on Polish philately and hold a member round table where members can ask questions and exchange information on Polish philately.

Visit with fellow members and renew friendships on Friday evening at the Annual Polonus Social Event (foods & beverages) and at the Romplex hospitality area. Details will be provided in advance on www.polonus.org and in your welcome packet.

Viewing outstanding philatelic exhibits and exhibiting yourself are key attractions at national exhibits like ROMPEX. I encourage Polonus members to participate in this "Champion of Champions Philatelic Exhibition". There is no better way to expand your collecting interests in Polish philately and learn than by exhibiting. Members planning to exhibit may visit the ROMPEX website, www.rockymountainstampshow.com for a copy of the Exhibition Prospectus and Official Entry Form. April 15th is the deadline for submittal of the entry forms. Early submission of your application is highly recommended.

A bourse of between 40 and 50 dealers from around the country will be open daily to provide you with the opportunity to find those items you require for your collecting interests.

Updates to plans for ROMPEX will be posted to our website, www.polonus.org. In the interim, mark your calendar and book your airfare to attend our 6th Annual Membership Meeting and Exhibition in the "mile-high city".

Apologizes to our friends at the TROYAK Club in Canada. This space originally held information about their gathering at the beginning of March, however, due to technical difficulties; we were not able to get the newsletter into the hands of our members in a timely manner, therefore making the information about the gathering useless.

I would appreciate someone from the club writing me an article about the show so that I can incorporate the information in the next Bulletin.

Whoever you fellows appoint, please get it to me ASAP so that we don't forget about it!

*- We need to see more of you at the shows. Personal contact enhances our interests, expands our knowledge and creates new friendships. It's nice going to a show where you know a number of other collectors of Polish material.

*- And we need more people to offer suggestions and criticism.

I have served for four years and in line with our by-laws, I am stepping down because a Board member can not hold two positions. I will remain as Editor of the Bulletin and will continue to support the other Board members as they have supported me in the past.

Membership Committee Report

Robert V. Ogrodnik, Chairman, Membership Committee

As of this date, November 17, 2007, there are 215 recognized members of the Polonus Philatelic Society, of which 34 are located in 10 countries outside the USA and 181 are located in 32 states within the USA.

In calendar 2007 to-date, we have accepted 24 new members. However, 11 existing members have not paid their dues for 2007, making the net gain in membership 13.

These results in new membership compare favorably with the past two years. In the entire year of 2006, we accepted 19 new members and in the entire year of 2005, we accepted 18 new members. Data was not readily available to identify the loss of members in the same time frames, however, the results indicate a positive trend, especially with recruiting new members.

The key actions taken in 2007 by the Chairman of the Membership Committee are:

1. Send letters to 298 members of the APS who have indicated interest in Polish philately or Polish stamp collecting. 19 of the 24 new members accepted this year are the result from this mailing.
2. Send follow-up letters to 16 existing members who had not made dues payment on time. Of these, 5 members responded with their dues payment.

Polonus Membership Report ~ February 2008

Welcome Back:

Joseph Mallan #1610
19 Rosewood Court
Cambridge, ONT
Canada NIR 221

Thomas Zablocki # 1651
6671 W Charles Court
Franklin, WI 53132

Welcome to New Members :

Robin Gates Elliott #1652
Randolph Towers #704
4001 North 9th Street
Arlington, VA 22203

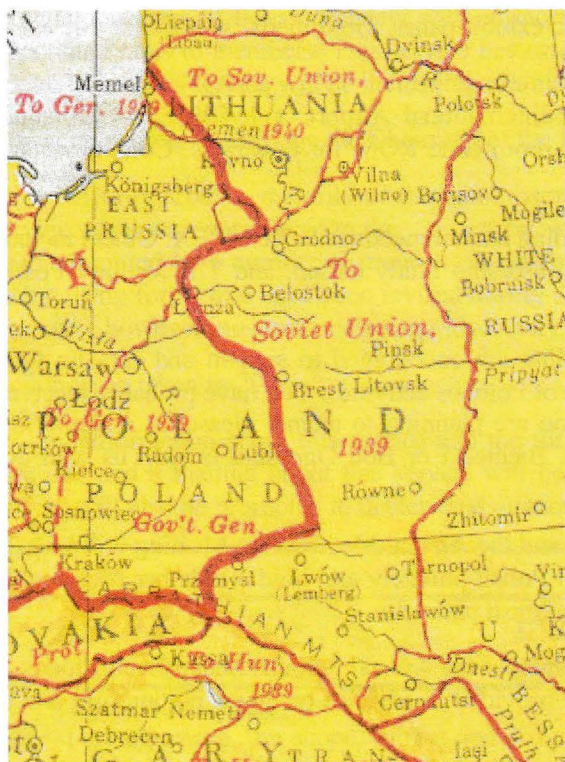
Jacek Kosmala #1653
Anny Jagiellonki 4,
01-989
Warszawa, Poland

Jerzy Tokar
Al Kosciuszki 118M 35
90-446
Lodz, Poland

Adrian Wortman # 1654
PO Box 8049
Tauranga, New Zealand 3145

Bo Nilsson #1655
Torsby Sjovag 18
Varmdo S-139 51
Sweden

Soviet Occupation of Poland – 1939/41: A Postal History, by Chris Kulpinski. Published in 2007 by the author. Spiral bound 8 ½ by 11 inches, 76 double-sided pages and privately published by the author, Scottsdale, AZ, Available of \$30.00 postpaid in the United States and \$35.00 outside the USA. Also available on CD from www.kulpinski.net/philatley for \$15.00.



The short period of Soviet occupation – September 17, 1939 until June 22, 1941 – of what was then considered to be Poland, plus the lack of English-language literature on the subject and the limited amount of material available have resulted in an area of postal history that has remained shrouded in mystery. Thanks to Kulpinski, a great deal of the mystery has now been unraveled for the English-speaking collector.

Although he admits that much of the material available from this period is philatelically inspired, were it not for the creativity of collectors at the time, many of the markings and related information would not have been available today.

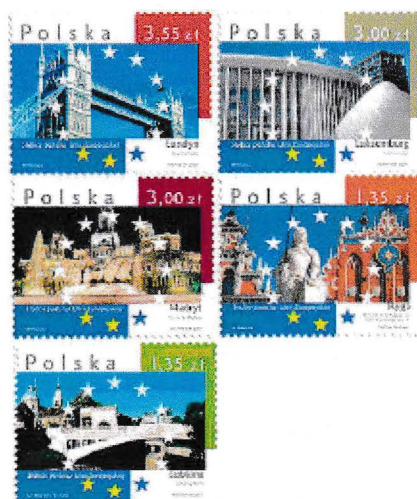
The author also provides an historical background and a time line that includes the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact of non-aggression and the German troop withdrawal to the Brest-Litovsk line in 1939. For the period of focus of this monograph, postal rate tables are provided and distinctions noted between Polish and Soviet postmarks.

Mail handled in several areas is treated in separate chapters: Polish lands annexed to Byelorussia, the Wilno District of Poland to Lithuania and the lands to Western Ukraine. Canceling devices and registered mail handstamps are described along with a section of fantasy overprints. POW and Red Cross mail, railway transit mail, parcel-post cards and other aspects of postal history all come under the author's lens.

Until Kulpinski's book, the major work on the subject (available only in Polish) was a treatise by Witold Zurawski. Kulpinski has relied on that source but also has provided difficult to obtain examples of mail that are illustrated in color.

The book was first published in 2006 and has been updated twice in 2007, which is one of the benefits of on-demand publishing. Unfortunately, the book lacks two important tools for the user, namely a table of contents and an index. However, these are oversights that can be corrected with future updates. Collectors of Polish postal history during the early part of World War II period will be indebted to the author for this monograph. ~ Alan Warren

(Since this review, a table of contents has been added the book. This work was awarded Silver at Chicagopex)



Capital Cities of EU States

This set of stamp continues the series started in 2005 and depicts stamps from London, Luxembourg, Madrid, Riga and Ljubljana.

London - Tower Bridge

The 3.55 PLN stamp for London depicts the historic Tower Bridge. The Tower Bridge, which spans the river Thames, was built at the end of the 19th century and is part drawbridge and part footbridge. England has been a part of the European community since 1973.

Luxembourg - the Philharmonic

Luxembourg is a small duchy situated between Belgium, France and Germany. It was the birthplace of the European Union. The 3.0 PLN stamp depicts the Philharmonic building that was finished in 2005 and designed by the French architect, Christian de Portzamparc. The main EU offices now reside in Brussels.

Madrid - Plaza de Cibeles

The architecture of Madrid presented on the 3.0 PLN stamp is the Main Post Office at the Plaza de Cibeles. In the plaza there is a fountain that depicts the goddess Cibeles (Cybele) the Phrygian goddess of fertility, who is seen sitting on a chariot and being pulled by two lions. The fountain was built between 1777 and 1782. Spain became a member of the EU in 1986.

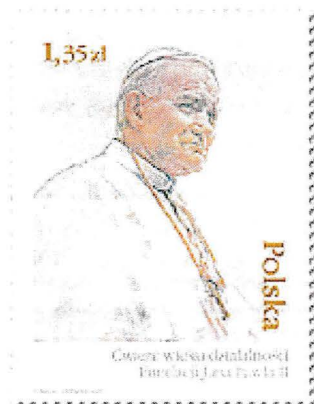
Riga - the Monument of Roland

Latvia entered the EU in 2004. The 1.25 PLN stamp depicts a famous building called the House of Blackheads. The Blackheads were a guild of young unmarried merchants. The statue in front of the building is of Roland – a famous medieval knight of Charlemagne.

Ljubljana - the Dragon's Bridge

Slovenia joined the EU in 2004. The capital, Ljubljana, situated on the river Ljubljana is home to many beautiful bridges. One of these is depicted on the 1.35 PLN stamp. It is one of Ljubljana's most representative examples of Art Nouveau architecture, the city's first reinforced concrete bridge, and one of the first bridges of its kind in Europe. It was constructed by Professor Josef Melan a famous engineer specializing in reinforced concrete bridge engineering.

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Fischer #	4184-4188



25th Anniversary – Pope John Paul II Foundation

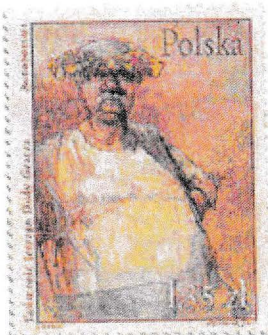
The 1.35 PLN stamp is a very simple design: against a white background, there is a

reproduction of the John Paul II portrait by an Italian painter, Dina Bellotti (1911-2003). Many of her works, including the portraits of Popes Paul VI and John Paul II, decorate the walls of Vatican apartments.

The foundation was created by Pope John Paul II in 1981. Its many activities include documenting and scientific analysis of Papal documents, collecting the archives and making them accessible, organizing symposia,

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Printing Method	Offset
Designer	M. Blazkow
Fischer #	4189

preparing numerous publications, as well as providing assistance to pilgrims who visit Rome. In cooperation with the Catholic University of Lublin, it teaches courses on history, literature, arts and the current situation of Poland and the Church in exile. The foundation is managed by an Administrative Council under the chairmanship of the Metropolitan of Kraków.



Artist – Jerzy Duda-Gracz

This new 3 PLN stamp depicts a self portrait of Polish artist Jerzy Duda-Gracz titled “The Jubilee Self-portrait”. Duda-Gracz was born in Czestochowa on March

20, 1941. He studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Katowice. In his paintings one could find a critical look at human weaknesses and failures. During the 1970s, his pictures depicted sloppy workers, primitive women with deformed bodies and freaks in ugly and depressing landscapes. In his later

works, Polish landscapes became a favorite subject. He died in 2004 while giving an exhibition in Lagów.

Date of Issue	November 5, 2007
Sheet Format	18 Stamps
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	J. Pietras
Fischer #	4190



Date of Issue	November 27, 2007
Sheet Format	50 Stamps
Printing Method	Rotogravure
Designer	M. Dabrowska
Fischer #	4191 - 4192

Christmas

This year’s Christmas stamps depict a more modern theme and a traditional religious painting. The 1.35 PLN stamp depicts a child’s teddy bear wearing a stocking cap near a Christmas tree. The 3 PLN

stamp presents the 15th century painting “Adoration of the Magi” by Mikolaj Haberschrack. This painting is found as part of the altar polioptych in St. Catherine church in Krakow.

2008 Dues and ROMPEX Reminder

The annual dues notices for our society were sent out to each active member in mid January. In this mailing, there was also an insert for ROMPEX in Denver asking if you could join other Polonus members at this event. This is the site for the annual Polonus National meeting. Please return both promptly to P.O. Box 489, Maryville IL 62062. It is important to pay your dues promptly as this is the major source of income for our Society. The majority of these dues go directly towards bringing you the Polonus Bulletin. Thank you for giving both these items your prompt attention.

Dan Lubelski – Treasurer

Have you checked out our updated web-site – www.polonus.org