



BULLETIN OF THE POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



Unusual Cover Addressed to Kankan, French Guinea with mixed Polish and French Postage – See Page 11.

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The Polonus Philatelic Society is a non-profit, tax-exempt, 501(c)(3) organization incorporated in 1939 in the State of Illinois. The Society is organized exclusively for educational purposes with the objective of promoting Polish philately through the dissemination of information in the English language. The opinions expressed by authors of articles appearing in the Polonus Bulletin do not necessarily reflect the views of the Polonus Philatelic Society.

Membership: Members participate in all the services and activities offered by the Society, including complete access to the Society website (www.polonus.org) and the option of receiving a quarterly bulletin in print or electronically. The two membership categories are: **Regular and Junior**. Annual dues for **Regular Members** opting to receive **Printed Bulletin (via mail)** are: **North America - \$30 / Outside N.A. - \$40** or **Electronic Bulletin (via website)** are: **North America - \$25 / Outside N.A. - \$25**. Annual dues for **Junior Members** (under age 16 and electronic bulletin only) are: \$10. Annual dues are payable in US funds no later than the end of March of each calendar year. Dues for new members are pro-rated for the time of the year application is submitted, i.e., for period **Jan – Mar 100%** of annual dues; **Apr – Jun 75%**; **Jul – Sep 50%**; and **Oct – Dec 125%** (to cover full payment for following year).

Dues and Changes of Address to be sent to: Polonus Philatelic Society, P.O. Box 489, Maryville, IL 62062.

Articles for publication to be sent to: Chairman of Publication Committee.

Membership queries to be sent to: Membership Chairman.

General Society matters and complaints to be sent to: President.

Bulletin Advertising:

Member to Member Ads – Members have the opportunity to post ads to fellow members **free of charge**. Limit of 500 characters, defined as a letter, space, number or punctuation mark. Member's name and address is not included in this limitation.

Dealer Ads – Dealers wishing to advertise to members have the following options:

Business Card Ad: \$50.00 annual fee for insertion in four issues.

Send ad copy to: Chairman of Publication Committee and make check payable to: Polonus Philatelic Society

Other Ads: Full page or insert ads for single copy available. Send e-mail with ad copy to: info@polonus.org for pricing.

Message From The President

By: Bob Ogrodnik

In the last issue I mentioned that the delay in completing the Bulletin was due to NAPEX 2013 and that the next issue would be completed on-time for a mid-September release. Unfortunately, I was hospitalized at the end of August and had open heart surgery (eight by-passes) on the 1st of September, the result of a “flunked” stress test and a cardiac catheterization indicating serious blockage. I have been recuperating at home the past few days, making good progress with my recovery, and hope to be back on the courts in three months. So, once again I apologize for the delay in completing this issue and thank you for your understanding.

One of the ways through which Polonus promotes and advances collecting interest in Polish philately is through exhibiting by our members. In the Society News section of this issue you will learn about members who have been recognized for their participation at the APS StampShow in Milwaukee. Additionally, this issue includes an article about Dr. Inger Kuzych winning the AAPE coveted Diamond Award for his “Lemberg” exhibit. This is the second time that a Polish-related exhibit has won this award; the first was by member Frank Wiatr for his “Crakow Postal History” exhibit. Congratulations to Polonus exhibitors who continue to distinguish themselves at National and International exhibitions.

The consolidation of the Polonus library with the American Philatelic Research Library (APRL) has been completed and *Library Liaison*, Robin Elliott has attended the annual Volunteer Work Week at APS, working on the organization of Polonus library materials. Be sure to read the article in Society News and visit the APS/APRL website, <http://stamps.org/About-the-Library>, to familiarize yourself with the library services now available.

This issue features the second of a newly launched column called, “*Annals of Polish Aerophilately*”, authored by Dr. Jerzy Kupiec-Węgliński and Jacek Kosmala. The authors received the prestigious Walter R. McCoy Award for the best articles in the 2011 – 2012 American Philatelic Congress Books and we are fortunate to now have them contributing

to our Bulletin. Whether or not you specialize in Polish airmail or aerophilately, this column will provide an excellent understanding of the evolution of airmail services in Poland.

The third of a three-part article, “*Before Lemberg:*” authored by Dr. Inger Kuzych is also featured in this issue. This is a well-researched and well-written history of the post in Central Europe, including the city of Lwów for the Polish, Lviv for the Ukrainians, Lvov under the Soviets and Lemberg for the Austrian and Germans, all of whom held claim to this city over the span of the past six centuries. This also serves as a good example of how Polish postal history influences the philatelic interests of the bordering countries.

Polish postal stationery is featured in Miłosz Rząd-kosz’ article, “*Postal Card Cp110 – Overprint Types & Variations*”. Here the author explains and simplifies the variations (as listed in Fischer Tom II) in this overprinted postal card. Add to this line-up of articles, Dr. Mazepa’s Gems of Polish Philately, Tom Wolanin’s article on Polish Charity Labels and New Issues, you have an issue with plenty of reading pleasure.

We may be more than a year away from our next Annual Meeting & Exhibition – CHICAGOPEX 2014 (21-23 November 2014), but the work required to make this a memorable 75th Anniversary event is beginning to mount. If you would like to help and volunteer, contact me at kpsl@earthlink.net or call me at (314) 821-6130. Another critical item on our list of priorities for 2014 is the election of a Board of Directors for a three-year term. If you are personally interested or wish to recommend a fellow member, contact Bob Nowicki, Chair of the Nominating Committee at philatelist@comcast.net. A Position Description for a Director can be found on page 6. This will assist you in understanding the duties and responsibilities of a Director, as well as provide you with the qualifications. I am confident that there are many of our members who qualify and can meet the expectations.

Final thoughts, keep sending us your comments as this is vital information for those of us who shape the programs offered our membership.

Polonus Library Consolidated With APRL

By: Bob Ogrodnik

In June of this past year, the Board unanimously approved the consolidation of Polonus library materials with the American Philatelic Research Library (APRL). I am pleased to report that two shipments, consisting of a total of four boxes, from Clearwater, Florida to Bellefonte, Pennsylvania have now been completed and the consolidation of material at APRL is underway. As explained in the President's Report (found on pages 6 & 7 of issue #551), the benefits of consolidating our library with APRL are significant.

In addition to accepting the appointment to a new position of *Library Liaison*, Robin Elliott attended the annual Volunteer Work Week at APS in July and assisted Tara Murray, APRL Librarian and her staff with the consolidation and organization of Polonus library materials. Robin will also be working on a program that will provide Polonus members with easy access to greatly expanded philatelic library resources. Progress on this program will be communicated in future issues of the Polonus Bulletin and on our website, www.polonus.org. In the interim, do not hesitate to visit and use the APS/APRL library by going to their website, <http://stamps.org/About-the-Library>. Be sure to familiarize yourself with the library services that are now available to Polonus members, whether or not you are an APS member. Refer any questions that cannot be answered from this website to contact Robin Elliott at rmgge@gmail.com.

New Members

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

John V. Jezierski - #1755

1230 NW 12th Avenue, Apt. 106
Portland, OR 97209

Michael B. Fedenyszen - #1756

60 Whittier Street
Haverhill, MA 01830-6618

Gregory M. Spring - #1757

25 Krikstall Road
Sheffield, South Yorkshire
S11 8XJ United Kingdom

Lemberg Exhibit Wins Diamond Award

For only the second time ever, a Polish-related exhibit has won the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors (AAPE) coveted Diamond Award. Dr. Inger Kuzych's exhibit entitled "Lemberg: Cosmopolitan Crownland Capital of the Austrian Empire" earned the prize by winning a gold medal – the exhibit's 10th – at the Columbus (Ohio) Philatelic Exhibition (COLOPEX), 7-9 June 2013.¹



Dr. Inger Kuzych

The Diamond Award is granted to a multiple-frame exhibit that has been awarded 10 gold medals at US or Canadian national-level World Series of Philately (WSP) shows while the property of one exhibitor. The AAPE is the world's largest philatelic exhibiting organization with some

850 members worldwide – most in the US, but about 130 scattered about the globe. AAPE membership is a requirement for consideration at the time of receiving the AAPE Diamond Award. Dr. Kuzych is only the 73rd person to earn the Diamond Award.²

The object of the Award is to recognize sustained excellence and to encourage higher frequency of exhibiting at national-level shows. The 10 gold medals must be won during a 10-year period. (Note that a couple dozen WSP shows take place in the US and Canada every year.) The Diamond Award can only be won once by an exhibitor and the stated aim of the Award is to pay tribute to the exhibitor and not the exhibit. Nonetheless, *de facto* the Diamond Award does honor the exhibit since it recognizes sustained excellence by a single exhibit "developed from an original concept through a logical evolution of content".

About the Exhibit

The name "Lemberg," of course, was Lwów's

appellation during the almost century and a half that the city was part of the Austrian Empire. Much of Dr. Kuzych's drive behind collecting Lwów postal history lies in the fact that he is very much enraptured by the city and finds its history, architecture, and people fascinating. In addition, by collecting its postal history – particularly the Habsburg (Lemberg) Era – he is able to connect with his dual Austrian and Ukrainian background.

While the “Lemberg” exhibit focuses mainly on the evolution of postal rates, it also highlights postal markings and, as the title implies, the ethnic diversity of the city.³ The exhibit's eight frames (128 pages) fall out into five parts. Virtually all of Lemberg's pre-stamp period cancellations appear in Part I of the exhibit entitled “Pre-Stamp Austria (1772-1850).” The next section “Austrian Monarchy (1850-1867),” presents many outstanding covers bearing stamps from Austria's first five postage stamp issues.

Part III, entitled “Austro-Hungarian Monarchy (1867-1914),” is the exhibit's largest and describes the tremendous expansion in postal services that took place in the five decades prior to the First World War. The penultimate section includes many exceptional materials from “The Great War (1914-1918).” A substantial portion of the display pages in this section are scarce materials from the world's first regular airmail service that functioned between Vienna-Kraków-Lemberg in 1918. After this route was extended to Kyiv, Ukraine, it became the world's first regular international airmail service.

The last portion of the exhibit, “The Flame of Nationalism (1918-1919),” deals with the breakup of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and the struggle for eastern Galicia and its capital

of Lemberg. Both Poland and a hastily formed – and short lived – Western Ukrainian Government fought bitterly for control of the city in late 1918-early 1919.

The exhibit concludes with some particularly rare materials from this struggle. Scattered throughout the exhibit are covers linked to distinguished citizens of the city. Included are letters mailed by or to an emperor, an empress, a Turkish sultan, a general, and members of the ecclesiastic hierarchy.

Future Plans

Dr. Kuzych hopes to eventually exhibit/compete at the international level, but such philatelic competitions occur far more infrequently and are not always convenient to attend. In the meantime he is working on a book that will feature all of the current exhibit pages as well as a great deal of additional Lemberg-related information. The volume will serve not only as a useful substitute for the many copy requests Dr.

Kuzych receives, but will also function as a reference and guide to other aspiring philatelic exhibitors. Plans currently are for the book to be ready by the end of this year.

Footnotes:

¹The first Polish-related exhibit to garner the Diamond Award was Frank Wiatr's “Crakow Postal History.”

² There is an alternate method of earning the AAPE Diamond Award: win six gold medals at national-level philatelic shows – with six different multiple-frame exhibits. It is difficult to say which route is the more difficult, but by far the vast majority of Diamond Award winners to date (82%) have chosen the route of earning 10 golds with one exhibit. Cost likely plays the decisive role, since creating just one gold medal exhibit can already be fairly pricey.

³ Under Habsburg rule, Lemberg became an important Polish, Ukrainian, and Jewish cultural center. By the early 20th century about half the city's population was Polish, a quarter was Jewish, some 20% Ukrainian, and the remainder German (Austrian), Armenian, or other.



Inverted 6 Heller Kraków Provisional

By: Dr. James Mazepa

While Poland officially regained its independence on November 11, 1918, different parts of the country gained independence at different times. The November 11th date really applies to the central part of Poland that was the former Russian Congress Kingdom of Poland occupied by Germany. The territory occupied by Austria was freed October 29, 1918. The Germans held Wielkopolska until December 27, 1918, and the Pomorze area until February 10, 1919.

This brief historical overview gives an understanding of the difficulties in the formation of the Polish government and to the organization of the postal services. Official government issued postage stamps did not occur until January 27, 1919, in the former Austrian and German occupied areas. There were, however, issues with the currency then in place in each of the former occupied territories. Until official Polish government stamps were issued, the postal service used the existing German and Austrian stamps to prepay postage, but growing nationalistic enthusiasm necessitated the overprinting of the stamps of the former occupiers into distinctive Polish stamps. These stamps were called provisional stamps (stamps used until official government stamps are available) and were made by the postal administrations of Warsaw, Lublin, Kraków, Poznań, and Gniezno. Many of the greatest Polish rarities belong to this 1918-1919 provisional period.

Beginning on January 10, 1919, the postal administration of Kraków began overprinting Austrian stamps into Polish stamps by adding "POCZTA POLSKA" to both definitive stamps and postage due stamps. Thirty-seven different values were overprinted. In the haste to print this issue, many printing varieties occurred. Some varieties were due to an insufficient number of "slugs" of letters to be consistent, some due to normal wear, and some intentional.

Inverted overprints can be found on the 6, 40, 50, 60, and 80 heller definitive stamps and the 15 heller postage due.



Figure 1 – Inverted 6 Heller Pair, Fi 32/No, Sc 43a

The rarest inverted overprint stamp is the six heller. Shown in **Figure 1** is the only recorded pair with one of the stamps being the "thin Z" variety. A mint, never hinged, 6 heller "thin Z" sold for \$57,500 in 2009.

Director Position Description – Polonus Philatelic Society

Purpose : To meet the legal requirements of an incorporated 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and to represent the membership in overseeing the affairs of the Society.

Duties & Responsibilities:

1. Ensure the affairs of the Society are conducted in compliance with the rules and regulations of the by-laws.
2. Meet as a Board of Directors annually at the Annual Exhibition & Meetings venue and at other meetings (which will normally be conducted via e-mail or teleconference) called during the year.
3. As a member of the Board, participate in the selection of Officers.
4. Participate in at least one Committee.
5. Financially support the Society by making a contribution in addition to the annual membership dues.

Qualifications:

- This position is elected by the membership for a three-year term.
- Candidate must be a Polonus member in good standing.
- Candidate must be computer literate – for communication, for the preparation of documents, and for navigating websites.
- Experience with Polonus and/or Polish philately is desirable.

The Pioneer Period of Airmail Services in Poland (1918-1928)

Part 2: International Routes

By: Dr. Jerzy W. Kupiec-Węgliński
and Jacek Kosmala

C.F.R.N.A: THE FIRST TRANS-EUROPEAN AIR-LINE

The C.F.R.N.A. - Compagnie Franco-Roumaine de Navigation Aérienne (The French-Romanian Company for Air Navigation) - was established on April 23, 1920 as the eighth aviation company in France, to provide rapid air transportation with the Central European nations. On April 29, 1920, the C.F.R.N.A. Board of Directors with its President, Pierre de Fleury, left for Prague to negotiate the concession with the government of Czechoslovakia. On May 4, the C.F.R.N.A. mission reached the Polish capital. Both negotiations were successful and on July 7, 1920, the company was granted the license for operating regular air-link to Warszawa as continuation of the Paris – Strasbourg – Prague route. The contract entitled C.F.R.N.A. to exclusive service for ten years, free usage of aviation and meteorological services, plus a hangar in the Warszawa-Mokotów airfield. Test flights that commenced September 20, 1920 were all courier flights due to the continuing Polish-Bolshevik war activities.

Figure 1 shows the only known letter prepared by a Włodzimierz Rachmanow, the famed Polish philatelist of the era, to be flown by C.F.R.N.A. trial flight from Warszawa to Prague in October, 1920. The cover bears special airmail cachets, military censor hand-stamps and has correct postage of 5 Polish marks (mk) paid with a single adhesive (letter rate to Prague 2.50 mk plus registration fee 2.50 mk). In addition, 80 mk was paid in cash for air service (5 French francs (Ff) for the Warszawa – Prague route at 5 Ff x 16 mk/Ff at that time). However, both “Par avion” and “airmail surcharge” cachets were obliterated, and this cover, among likely others, was instead transported to Prague by train. Indeed, although the Paris – Strasbourg – Prague route officially opened October 4, 1920, none of the 12 subsequent flights successfully reached the Polish capital.



Figure 1 - The only known letter prepared for the Warszawa – Prague flight in October 1920. It was sent to Prague by rail.

Figure 2 illustrates an airmail letter sent November 5, 1920, from Paris to Warszawa. It was carried by C.F.R.N.A. to Prague, and later to Warszawa by rail. The letter is correctly franked with stamps totaling 5.25 Ff (0.50 Ff - international letter rate plus 4.75 Ff - air surcharge). It was censored at arrival in Warszawa with brown paper tape along the left edge. It is the only known airmail item expedited in 1920 from Paris and addressed to Warszawa.



Figure 2 - The only known airmail letter expedited from Paris to Warszawa in 1920. It was carried by C.F.R.N.A. to Prague and later to Warszawa by rail.

The regular C.F.R.N.A. airmail communication from Warszawa commenced on April 12, 1921, the day considered as the birth of the Polish civil aviation. **Figure 3** presents both sides of a unique postcard flown by the inaugural flight from Warszawa to Prague (Laulhé pilot). Posted by Tadeusz Gryżewski,

7154

Herrn Rudolf Votava

Prag - Smichow

Ferdinandovo náb. 28.



Figure 5 - A dispatch from Warszawa via Paris to New York on July 21, 1921, perhaps the first airmail item sent from Poland to the United States.

sisted of 30 mk letter postage (2nd weight increment; 21-40 grams), plus 20 mk for registration, and 3.00 Ff for air service (double surcharge for an overweight item), which translated to 360 mk (based on the August 1921 exchange rate of 1 Ff = 120 mk).



Figure 6 - A commercial letter flown from Warszawa to Paris on August 17, 1921.

Figures 7 and 8 are very early communications by airmail between two prominent philatelists of the era, Robert Paganini, from Switzerland, and Włodzimierz Rachmanow, from Poland. The cover shown in **Figure 7**, recently auctioned by Corinphila for more than \$10,000, was mailed July 18, 1921, from Zweisimmen. After reaching Strasbourg by train, it was then transported to Warszawa by air (21/7 1921-21 backstamp). Only one earlier letter from Switzerland to Poland is known to have been flown. That example is postmarked July 9, 1921. The total postage of 1.80 Swiss francs (Sf) is made up from a block of six 30 Rp (Rappen) Swiss airmail stamps (1920;

Mi 152). This franking was intended to pay the international letter rate (40 Rp), registration (40 Rp), and air fee for up to 20-gram letter (1 Sf). **Figure 8** illustrates an air cover from Rachmanow, postmarked Warszawa on September 12, 1921. It was flown to Strasbourg before reaching Paganini in Zweisimmen by rail (15.IX.21. *14

back-stamp). This letter incurred charges at 20 mk per 20 gram for international rate and 20 mk for registration. The air surcharge of 156 mk (1 Ff equivalent) for the Warszawa – Strasbourg route was paid in cash.

In 1922, C.F.R.N.A. extended its operation from Prague to Vienna on May 1; and from Vienna to Budapest on May 13 (May 1, courier flight); from Budapest to Bucharest (via Arad) on September 16; and from Bucharest to Constantinople on October 5 (September 30, courier flight). When Yugoslavia allowed access for airplanes coming from Hungary, Belgrade replaced Arad as the stopover between Budapest and Bucharest (April 15, 1923). In the following year, the Belgrade – Bucharest – Constantinople route was expanded to Angora (Ankara) in the Turkish Asia (September 14, 1924, survey/courier flight). The Turkish ports, however, did not become a regular part of the route until 1926 (from Bucharest or from Belgrade via Sofia). All foreign Warszawa air dispatches of 1922 are highly valued as they are exceedingly hard to find.

Figure 9 shows a registered letter carried by the second flight from Warszawa to Constantinople on October 10, 1922. A number of markings include the Galata and Constantinople arrival postmarks. Unclaimed, this item was returned to Warszawa. The postage of 200 mk, paid in stamps, included 100 mk (for an up to 20-gram letter) plus 100 mk (registration fee). A correct 400 mk airmail surcharge (4x regular fee) was paid in cash.

Annals of Polish Aerophilately (cont.)



Figure 7 - Cover posted in Zweisimmen, Switzerland July 18, 1921 and flown from Strasbourg to Warszawa.



Figure 8 - Cover flown from Warszawa to Strasbourg September 12, 1921, and then transported to Zweisimmen, Switzerland by train.



Figure 9 - This cover was carried by the second flight from Warszawa to Constantinople, October 10, 1922.

C.F.R.N.A remained in operation until January 1925, when it reorganized and changed its name to C.I.D.N.A. – Compagnie Internationale de Navigation Aérienne (The International Air Navigation Company). In June 1925, C.I.D.N.A. was forced to alter some of its routes to avoid the German airspace. This resulted from a hostile seizure of twelve of its airplanes by the German authorities, who claimed they violated the Treaty of Versailles provisions by meeting the specs for military aircraft being denied to Germany. The new and treacherous Alpine crossing from Strasbourg to Vienna was now via Basel, Zurich and Innsbruck. Similarly, the northeastern branch of the Prague to Warszawa link had to be diverted via Kraków so not to overfly German eastern Silesia. **Figure 10** shows one of forty cards that were flown June 16, 1925 on the inaugural flight from Warszawa to Zurich, with a bi-lingual commemorative cachet. With the currency reform now in place for over a year, the postage is in a new “groszy” denomination of 32 gr. (6 gr. for printed matter, 20 gr. administration fee, and 6 gr. air surcharge). On December 15, 1924, the Polish Ministry of Industry and Trade imposed a postal administration fee of 20 gr. per each airmail item (except for express mail), to be paid in stamps. The surcharge remained in effect until August 10, 1928. Although the payment in cash for airmail service expired October 21, 1924, the “paid in cash” cachets were still in use despite air fees being now paid with regular postage or airmail stamps, which were issued August 27, 1925. As of February 1927, the entire air fee was supposed to be paid with these stamps. The rule, however, had soon changed, and by August 28, 1928, only 50% of the air surcharge was covered with airmail stamps.



Figure 10 - This card was flown June 16, 1925, from Warszawa to Zurich at the opening of a new C.F.R.N.A. line via Innsbruck and Basel.

Annals of Polish Aerophilately (cont.)

In January, 27, 1928, a new route linking Warszawa and Sofia was inaugurated, and 85 covers with special cachets were sent on the first flight to the Bulgarian capital. In September 1928, the Polish Ministry of Post and Telegraph issued a special circular in which it allowed airmail to be accepted for Zurich, Venice, Rome, Barcelona, Madrid, Rotterdam, Amsterdam, and London. On September 18, the C.I.D.N.A. flight from Warszawa via Paris carried a number of letters with special first flight cachets to Amsterdam, Rotterdam, and London (58, 18, and 64 items, respectively). Of note, these were not sent on the occasion of establishing new routes, but based on the international unified airmail agreement of normalized fees, which were charged on these flights.

By the end of 1928, agreements with the European air carriers allowed mail transport by air from Warszawa via Amsterdam to India, Burma, Siam, Sumatra and Java, as well as via Paris to Brazil, Uruguay and Argentina. Mailing to these localities, however, was cumbersome and costly. It required the letter to be inserted into a separate envelope (addressed to Bureau de Poste Amsterdam), with the appropriate surcharge to be collected for the outbound KLM service. This air fee was paid with "international reply coupons", sold in Poland for 80 gr. per coupon (80 Dutch cents equivalent). The mailing cost of a 20-gram letter to Calcutta or Batavia in the Dutch Indies was 5 zł. 80 gr. This consisted of 1 zł. for the Warszawa – Amsterdam leg (50 gr. letter rate + 50 gr. air fee) plus 4 zł. 80 gr. (six coupons equivalent) surcharge. The transit times from Amsterdam to Calcutta and Batavia were 8 days and 12 days, respectively. The air fees to South America (via Paris) were even higher, and were calculated at 25% over the actual weight of the mailed item. However, unlike with the Amsterdam transit to Dutch Indies, the entire postage for air transport to South America was collected at departing the Warszawa 19 Post Office. The mailing cost equaled 1 zł. paid in stamps (Warszawa – Paris leg), plus a South American surcharge paid in cash. The mailing cost of a 20-gram letter to Brazil or Argentina was 14 zł. 75 gr. and 17 zł. 45 gr., respectively, with transit time from Paris to Brazil of 8 days, and to Uruguay or Argentina of 9 days.

An agreement between C.I.D.N.A. and French Aerial Society Latécoère allowed mail to be expedited by

air from Poland to Northern Africa via Paris and Marseille. On the first flight, Warszawa sent out 75 covers to Rabat, Morocco, and 50 covers to St. Louis, Senegal. These items, besides bearing October 24, 1928 departure cancels, show commemorative red or violet cachet "I-er Vol Offic. Pologne – Maroc – Senegal" and October 28 (Morocco) or November 2 (Senegal) arrival postmarks. **Figure 11** shows an unusual cover addressed to Kankan in French Guinea, with mixed Polish and French postage, One złoty worth of Polish stamps paid for the Warszawa – Paris leg (50 gr. letter rate + 50 gr. air fee). The French stamps, applied in Paris, covered the remaining cost of the air transport to West Africa. On October 7, 1933, C.I.D.N.A. ceased its operation and became part of the newly formed Air France Company.



Figure 11 - Air dispatch from Warszawa to Kankan, French Guinea, with Polish and French postage.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

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Overprint Types & Variations

By: Miłosz Rządkosz

Translated by: Roman Sobus

The March 2011 issue of the *Polonus Bulletin* (#542) contained an article titled “Easter Greetings from Postwar Poland” by Roman Sobus that described the use of illustrated postal stationery cards (vs. post cards) to convey Easter Greetings[2]. The postal card referenced in the article is designated by Fischer as Cp107[1], issued in 1948, and featuring 20 different Easter-themed illustrations. The article also mentioned that this postal card was re-issued the following year after being overprinted with a new value, designated as Cp110.

The purpose of this article is to explore the overprinted postal card designated as Cp110. While Cp110 is relatively well documented in the Fischer Catalog [1], philatelists often have difficulty identifying specific variations. Nine different sub-types are noted, however, the differences between them tend to be rather small.

A new postal card rate became effective on 1 January 1949, raising the cost from 6 to 10 zloty. As a result of this tariff change, all postal stationery then in circulation were withdrawn on 31 January of that year. They were then reintroduced within several months, overprinted with a new value reflecting the rate in effect. The first to be reintroduced was the aforementioned postal stationery card Cp110 illustrated with Easter Greetings. The card entered circulation on 25 March, just in time for the Easter Holiday, having been overprinted with the 10 zloty denomination. The overprinting process was carried out at facilities in Kraków and Łódź. A total of 399,176 cards were overprinted in Kraków, whereas the exact quantity modified in Łódź is not known. As a result of using two printing facilities, each using a slightly different process, two primary types of overprints, according to the Fischer Catalog[1], exist. These are listed as the “Kraków Type”, designated as catalog number Cp110 I, and the “Łódź Type”, as catalog number Cp110 II. The most obvious difference between the two is the manner in which the old denomination is covered. The “Kraków Type” (110 I) uses a series of six parallel horizontal lines, while the “Łódź Type” (110 II) uses a solid block.

The “Kraków Type” is further divided into two subtypes; “A” where the text of the overprint was created by using individual type being set into a form; and “B” where the text was formed by casting the overprint die as a single unit. The primary difference between subtypes A and B is the overall length to the text “Cena 15 zł” (Price 15 zł), which is 20.25 mm and 19.75 mm in types A and B respectively. Additionally, the spacing between the numerals “1” and “0” in the denomination (10 zł) differs in the subtypes. In the subtype A, the spacing is either .5 or 1.5mm, where in the “B” it is .9 mm. In total, there are four variations of the subtype “A” and two varieties of the subtype “B” of the “Kraków Type” overprint.

The “Łódź Type” has three distinct overprint varieties and “Kraków Type” has six varieties. In total, nine distinct types of overprint varieties exist for this issue, which means that if a collector wished to collect all the illustrations and overprint combinations, 180 cards would have to be acquired.

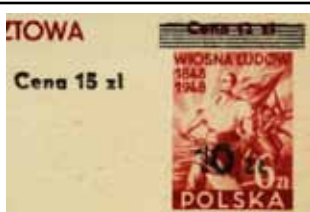
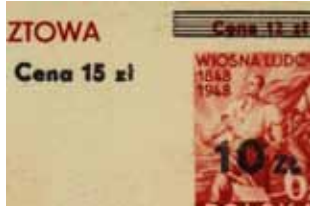
Table 1 below contains Fischer Catalog numbers, illustrations, and features specific to each overprint type. Characteristics unique to a specific item are annotated in red. Using this guide, it should be possible for the collector to either identify or exclude items without the necessity of detailed measurements.

As noted by J. Żółkiewski [3] and the Fischer Catalog [1], each type was issued in the quantities described in **Table 2** below.

In summary, I would like to add that the following are classified as the scarcest types of the Cp110 issue: 110 I Ab1 (broken numeral “1”), 110 I Ac (wide space between “1” and “0” in denomination) and 110 II c (narrow solid block covering old denomination). Very few collectors of Polish postal stationery can claim to possess all three of these rare types mentioned above. Several errors relating to these overprints have also been documented. The first is a double impression, one without ink creating a raised dry embossing in the paper adjacent to the printed overprint. The second is an overprint appearing on a card without the pre-printed stamp [4]. I encourage all collectors of Polish postal stationery to examine their collections and attempt to identify the Cp110

Postal Card Cp110 (cont.)

Kraków Type Overprint – Typeset Die - IA

Catalog Type	Overprint Illustration	Description of Overprint Characteristics
110 I Aa		Distance between 1 and 0 – 0.5 mm. Length of text "Cena 15 zł" – 20.25 mm Light impression of 2nd and 5th lines
110 I Ab		Distance between 1 & 0 – 0.5 mm Length of text "Cena 15 zł" – 20.25 mm All lines of equal intensity
110 I Ab1		Distance between 1 & 0 – 0.5 mm Length of text "Cena 15 zł" – 20,25 mm All lines of equal intensity Numeral "1" in "10 zł" broken by vertical line
110 I Ac		Distance between 1 & 0 - 1,5 mm Length of text "Cena 15 zł" – 20,25 mm All lines of equal intensity

Kraków Type Overprint – Cast Die - I B

110 I Ba		Distance between 1 & 0 – 0.9 mm Length of text "Cena 15 zł" – 19.75 mm All lines of equal intensity
110 I Bb		Distance between 1 & 0 – 0.9 mm Length of text "Cena 15 zł" – 19.75 mm Light impression of 2nd and 5th line Numeral "1" in "10 zł" is rounded at the bottom

Łódź Type Overprint – II

110 IIa		Distance between rectangle obscuring old denomination and "10 zł" – 18mm Height of rectangle – 8.5 mm Height of the numeral "1" in "10 zł" – 5.25-5.5mm
110 IIb		Distance between rectangle obscuring old denomination and "10 zł" – 19mm Height of rectangle – 8.5 mm Height of the numeral "1" in "10 zł" – 5.75
110 IIc		Distance between rectangle obscuring old denomination and "10 zł" – 19mm Height of rectangle – 6 mm Height of the numeral "1" in "10 zł" – 5.75

Table 2

Catalog Type	Qty Issued
110 IAa	Approx. 90,000
110 IAb	Approx. 101,000
110 IAb1	Approx. 22,000
110 IAc	Approx. 15,000
110 IBa and IBb	Approx. 170,000 combined
110 II	Unknown

overprints and varieties. I am confident this article will assist in that task. Finally, I would like to extend special thanks to my friend, Andrzej Niewrzedza in Poland for providing the scans of items in his collection which were utilized in producing this article.

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THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MAIL SYSTEM IN CENTRAL EUROPE AND THE BEGINNINGS OF THE POSTAL SERVICE IN LWÓW (LVIV)

By: Dr. Ingert Kuzych

*Editor's Note: This is the third of a three-part article on the history of the post in Central Europe. The previous issues (#550 & 551) featured Part 1 (covering **Early European Mails** and **Getting Organized in the Habsburg Dominions**) and Part 2 (covering **Early Post in Poland**). This issue covers **Starting Up the Particular Post in Lwów (Lviv, Lemberg)**, **Postal Intrigues** and **Earliest Postal Insignias from Lwów and Lemberg**. We are grateful to Inger Kuzych for contributing this article, which has received very favorable comments from our members.*

Starting up the Particular Post in Lwów (Lviv, Lemberg)

The posts described in Parts 1 & 2 were of a public type. They served the interests of the country – connecting it with other states abroad – and also linked important strategic, administrative, and economic locales within the country itself. Public posts were maintained by the state.

In contrast, particular posts served the interests of certain circles – specific cities, districts, or counties. Such posts were self-governing authorities, and could be brought to life only by a decree of central governmental authorities. Particular posts had the same privileges as public ones. Interference with their privileges was forbidden and was prosecuted by municipal or city courts. The establishment of particular posts was provided for in the constitution of 1620.

Dominico Monteluppi is credited with establishing a reliable particular post in Kraków in the early 17th century, and it is he who also organized the first postal center in Lwów in 1625 (Figure 1). This service was supposed to insure the functioning of postal routes from Lwów to Warsaw, Lublin, Gdańsk, Kraków, and somewhat later, to Kamieniec Podolski (Kamianets-Podilskyi). He set up this center in a Lwów building that survives to the present day at No. 2 Rynok (Market) Square (Figure 2).



Figure 1 – Souvenir sheet issued by Ukraine Post in 2006 for the 450th Anniversary of the Founding of Lviv. Based on a copper-plate engraving made in 1618, it is the earliest known view of the city and dates back to just before the establishment of the Lwów postal service in the 1620's.



Figure 2 – Cover sent via air mail from Lviv to the USA on 20 May 2008 depicts the Bandinelli Palace, both on its cachet and on the special blue "Post on the Market Square – Lviv 6" cancellation applied at the Palace. This structure officially became the Lviv Postal Museum seven months later.

While postal traffic between Kraków and Lwów was fairly significant, Monteluppi's Lwów post service was rather rudimentary. It was up to another Italian merchant, Roberto Bandinelli, to carry out improvements and develop the organization. Roberto had settled in and become a citizen of Lwów around 1622. He was the grandson of the renowned sculptor Bartolommeo (Baccio) Bandinelli, whose masterpieces include the well-known statue of Hercules and Cacus in the Piazza della Signoria in Florence.

In a decree of 4 March 1629, Polish King Zygmunt III accepted Roberto Bandinelli into the royal retinue and at the same time granted him the privilege of conducting regular royal mails to Italy, to other European cities, and even overseas. Bandinelli also

Before Lemberg: (Part 3) (cont.)

acquired the title of “Royal Postmaster.” As such he managed postal affairs from the city that was his particular postal seat (Lwów), while in other cities he set up representatives, the so-called “correspondents.”

At that time the *voivode* (provincial administrator, similar to a governor) Stanisław Lubomirski and the Polish crown *hetman* (the highest ranking officer) Stanisław Koniecpolski issued a series of “Universals” in which they accepted Roberto Bandinelli into their service and protection. These decrees further announced the significance of the new postal service to both the citizenry and the state, that no interference would be tolerated for this important service, and that any necessary aid should be provided to Roberto Bandinelli.

In consultation with the magistrates of Lwów, Roberto Bandinelli proposed to the town council an organizational plan for the post, the so-called *Ordinatio Posthal*. This document survives to this day in the city’s historical archives. The text includes the statement that: “The postal ministry from Lwów to Lublin, to Warsaw, to Toruń, Gdańsk, and also other countries and...from those cities back, is granted to the eminent Roberto Bandinelli.” On the 12th of May 1629, the text of the *Ordinatio* was entered into the city records. The postal service in Ukraine traces its beginning to 1629 and Bandinelli’s organizational efforts.

Mail from the city left once a week on Saturdays; it was sent in two directions. The first route went northwest to the Baltic Sea through Zamość (*Zamostia*), Lublin, Warsaw, Toruń, to Gdańsk. The other route went west to Jarosław (*Yaroslav*), Rzeszów (*Riashiv*), Tarnów, and Kraków. Parcels could be sent out in other directions by special arrangement.

Figures differ as to the original number of postal couriers. One source says 21, but since only 17 couriers are named, that is likely the initial number. One of these served as commander. The names of the original group have survived: Symon or Lomyvoda, Bartholomeo Kozel, Jan Mościński, Martin Sokyrynky, Martin Kapusta, Jan Surówka, Martin Opryshko, Stanislav Volovets, Yakiv Kamensky, Andriy Opryshko or Plakhta, Voitekh Shvets from Bashty, Martin who comes from the Jews, Valentyn the tall, who

goes to the Jews, Vorona Sharpanyi, Beniek formerly Tsipak, Jan Volokh from Pidhiria, and Hresko Sokyrynky. Over time, the number dwindled to 12.

Couriers were given a postal identification, distinctive clothing in the colors of the royal post, and a post horn, which they were supposed to blow when passing/riding through a town or when approaching the postal building (**Figure 3**).



Figure 3 – A stamp issued on the occasion of the 7th Ukrainian National Philatelic Exhibition (held in Dnipropetrovsk in 2001) depicts a galloping post rider blowing his horn.

The couriers were formally sworn in, and their duties were clearly spelled out. For example, the courier to and from Warsaw was to return in two weeks. If it was not possible to fulfill this timetable for some reason, he was

to explain or justify his delay in writing. If this was not done, he would be fined 5 groszy and imprisoned. An acquittal might be obtained from a postal agent – a “correspondent” – who could certify that some sort of accident had occurred en route, e.g., the delivery wagon broke down. Couriers were not allowed to accept letters on their own. Doing so could entail a fine of up to 8 groszy, imprisonment, and the loss of right to serve as a courier.

The postal service guaranteed the safe delivery of letters and parcels with seals unbroken. If a letter was lost, withheld, or delivered with a broken seal, the courier was supposed to explain and apologize to the “correspondent.” If the mishap occurred through inattention or carelessness, the courier would be severely punished.

Couriers were only to take the prescribed fees from the senders (who were responsible for paying for delivery). These fees depended on the distance the mail was carried and the size of the letter (number of sheets). If some urgent dispatch needed to be sent that could not wait till Saturday, then the postmaster was obligated to arrange for delivery by a separate courier. In this case, however, the citizen was supposed to provide his own courier. In order to prevent any infringement to the established postal service, this courier was not allowed to take any other

Before Lemberg: (Part 3) (cont.)

correspondence en route. If this rule was broken, a severe fine of 30 groszy was levied. Monies accumulated from fines went toward the needs of the post.

Postal services at this time were fairly expensive. For each half sheet of paper or for half a loth in weight (6.3 grams), cost to Jarosław was 1 grosz, to Rzeszów or Zamość— 1.5 groszy, to Tarnów or Lublin – 2 groszy, to Kraków or Warsaw – 3 groszy, to Toruń 4.5 groszy, and to Gdańsk 6 groszy. For comparison, the average daily wage for a laborer was just over 5 groszy.

Postal Intrigues

It should be pointed out that Bandinelli's postal arrangement was a departure from the way the Polish posts had earlier been structured. Whereas the organization and maintenance of postal routes were previously financed by the king, this responsibility

now fell to the postal entrepreneur. The sovereign provided him with certain privileges and freed him from public obligations, but in return he had to agree to carry mails at a constant fee.

Additionally, the entrepreneur had to abide by the postal regulations ratified by the various city councils to which he delivered the mails. It was this dependence on the city councils, however, that hindered postal development.

In 1633, King Władysław IV reconfirmed Bandinelli's postal privileges. Even though Bandinelli had earlier received the title of "Royal Postmaster" and had invested 1,500 gold crowns (a considerable sum) in this new venture, he apparently had some enemies in the local administration jealous of his status, his privileges, and his income. The city council decided to circumvent his private initiative and establish its own official post with its own coursers. Not surprisingly,

LWÓW'S FIRST POST OFFICE

History has not only preserved the names of Lwów's first mail carriers, but also the building where Roberto Bandinelli lived and from where the post was sent. It is the same building (No. 2 Rynok Square) where Monteluppi had earlier set up the first postal center

and it is one of the lovelier Renaissance buildings on the Square complex.

The building was built at the end of the 16th-early 17th century by the Lwów merchant and apothecary

Jarozh Wedelski, who in 1589 had acquired an old building constructed in the Gothic style and rebuilt it in the style of the late Renaissance. The interior of the first floor retained some of the original Gothic elements. The building was rebuilt again in 1629 by Roberto Bandinelli, who used the first floor to run his postal business and the upper floors as his residence.

Although Bandinelli may have been ill-treated in his efforts to establish a postal service, his labors have not been forgotten. Today his former home is still remembered as the place where Ukraine's first regular postal service was established. Local tour guides refer to the domicile as "Budynok Bandinelli" or "Palats Bandinelli," i.e., the Bandinelli Building or Bandinelli Palace. His postal office survives to the present in this building, which is now the Lviv Postal Museum. Opened on 12 December 2008, it is the first such museum in Ukraine.

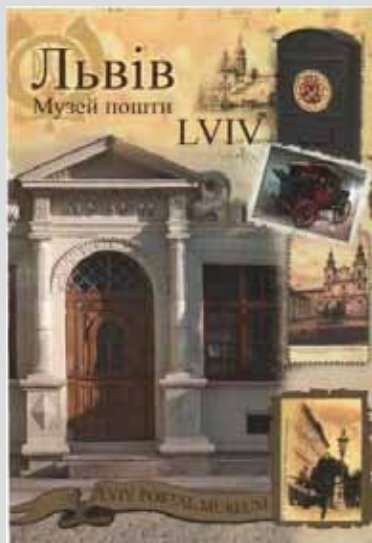


Figure 4 – A postcard from the Lviv Postal Museum showing the façade of the building. This spacious house, owned by Roberto Bandinelli, is where Ukraine's first regular postal service was organized in 1629.

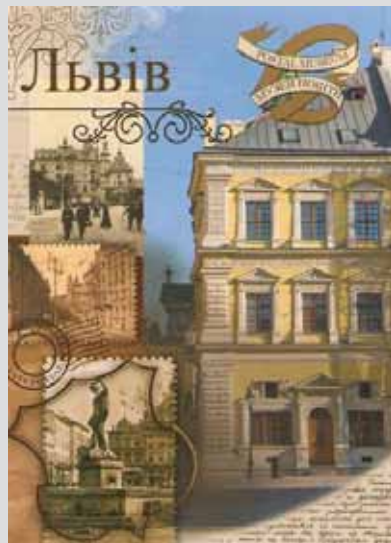


Figure 5 – A postcard showing the beautifully decorated entranceway to the Lviv Postal Museum.

Before Lemberg: (Part 3) (cont.)

the royal post suffered severe losses.

Sometime after 1639, Bandinelli was forced to liquidate his business and in 1639 he began legal actions against the city council [4]. These proceedings dragged on and eventually Bandinelli was accused of all sorts of charges (misuse of posts, embezzlement, unfair treatment of servants, etc.).

Nonetheless, even though he was forced to suspend his service for a while, Bandinelli eventually was able to restart it [12] – perhaps after a royal intervention into the entire affair. In later years he expanded his deliveries to include the entire territory of the Ruthenian voivodeship (province). In 1650 he travelled to Vienna to negotiate a new postal contract with that city, but he died there shortly afterwards. We know that his successor was Andrzej Krzczonowicz and after him Lwów's postmastership was held by Fabian Zywert (1668). **Figure 6** shows a merchant's letter dated 28 January 1684 sent from Lwów to Kraków. The Lwów postal service continued on into the 18th century with other officials running the postal service from the same building (No. 2 Rynok Square) where

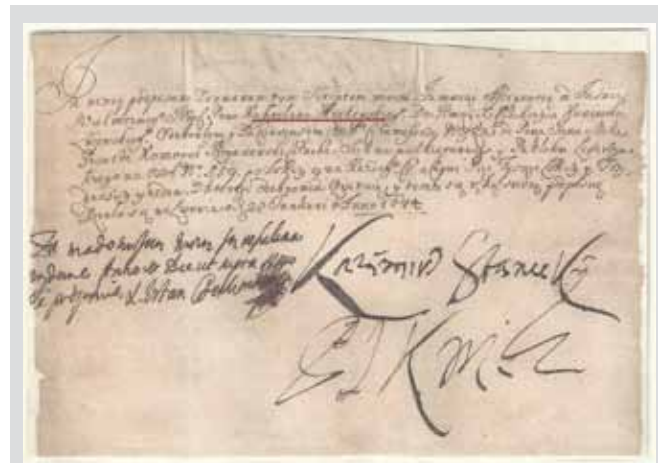


Figure 6 – Letter in Polish sent through the local postal service in Lwów via Przemyśl to the Castellan of Kraków (courtesy of the Frank Wiatr Collection)

Monteluppi and Bandinelli had begun the enterprise early the previous century.

Earliest Postal Insignias from Lwów and Lemberg

The oldest postal seals from Lwów date to 1766; about 10 examples are known on market receipts. (Postal seals in Poland, as a whole, date back to

1764.) The dimensions of the red seals are 30.5 x 33 mm; the Latin inscription reads “Sigillum Officii Postae S.R.M. Leopoliensis” (Seal of the Leopoli (Lwów) Post Office), see **Figure 7**.

The oldest Lwów postal cancellation – one of a number of cancels created by the Universal of King Stanisław II August of 18 December 1764 for all of



Figure 7 – The oldest postal seal from Lwów dates back to 1766.



Figure 8 – The oldest Lwów postal cancellation (LEOPOLIS), in use prior to 1772.

the major cities in Poland – is a vertical, black oval with double border showing the Latin name of the city, “LEOPOLIS”. A royal crown surmounts the word while a post horn – with its mouth piece to the right – appears below it (Figure 8). This unique postmark is only known from an article by Leopold Siwiec in *Kurier Literacko-Naukowy* No. 42 (15 October 1934), which merely included a reproduction without any detailed information on dimensions or date of usage. An Austrian publication, however, lists the introductory date of this cancellation as 1768 [11], four years before the First Partition of Poland and the transformation of Lwów into Lemberg.

Following Austria's acquisition of Galicia in 1772, Polish postal regulations were preserved for a short time. A complete reorganization took place several months later when a Postal Directorate was established at Lemberg, the capital of the new Austrian crownland. Austrian authorities began operating the postal system fully on 1 June 1773. Nonetheless, some Polish postal regulations and customs were retained for a short period.

Austria's first two postmarks, both for the city of Vienna, date to 1751. Over the next half century, many more Austrian cities and towns introduced markings, almost all of which simply consisted of single-line names and some of which occasionally appeared in a box. During the transition period following the onset of Austrian rule in Galicia, the distinctive circular

Before Lemberg: (Part 3) (cont.)

or oval Polish postmarks continued to be used, but only a few examples have survived.

In 1773, the first Austrian postmarks were introduced in Galicia (in Lemberg and in Casimir); they were clearly modeled on the previous Polish ones, displaying a tripartite design.



Figure 9 – The first Austrian Lemberg postmark from 1773 was modeled on the earlier Polish postmark.

The circular Austrian markings, however, consisted of an imperial double-headed eagle replacing the Polish crown, the German name for the city replacing the Latin name, and the post horn – frequently but not always – turned the opposite way, with the mouthpiece to the left (Figure 9). Over the next decade, several more circular postmarks of this regional type were manufactured for Lemberg

Acknowledgements:

I wish to thank Ihor Kulczycky for his assistance with Polish-language translations and to thank Hank Bieniecki and Roman Sobus for their efforts in helping me locate appropriate illustrations for this three-part article.

Footnote:

Brief mention also needs to be made of another popular particular post in Przemyśl (Peremyshl). This city on the main postal route between Kraków and Lwów was an important communication juncture between Hungary and the north. Peremyśl's councilors lobbied for the formation of their own postal service and received it in an ordinance of 1667. However, because of the large expense of maintaining a mounted postal service, here only a foot courier service was established. Przemyśl postmasters were obliged to make sure that mails destined beyond Kraków, Lublin, and Lwów (e.g., to Warsaw) were expedited by the public post.

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Polonus Members Receive Awards in Milwaukee

By: Bob Ogrodnik

The APS StampShow was held in Milwaukee on 8-11 August, the nation's largest annual stamp event and site of the World Series of Philately. I attended this show at the huge Wisconsin Center, which conveniently contained all facets of the show, including a marvelous exhibition section. The highlight of the show was the Awards Banquet, at which the following Polonus members received awards for their philatelic accomplishments.

Dr. Paul Phillips was a participant in the Championship Class and received a Prix d'Honneur award for his entry, "Reform of the British Overseas Mail Systems, 1840-56". Paul also participated in the open competition with two (2) single-frame exhibits, "Disinfected mail of Livorno in Tuscany" and "Coronation Day Mail of King George V", for which he was awarded Gold Medals.

Alfred Kugel was a participant in the open multi-frame competition with his exhibit, "The Liberation Period in Hungary During 1938-1944", for which he was awarded a Vermeil Medal.

On behalf of Dr. Jerzy Kupiec-Węglinski, I had the pleasure of accepting his award, the sixth annual United States Stamp Society – Barbara R. Mueller Award for the best article published in a single year of *The American Philatelist*. As reported in the previous issue (#551), Jerzy's article, "The Siege of Przemyśl", appeared in the June 2012 issue of *The American Philatelist*.

By: Jan Niebrzydowski

Stefania Bardziłowska took a particular interest in the fate of Polish officers in German PoW camps. She wrote many letters and sent them parcels with food and clothing. The letters in my collection are all concerned with these parcels, which were sent through the International Red Cross. Mrs. Bardziłowska asked the Polish officers to send her their official address labels, without which the Red Cross would not deliver. The officers wrote to thank her for the parcels.

The Germans were, in general, careful to abide by the rules of the Geneva Convention in order to avoid reprisals against their own countrymen who were held in allied camps. On the whole, they did not prevent PoWs from sending or receiving letters and parcels. In contrast, Mrs. Bardziłowska had many problems in sending letters to Germany. This was because the Geneva Convention stipulated that only immediate family and relatives were allowed to send letters. Clearly, Mrs. Bardziłowska was not related to the PoWs, even though she described herself in her letters as “the American mother of Polish soldiers”.

If she had sent letters to one or two recipients, they would not have aroused any interest. However, when she sent a large number of letters with identical messages to different people in the same camp, as happened between the 8th and 10th of November 1944, the US Censor could not help but take notice. The letters were returned with special US Censor stickers saying that this type of mass mailing was impermissible. Letters were also returned if they bore stamps, cancellations or slogans referring to the US victory over Germany. Had those letters been sent, they would have been destroyed and the recipients would never have received them.

Figure 1 shows a letter sent on 11 September 1944 from Boston to Oflag VIIA (Murnau). The US Censor returned it to the sender because it was franked with a 3 cent stamp bearing the slogan “Win the War” and depicted the eagle’s wings in the shape of the letter “V”. This particular letter was withheld at the Foreign Mail Section of Morgan Annex in the main New York Post Office and bears Postmaster Albert Goldman’s personalized label.



Figure 1

An airmail cover shown in **Figure 2** was sent from New York with 6 cent postage to Oflag VIIA (Murnau) on 10 November 1944. It was returned to the sender by the US Censor and labeled accordingly on the front of the envelope. The censor's cachet nr. 11184 is also shown.



Figure 2

The letter mentioned above (**Figure 2**) had a label stuck inside explaining that it had been returned on account of the contents of the letter. **Figure 3** shows this label and the contents of the letter, which reads as follows: “*My Dearest Son. I am writing to you as the American mother of Polish soldiers. Please send me your address label so that I can send you a parcel through the International Red Cross. You are in my thoughts, my dear son. I am concerned about your health and I am with you in heart and in spirit.*”

Bardzilowska Letters to Polish PoWs 1939-1945 (cont.)

Every day I think of you and your fellow soldiers. Please write me, as you would write to your own mother, and tell me what you need, and if you or the other prisoners need anything, then I will do what I can for you." It was this content, as well as the sheer volume of letters sent by Mrs. Bardziłowska, that caused the US Censor to return them. I have five

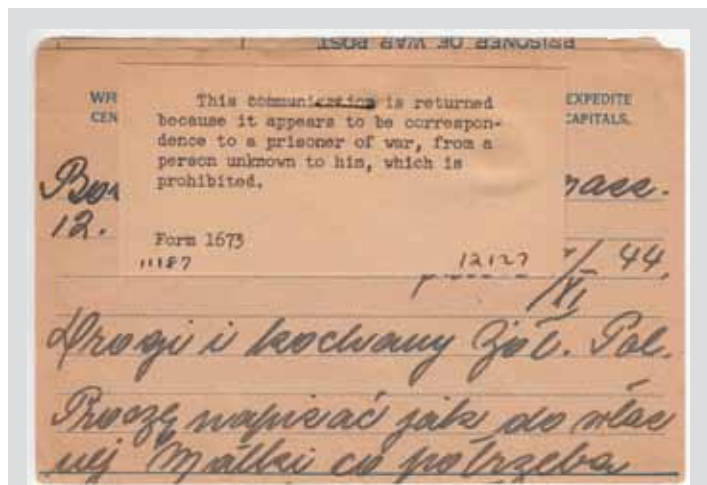


Figure 3

such returned letters in my collection with the same content and same Censor's label.

Letters to Mrs. Bardziłowska from German Oflag camps are also interesting, particularly those with Censor's cachets, airmail labels, and International Red Cross markings. Examples of such correspondence are discussed below.

Figure 4 shows a German airmail postal form, for use by the PoWs, sent from Oflag IIE (Neubranden-



Figure 4

burg) on 6 December 1941 with "dumb" cancellation and censored with the camp cachet: "Geprüft Oflag IIE. 3". It has two additional cachets: "par avion" and "taxe perçue RM 80 pf" signifying that extra postage had been paid for air handling. The German Censor stamped this card with "Zurück Postverkehr Eingestellt" (Return Postal Service Halted).

I suppose this card was returned to the sender, despite it being compliant with the regulations of the day, because all civilian correspondence with the USA was stopped when Germany declared war on the USA on 11 December 1941. If this particular card had been caught up with civilian correspondence, it would have been returned as part of that lot. It must have subsequently been re-checked, acknowledged as PoW correspondence, and passed by the British Censor with the cachet: "Passed T.188", before finally being delivered to Mrs. Bardziłowska.

Figure 5 shows a card sent from Oflag IIE with "dumb" cancellation dated 12 March 1942. It also



Figure 5

has the camp censorship cachet: "Geprüft Oflag IIE. 9", and US Censor's cachet: "Censorship Examined 171".

Figure 6 shows a letter sent from Oflag IID (Gross Born) with "dumb" cancellation dated 23 June 1942. It has a camp censorship cachet: "Geprüft Oflag IID. 9". It was dispatched through the International Red Cross in Geneva and bears its round cachet.

Polish Charity Labels (1923-1924)

By: Tom Wolanin

This article is about a collection of Polish ephemera, including more than 800 items that I recently acquired. These are mostly small "charity labels", paper badges or souvenirs given to donors in return for their contributions to various causes. Many of these items would have been pinned to the donor's lapel to show support for the cause. The causes and charities include veterans, military, political parties, hospitals, religious groups, widows and orphans, schools, etc. These items are from the period 1913 to 1924, a period which includes World War I, the reestablishment of the Polish state (2nd Republic of Poland), the establishment of boundaries of this new state and the war with the Soviet Union. All of these events are prominently illustrated by the items in this collection. A small sample of these items are shown below.



*For the Veterans of 1863
(Warsaw, 1917)*



*Save the Children (Łódź,
May 1918)*



*For Christmas Gifts for Sick
and Wounded Soldiers
(Poznań, November 1920)*



*For Poor Mothers
(Warsaw, July 1922)*



*Down with Bolshevism –
Subscription for the Fight
Against Anarchy (April 1920)*



*Silesia Must Be Ours!
(Mława, 1922)*

The items which are not charity labels include postcards, tickets to cultural events, a ration coupon and a pocket calendar.

(continued from page 20)



Figure 6

Bibliography:

[1] Rejnowski, B., *Filatelista*, Warsaw Poland, Feb-Mar 2001.

The purpose for this article is to determine if any other members have a similar collection and/or have interest or knowledge in such material. If so, I would appreciate hearing from you. Contact: Tom Wolanin, 2601 N. Nelson St., Arlington, VA 22207; e-mail: thomaswolanin@gmail.com; tel: (847) 433-0226. I am currently researching this material and would like to consider writing articles and possibly exhibiting this collection in the future.

SAVE THE DATE

November 21-23, 2014

CHICAGOPEX 2014



Date of Issue	June 14, 2013
Sheet Format	4 Stamps
Printing Method	Rotogavure
Designer	Jerzy Pietras

Lighthouses in Poland

This pane of 4 se-tenant stamps depicts 4 of Poland's 26 "Baltic Sea Beacons," known as latarnie morskie (sea lanterns). The Darłowo Lighthouse (German: Rugenwaldermunde) was built in 1885; it is 21 m high and its light can be seen over 27 km out to sea. Public access is provided via a drawbridge over the Wieprza River. The stamp commemorating this lighthouse is valued at 1.60 zł. The Jarosławiec Lighthouse (German: Jershoft) is the oldest such facility in Poland, dating back to the 1830's. It is 109 m high and its light is visible 44 km out to sea; its stamp is valued at 2.35 zł. The Ustka Lighthouse (German: Stolpmunde) dates back to 1892; and its stamp is denominated at 3.75 zł. Finally, the Czołpino Lighthouse is located between Łeba and Rowy in the Słowiński National Park on a high dune about 1,000 m from the Baltic coast. It was completed in 1875 and is 25 m tall; its stamp is valued at 3.80 zł. All 4 of these lighthouses are brick structures and are managed by the Polish Maritime Office (Urząd Morski) in Słupsk.



Date of Issue	June 28, 2013
Sheet Format	Single in SS
Printing Method	Steel Engraving & Rotogravure
Designer	Agnieszka Sancewicz & Maciej Kopecki

900 Years of the Chronicle of Gallus

This souvenir sheet (SS) with 8.50 zł stamp commemorates the 3-volume "Anonymous Gallus Chronicle of the History and Leaders of Poland" (Latin: "Galli Anonymi Cronica et Gesta Ducum Sive Principium"). This ancient text from about the year 1115 is an obligatory reference work for university courses in Polish culture because it constitutes the first written history of Poland. The central stamp in the SS shows Bolesław III Wrymouth (Krzywoustego); while the UL figure on the SS is Siemowit (one of four legendary Piast princes of Poland); the LL figure is Bolesław I, the Brave (Chrobry); the UR figure is Mieszko I; and the LR figure is Casimir (Kazimierz) I, the Restorer (Odnowiciel). [The figures shown are from the chronicle of Marcin Bielski (1495-1575) who was the first Polish historian to write in the Polish language; his work was entitled "Universal Chronicle" ("Kronika Świata").] Little is actually known of the writer Gallus, although he was likely an educated monk. Although scholars may disagree on his exact identity, there is less doubt on his influence in the subsequent course of Poland's history: his version of early Polish history held the ruler's authority to be inferior to that of God, as expressed by the people -- this concept is later seen in Poland's subsequent electoral traditions and the tendency to disobey and question authority.



Date of Issue	July 18, 2013
Sheet Format	9 Stamps
Printing Method	Rotogavure
Designer	Marek Kwiatkowski

Polish Regional Products – Kashubian Strawberries

This colorful 4.60 zł stamp depicts a bright red strawberry from the Kashubian region, in eastern Pomerania in northwest Poland. It constitutes the first of a series of stamps recognizing notable

Polish regional products ("Polskie Produkty Regionalne"). An even more colorful official first day cover for the issue shows a straw nest of strawberries.



Date of Issue	July 30, 2013
Sheet Format	4 Stamps
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Janusz Wysocki

Tour de Pologne

This pane of four circular stamps recognizes the Tour de Pologne, a UCI (International Cycling Union) World Tour

cycling event that occurred from July 27 to August 3, 2013. The 1,238 km race from Roverto, Italy, to Krakow included cyclists from around the world competing in the 20th race of the 2013 UCI World Tour season. The race was conducted in seven stages and the overall winner was Pieter Weening of the Netherlands; Poland's Rafal Majka finished in 4th place. The two different stamps in the pane, valued at 1.60 zł and 4.50 zł, depict cyclists. The perforation pattern on the pane allows for easy removal of the circular stamps.



Date of Issue	July 31, 2013
Sheet Format	Single Souvenir Sheet
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Jan Konarzewski

Second Polish Scientific Satellite

This 4.55 zł stamp and numbered souvenir sheet anticipates the launch of Poland's second satellite, named Hevelius, after the famous Polish astronomer Johannes Hevelius. As part of the BRITE (Bright Target Explorer Constellation) program, in cooperation with Austria and Canada, the satellite is scheduled for launch

on December 10 from China. The satellite was designed by specialists from the Space Research Center of Poland's Academy of Sciences (PAN), together with those from the Nicolaus Copernicus Astronomical Center (also in PAN). Dr. Piotr Orleanski of BRITE stated that the Chinese Long March LM-4 rocket will be used from one of four launch sites in China. The 3-nation BRITE program seeks to launch a total of six miniature satellites (or "nano-satellites") into orbit 800 km above the earth for precise measurements of some of the 286 brightest stars. Three of the six satellites will take photos in red and three in blue. Such red and blue pairs will then be pointed at a particular star to measure its brightness, according to Marcin Stolarski of PAN. Unfortunately, the first Polish satellite called LEM, scheduled for launch aboard a Russian Dnieper rocket, has been delayed and is now scheduled for lift-off in November.



Date of Issue	August 1, 2013
Sheet Format	6 Stamps
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Magdalena Jabłońska, Katarzyna Sasin, Gawęł Andrzejewski, & Jerzy Owskiak

Woodstock Festival

This 2.35 zł stamp recognizes the Woodstock music festival (Festiwal Przystanek Woodstock) held on August 1-3 in Kostrzyn on the Oder River near the border with Germany, and just 50 km from Berlin. The festival is an annual summer event organized by the Great Orchestra of Christmas Charity (Wielka Orkiestra Świątecznej Pomocy), a Polish charity whose mission is to improve health care in Poland. An annual event for the past 17 years, the festival is one of the largest in the world, attracting over 500,000 people from all over Europe. All music genres are represented, from punk and grunge to heavy metal; and include folk, reggae, electronic, and even classical music. In addition to the stamp and official first day cover, the Polish Post also issued a 2-page commemorative folder honoring the event.



Date of Issue	August 3, 2013
Sheet Format	Single in Souvenir Sheet
Printing Method	Steel Engraving and Rotogravure
Designer	Jerzy Pietras

Rally of Tall Ships in Szczecin 2013

This beautiful 8.50 zł stamp commemorates the August 3-6 finale of the tall ships races in Szczecin. This year's month of Baltic Sea races began on July 4 in Arhus (Denmark), with ports of call in Helsinki (Finland) and Riga (Latvia), before ending in Szczecin. The event was organized by the UK's Sail Training International, an organization aimed at promoting the education of young sailors. Over 100 ships and yachts participated in the event, including some of the largest vessels in the world. Poland's participants in the race included the sail ships DAR Pomorza, the Fryderyk Chopin, and the DAR Młodzieży (Gift of Youth). In addition to the attractive numbered souvenir sheet and official first day cover, the Polish Post also issued a numbered black print souvenir sheet, and a 2-page commemorative folder for the event.