

BULLETIN of the

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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"POLONIA 89" HONORS POLONUS' 50th



Among those attending the official closing of POLONIA 89 in Warsaw were: (left to right) "Przegląd Filatelistyczny" editor Klima, PZF past president Zielinski, current president Szymanski, "Nestor" Witkowski & Polonus members Poniecki & Odrowski

JUBILEUSZOWA WYSTAWA ZNACZKÓW I MONET



Official POLONIA 89 show cover honoring Polonus' 50th Anniversary. Available for \$2.00 from Al Rybarski, P.O. Box 82, River Grove, IL 60171. Enclose a large self-addressed and stamped envelope for return.

POLAND'S "POLONIA 89" EXHIBITION

By FRED SZEDEL

After an unfortunate visit ten years ago in 1979, I decided to again visit Poland and experience the better or worse of the country. What I found was mostly the worst. The landing at Okęcie airport was the beginning of the worst. The facilities were old and in a bigger mess than any country I ever visited. You still have to go through a very unpleasant passport check; only the customs inspection was easier than ten years ago. Thanks to the two gentlemen from "Polski Związek Filatelistów" who awaited me, the formalities went fast and without a hitch. It was Sunday, hot, crowded and smelly. I invited the group for a cool drink and was informed there was no place open at this international airport on Sunday.

In grimy and gray Warsaw some excitement was in the air. President George Bush was coming to town. Next day, driving thru Warsaw, the main streets were decorated with Polish and U.S. flags but the only visible presence of the president's visit was the CBS stand in the Old Town Square. Here we met Harry Smith, broadcasting his "This Morning" program to the States. Spotted in the onlooking crowd, just behind the colorful grinding organ, I was seen on the TV screen Monday morning, July 10th, in Chicago. Viewers noticed me answering to Smith's question that I was from Arlington Heights, IL, U.S.A.

Politically I found Warsaw open-minded. Pre-election Solidarity posters were plastered on walls and fences. Signs like "Soviets Go Home" were undisturbed by authorities. The economy was never so bad — stores were empty of stock; lines to buy bread, meat and daily necessities were very long, never knowing if deliveries would be made that day if at all.

Staying with friends, I was able to observe the problems of daily life in Poland — the 45 years of Communist rule, devastated economy, and poor morale of the people. There is a shortage of everything, crumbling and shabby housing, outmoded factories, old and poorly functioning transportation. The telephones are not working most of the time. The ecology is destroyed because of mismanagement for 45 years to the point of no return. Even with the political gains of the last few months, people are depressed, worn out, and without hope.

Before the opening of the POLONIA 89 International Exhibition, I met with the Organizing Committee and transferred the Polonus 50th Anniversary medals to be used as special awards. The exhibition was held in the Polonia Society palace on Krakowskie Śródmieście. The opening ceremony on July 15th was short with few speeches. Exhibitors present were invited to introduce their collections with a few words. My exhibit of Józef Piłsudski was shown for the first time and created great interest in Warsaw and later in Warka. Later, a meeting took place in the conference room where ideas were exchanged. That afternoon the PZF Board invited foreign exhibitors, a few visitors and the Committee to a dinner at the Forum Hotel.

Next day, I left for a few days to visit my home town of Łódź, returning to Warsaw for the closing on July 20th. Early that morning an excursion was arranged to visit the new Polonia Palace in Pułtusk. At noon, the exhibition was officially closed with a short reception and the awards

FIGURE 1.



FIGURE 2.



presentations. Special cancellations were used and a medal was minted. (Fig. 1). In some 140 frames (Polpex had 220 frames) this so-called international exhibition presented only 32 exhibits, eleven from foreign countries which included four from the U.S.A. Among the judges, one was from Australia, Dr. Rasznowicz.

The following awards were given to Polonus members:

S. Petriuk of Germany – “Polish Fieldpost” – Gold

R. Odrowski of USA – “Grudziądz” – Vermeil

F. Szebel of USA – “Józef Piłsudski” – Vermeil

W. Poniecki of USA – “Poland Postal History” – Silver

S. Dobrzycki of USA – “Poland in Music” – Bronze

A. Roszkowski of England – “Kingdom of Poland” – Special Award

At the award presentations reception a few Polonus members attended: St. Żółkiewski, F. Bura, J. Witkowski, and others. Visiting Polonus members from the U.S.A.: S. King, S. Czarnecki and J. Paleczny. Some memorable pictures were taken, but the film along with my camera were stolen a few days later in the train taking me from Warsaw to Bydgoszcz.

At this reception, on behalf of Polonus, I presented a special plaque (Figs. 2 and 3) to J. Adamczyk, the President of the PZF Warsaw Chap-



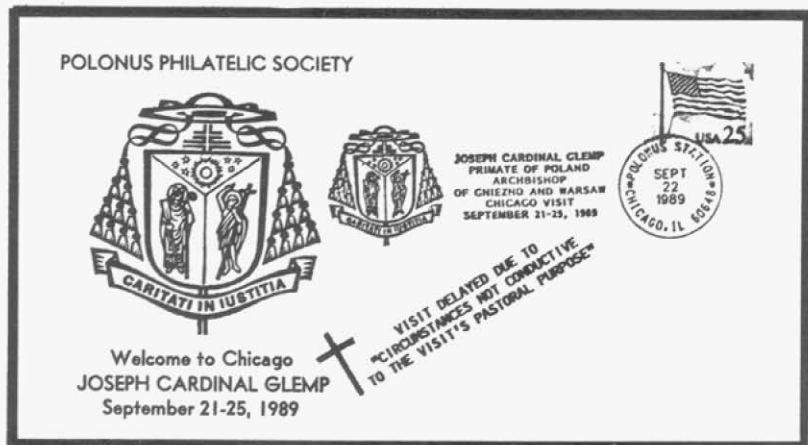
FIGURE 3.

ter, expressing our thanks for their cooperation. The organizing committee extended themselves helping visitors and foreign exhibitors, and our gratitude was much deserved.

The day after the closing of POLONIA 89, I was invited to exhibit the Piłsudski collection at the Pułaski Museum in Warka, until my departure in August. Bad experiences from my previous visit of ten years ago in Warsaw were repeated in Gdynia and other cities I visited. A pleasant part was an auto excursion with a friend from Olsztyn thru the countryside of Northern Poland with farms at harvest time, storks on housetop roofs, grazing livestock etc. Very memorable were visits to Marshal Piłsudski's summer retreat in Sulejówek, now being restored as a museum; the Piłsudski Sowiniec monument in Kraków which is going thru renovation. My substantial monetary donation was accepted with gratitude. Since this renovation is being made with private donations, Polonus members wishing to help can send their checks made payable to Polonus (with a note: for Sowiniec in Kraków). You will receive an acknowledgement directly from the Sowiniec committee in Kraków.

I found the situation in Poland so depressing that if not for the fact that the Piłsudski collection was on exhibit in Warka, I would have returned home earlier. Just one hour from Warsaw by plane, in Copenhagen, Denmark, I found a different world. Our member, K. Mazur, greeted me at the airport and showed me Tivoli and his beautiful city. After a most pleasant evening with his family and philatelic discussion, I returned home the next day.

POLONUS COVER FOR CANCELLED CARDINAL GLEMP VISIT



Polonus prepared to issue a special cacheted cover for the Cardinal Joseph Glemp visit to Chicago. A design for the postmark was submitted to the Postal Service and a cancellation was made. Covers were printed in a 500 quantity. With the news that the Cardinal's visit was cancelled, Polonus decided to still go ahead with the project, but only had 200 covers cancelled by the post office. A rubber stamp was made and applied to each cover showing a cross and the inscription, "Visit delayed due to 'circumstances not conducive to the visit's pastoral purpose'." These covers are available to Polonus members at \$1.50 from Al Rybarski, Box 82, River Grove, Illinois 60171. Enclose a large self-addressed and stamped envelope for return.

POW Mail Helped Congressional Committee to Investigate the Katyn Forest Massacre

By E. D. WOSLKI

—Reprinted from POW Study Group Newsletter of December, 1987.

After being elected editor of our journal, I started to hunt for material of interest to our readers. My first contact was made at a reunion with Polish Scouters whom I met in 1936 and 1937 as a member of a scout delegation from Poland.

One of them, Mrs. Helen Millar, gave me information about the aid for POW's/Refugees, carried out during WWII by the Legion of Young Polish Women (Legion Młodych Polek - LMP).

In addition to sending packages to POW's, they also exchanged letters with them. Some of the letters were from POW's held in the Soviet Union, who in the Spring of 1940 were massacred in the Katyn Forest. This correspondence was turned over to the Congressional Commission for the investigation of the Katyn massacre. The following letter explains why Mrs. Millar had no such correspondence in her file.

The following is the letter Mrs. Millar wrote to Mr. Pucinski October 8, 1986:

"Dear Mr. Pucinski,

Re: A non-political request from an old-timer.

"You may not remember me, but I was very active in the very early days of the Legion of Young Polish Women (when we were really young).

"In the days of the Congress investigation of the Katyn Forest Massacre I (and other LMP members) at your request, submitted letters and parcel receipt-cards received from Polish prisoners-of-war in Stalags and Oflag in Germany to whom LMP sent parcels. Is it possible that any of this correspondence is still accessible? A friend of mine in Florida, Edward D. Wolski, is doing some research work re: World War II prisoners-of-war and has asked me for assistance, if possible. I imagine you would have turned over these papers to the committee and if so, can you please advise where they are now and if they are available to be viewed by the public? Also, is a Congressional Report available, summarizing the work of this Committee.

"I know you are a very busy person, so please feel free to scribble a response to the above on this letter. A self-addressed, stamped envelope is enclosed for your convenience.

"Any information or references you can give me will be greatly appreciated. Thanks a million!

With sincere good wishes and 'Sto Lat',
Helen Millar"

This is the response she received by telephone:

"There was a Congressional report re: Katyn Forest Massacre, but copies are "out-of-print!" (Library of Congress). All pertinent material he had from "Legion" was turned in to the Committee. Some of it may be on display at the National Archives, Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, D.C.

№ 11 N 16. Kozielsk, dn. 20/11 1940 r.

Szanowny Panie Kolego!

Od października roku ub. znajduję się na terytorjum Rosji Sowieckiej. Byłem zmobilizowany w m. in. sierpniu i odbywałem służbę w oddziale czynnej obrony przeciwlotniczej miasta Warszawy. Niestety, nie było dostatecznych środków do skutecznej obrony, to też wyrok wojny był już u pierniku. Tygodni na nasz niekorzystnie przesądzony. Jak dotychczas, władze sowieckie odnoszą się do nas Polaków, bardzo dobrze. Dotychczas tylko kilka mrozów (ponad 40 stopni) no i - tęsknota za krajem. Przyjeżdżam że miał Pan wiadomości z Warszawy, to też mam nadzieję, że po roku stulecia została ona ocalona. Od innej rodziny która jeszcze nie miała, serdecznie pozdrawiam.

 ПОЧТОВАЯ КАРТА CARTE POSTALE		
Куда: <u>Швейцария</u> Адрес: <u>Мюрат</u> <u>Рионд Боссон</u> Кому: <u>Гр. С. Страккер</u> <u>Департамент Во</u> Адрес отправителя: <u>Россия</u> Adresse de l'expéditeur: <u>Soviétique</u>	Suisse Mr. S. Strakker p. Morges Rioud Bosson (Vaud) Маршан Генрих г.р. Козельск Смоленской области нормальный лагерь 12.	Suisse Suisse

The return address is shown as: Kozielsk, P.O. Box 12.

"One of the Polish officers in an Oflag was Capt. M. Piatkowski, who was later buried with so many others at Katyn Forest. His request, in one of his "thank you for the food parcel" notes, was to send warm clothing to his wife who was exiled to Siberia and worked in a brick factory. My package never got to her, but she was eventually freed during the amnesty and is now in Australia. I still correspond with her."

Some mail from the Soviet camps reached the West. Some survivors

noted that when the POW's wrote a letter or card, they put in a phrase: "Soviet authorities treat us very well," otherwise, the mail would not be sent out.

"The postcard shown below is an example of such correspondence. Note that it was dated Jan. 20, 1940. All mail ceased by May, 1940.

"There is no mention of the writer's military rank or of the POW camp designation usually found on all standard POW mail.

"The text of the card is very "correct". That fact, and the Swiss address probably meant that it was "safe" to send it out, otherwise the very "touchy" Soviet censors would not let the mail out."

Revenue Stamps Issued in the P.O.W. Camp Woldenberg

By STANLEY KRONENBERG

In the Polish Officers' P.O.W. Camp, OFLAG II C Woldenberg, a barter market was held periodically where the imprisoned officers could exchange among each other things which they needed less for those which they needed more. Such an institution was indispensable in this camp



where money was virtually worthless. The barter market enjoyed thus a great popularity. The eldest Polish officer of the camp, Col. Szalewicz approved the existence of this market. Transactions conducted there were taxed and the income was designated for the Orphans' and Widows' Fund (F.-W.S.). The amounts received were kept confidential to prevent the Germans from claiming a part of this income.

The idea of issuing revenue stamps for the barter market was short lived. 2nd Lt. Eugeniusz Pichell carved in wood the design and revenue stamps were printed on thin paper in the color sequence: black, orange, dark green, and dark violet. Their respective nominal values were supposedly: 0.50 M, 1 M, 2 M. and 5 M. Approximately 100 sets of these revenue stamps were printed and an additional printing of the black stamp (0.50 M) was made. It is possible that several of these stamps found a token usage by being affixed to trade slips and cancelled with a one-line cancellation in a frame: "sklep komisowy" (commissary store). Normally trade slips of the barter market do not have any stamps affixed.

These revenue stamps were ignored by the camp's philatelists and therefore only very few of them survived World War II.

I obtained most of the information about these revenue stamps in 1981 from Mg. Marek Kalawski of Worchester, Mass., who spent World War II in the P.O.W. Camp Woldenberg. Mg. Kalawski based this information partially on notes he made during his imprisonment and partially on his memory.

These revenue stamps are not listed in catalogs and I have not seen them described in the literature. There is an illustration of such a revenue stamp in the book "Katalog Poczty Obozowej II C Woldenberg" by J. Machowski, (Wydawnictwo Artystyczno-Graficzne, Krakow, (1961). This illustration is on page 16 under the erroneous heading: "propaganda labels."



Pope John Paul II in Philately

By: ARKADIUSZ WALINSKI



This is a first of a series of columns dedicated to the philately of Pope John Paul II. Each column will bring the latest information on stamps, postmarks, postage meters, FDC, etc. relative to Pope John Paul II. I will begin with the issues of 1989.

The 41st Apostolic journey of Pope John Paul II took place April 28 thru May 6, 1989, when the Holy Father visited Africa. This was his fifth trip to the African continent.

This time Pope John Paul II visited the Republic of Malagasy (Madagascar) with stops in the cities of Antananarivo, Antsiranana and Fianarantsoa. From Madagascar the Pope flew to the Island of Reunion where he stayed in the city of St. Denis. Next stop was Zambia, where the Pope visited Lusaka and Kitwe. Last country visited was Malawi with stops in Blantyre and Lilongwe.

VATICAN:

Postmark commemorating the beginning of the 41st Apostolic journey of Pope John Paul II to Africa:

+Ioannes Paulus II Madagascariam Insulam +
+Enoseos Zambiam Malavivum Visit +
+28.IV - 6.V. 1989 + Poste Citta del Vaticano +
Portrait of Pope John Paul II.



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF MALAGASY (MADAGASCAR):

Stamps:



80 FMG—Pope John Paul II greeting crowds and the Venerable Victoria Rasoamanarivo whom the Pope beatified during his visit to Madagascar.

250 FMG—Pope John Paul II with pastoral cross and the outline map of Madagascar.

First Day of Issue postmark: 1½" diameter.

+Premier Jour + Visite du Pape Jean Paul II +
28 Avril 1989 + Antananarivo +



REUNION (Overseas Department of France):

Commemorative postmark

+ Visite du Pape Jean Paul II + Beatification du frere

Scubillon + 2 Mai 1989 + 974 St. Denis+

Portrait of Brother Scubillon, a French missionary, beatified by Pope John Paul II during his visit to Reunion.



ZAMBIA: Stamps:



50 n Pope John Paul II and map of Zambia (600,000 issued)

K 6.85 Pope John Paul II and dove - symbol of peace (600,000 issued)

K 7.85 Pope John Paul II and the papal coat of arms (400,000 issued)

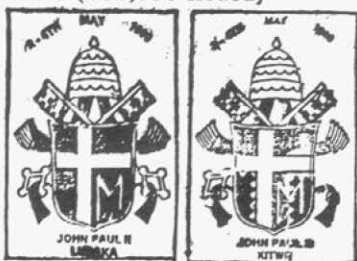
K10.00 Pope John Paul II and the Victoria Falls (400,000 issued)

Gutter pairs are available.

First Day of Issue - mechanical postmark used on May 2, 1989 in Lusaka and Ndola.

Both postmarks are without papal theme.

Commemorative postmark (in red) - rectangle 1" x 1½".



MALAWI:

Commemorative postmark - 1½" diameter.

+ Visit of Pope John Paul II + Malawi - 4.5.1989 +

Portrait of Pope John Paul II.

Commemorative postmark - (in black and red) 2½ x 1¾".

In French: + Republique Democratique de Madagascar +

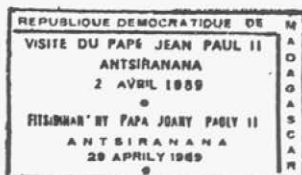
+ Visite du Pape Jean Paul II +

+ Antsiranana + 29 April 1989 +

In Malagasy: + Fitsidihan Ny Papa Joany Paoly II +
+ Antsiranana + 29 Aprily 1989 +

Same postmark was used with name of city changed to ANTANANARIVO. Also the same postmark was used with the name of city substituted with name of the country: in French: MADAGASCAR, in Malagasy: MADAGASIKARA.

Another postmark (hand rubber cancel) 1-7/16" diameter.



It shows a church and date. It is in mixture of French and Malagasy: +Ny Fitsidihan Papa Joany Paul II +
+28 Avr 89 + etd Madagasikara +



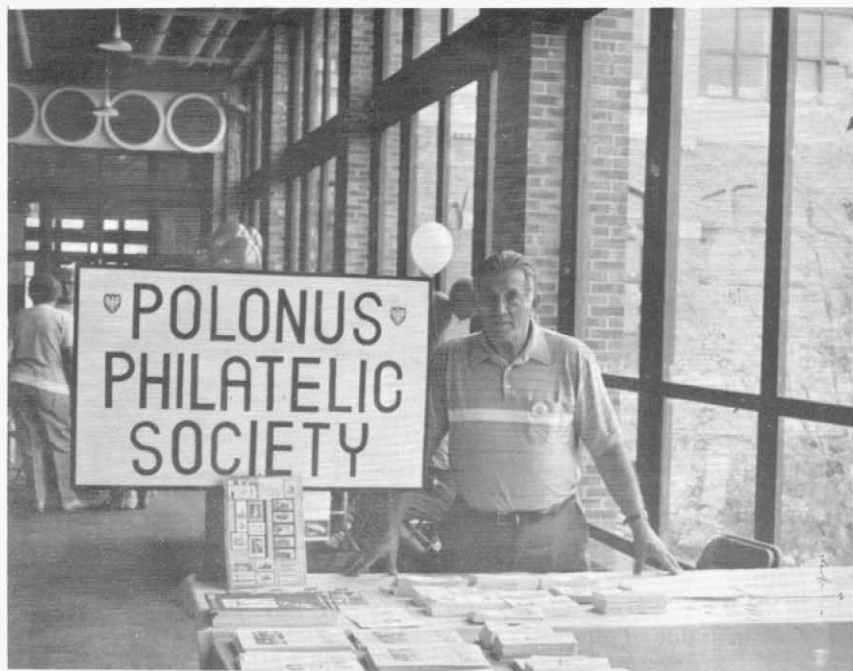
Next issue: 1. Pope John Paul II visits Scandinavian countries: Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Iceland and Norway.

2. Pope Pohn Paul II in Spain for the World Youth Day.

MEMBERS' MART: WANTED: Information on pane positions, PP/GGW, flat press printings, as well as PP/GGW on non-philatelic mail sent from towns using provisional town markings, and small town cancels. Needed items will be purchased or xerox copies may be submitted. All correspondence will be acknowledged. Conrad P. Straub, Ph.D., 2330 Chalet Drive, Columbia Heights, MN 55421.

SCOTT'S CATALOG VOLUME 4 NOW AVAILABLE

Scott Publishing Company issued Volume 4 of its "Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue" taking in countries of the world from letters "P" to "Z". The Poland section consists of 56 pages size 8½x11. Prices shown are new retail values. Prices from Poland No. 1 till the end of 1952 are for hinged stamps. Prices from 1953 issues on to the present are for never hinged items. The Vol. 4 edition is priced at \$25.00.



Secretary Ted Kwiecinski manned the Polonus table at "Festival Polonaise" held July 14-16 at Chicago's lakefront Navy Pier passing out literature, membership applications and selling Polonus covers.

NEW ISSUES

By ROMUALD ODRÓWSKI

50th Anniversary of Nazi Invasion

To complete the five-year series of the "Defensive War of 1939" set showing scenes of major battles and their heroic commanders, the Polish Post issued the following:

25 zł—Defense of Westerplatte and second in command Capt. Franciszek Dąbrowski



25 zł—Defense of Hel and cmdr. of the naval offshore battery Capt. B. Przybyszewski

35 zł—Battle of Kock and Gen. Franciszek Kleeberg, cmdr. of the "Polesie" Operational Army Group.

Designers: Bogdan Wróblewski and Alojzy Balcerzak

35 zł—Defense of Lwów and Gen. Langnera

Multicolor rotogravure printed in sheets of 50 on white pigment paper. Size: 51 x 31.25 mm.

Three First Day Covers.

Issued September 1, 1989.

Designer: Lech Wróblewski.



Caricature Museum

To popularize this museum which goes back to the 13th century the Polish post issued a 25 złoty value showing the museum logo. Multicolor rotogravure printed in sheets of 50 on art paper. Size: 31.25 x 39.5 mm.

The first day cover shows a woodcut of 1521 from the book "Rozmo-



wy, które miał król Salomon Mądry z Marcholtem grubym a sprośnym."

Issued Sept. 15, 1989. Designed by Zuzanna Lipińska and Eryk Lipiński.



Polish Armed Forces in the West 45th Anniversary

Three commemoratives were issued honoring the following events:

- 2nd Corps at Monte Cassino
- 1st Armoured Division at Battle of Falaise.
- 1st Parachute Brigade at Market Garden, Arnheim.

80 zł—Monte Cassino Battle war map with Gen. Władysław Anders. Issued May 18, 1989.



85 zł—Battle of Falaise war map Issued August 21, 1989.

130 zł—Arnheim Landing operation war map with Gen. Stanisław Sosabowski. Issued September 25, 1989.

Multicolor rotogravure printed in sheets of 50 on chalk overlay paper.

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1390 Patrick G. Moore
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WINNER'S CIRCLE

Tom Gobby's exhibit "Polish Soviet War" was shown at UKRAINPEX 89 in Chicago October 6-8, and won two awards: a Gold medal and the Rossica (Midwest Chapter) 1st award for excellence.

NEW POLAND PRICE LIST

An 18-page price list of Specialized Poland was just published by Bieniecki Inc. It presents a listing of individual issues of Poland, a valuable cross-reference to help you build your collection. The booklet is priced at \$1.00 and is available from Bieniecki Inc., Box 100, Granite City, IL 62040.

**LARGE SELECTION OF PRE-WWII
POSTAL HISTORY MATERIAL ON
FOLLOWING TOPICS:**

Pilsudski Legions, Polish-Soviet War,
Military Mail 1921-39, Civilian Mail,
WWII, Gen. Gouv., POW & Concentra-
tion Camps, Post WWII Early Censor-
ships, and Picture Postcards: Histo-
rical, Legions, Patriotic, Military and
Views from Vilno, Lwow and
Surrounding Areas.

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