BULLETIN OF THE
POLONUS
PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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Cover franked with a pair of 15 hal. Krakow Overprints bearing a rare example of I-30 before damage to the "A" in POLSKA.

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POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Website: www.polonus.org

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

President: Bob Ogrodnik
P.O. Box 240428
Ballwin, MO 63024-0428
krpsl@earthlink.net

Vice President: Hank Bieniecki
Box 489
Maryville, IL 62062
hank@biistamp.com

Secretary: Roman Sobus
1110 N. Oakley Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60622
Rsobus9013@cs.com

Treasurer: Dan Lubelski
111 Helen Drive
Rossford, OH 43460
dlubelski@accesstoledo.com

Directors: Dr. James Mazepa, C.O.B.
jmazepa@comcast.net
Dr. Jerzy Kupiec-Weglinski
jkupiec@mednet.ucla.edu
Dr. Paul Phillips
pphillip@alpha.che.uc.edu
Chris Kulpinski
chris@kulpinski.net

EDITORIAL BOARD

Editor: Chris Kulpinski
9350 E. Palm Tree Drive
Scottsdale, AZ 85255
chris@kulpinski.net

Contributing Editors: Sam Ginsburg
samgins1730@yahoo.com
Paul Phillips
pphillip@alpha.che.uc.edu
Bob Nowicki
philatelist@comcast.net

New Issues: Dan Lubelski
dlubelski@accesstoledo.com
Frank Karwoski
sunvoyager43@gmail.com

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Expertizing: Hank Bieniecki
hank@biistamp.com

Librarian: Dr. Mary Ann Frost
mafros@earthlink.net

Membership: Acting Chairman
Bob Ogrodnik
krpsl@earthlink.net

Website: Hank Bieniecki
hank@biistamp.com

STUDY GROUPS

POW Camps: Roman Sobus
Rsobus9013@cs.com

DP / Intern Camps: Chris Kulpinski
chris@kulpinski.net

Aero-Philately: Dr. Jerzy Kupiec-Weglinski
jkupiec@mednet.ucla.edu

Cinderellas & Labels: Chris Kulpinski
chris@kulpinski.net

The Polonus Philatelic Society is a non-profit, tax exempt, 501 (c)(3) organization incorporated in 1939 in the State of Illinios. 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 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 – North America - $25.00 / Outside N.A. $30.00 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 should be sent to the Editor.
Membership queries to be sent to the Membership Chairman.
General Society matters and complaints should be sent to the President. (see addresses above)

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 names and addresses are not included in this limitation.

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Business Card Ad: $50.00 annual fee for insertion in four issues.
Send ad copy to Editor and make check payable to Polonus Philatelic Society

Society News

Message from the President

Bob Ogrodnik

As we embark upon a new year, a new decade, and soon, a new term for Polonus Officers and a Board of Directors, I am pleased to report that Polonus is viable and well positioned for sustainable growth, especially with an expansion of membership resources and benefits. The election results, "State of the Society" report, and the details of future plans and programs will be presented at the Annual Membership Meeting in San Francisco (WESTPEX 2010) and subsequently, reported in the next bulletin.

We have a full schedule of events planned for WESTPEX 2010 so be sure to read the "WESTPEX 2010 Update" in this bulletin. Judging from the members who have already been accepted as exhibitors, 17 members and 80 frames, this show will feature some of the finest Polish philatelic material exhibited in the USA.

I want to bring to your attention a Book Review in this bulletin. "Philatelic Gems in the Crown of the II Republic of Poland 1918 -1920" by Polonus member Professor Julian Auleytner is reviewed by Dr. James Mazepa. The title of this book will be the theme of Professor Auleytner's exhibit and presentation at WESTPEX. Books will be available for purchase and autograph by the author at WESTPEX.

I also want to bring to your attention an article in this bulletin titled, "Polonus Library Open". Yes, we are open for business, and in due time, our website will contain information about the Library, addressing questions such as, "What are our mission and goals?", "How do members use the library", "What is available?" etc. We are thankful for the generosity of Dr. Mary Ann Frost, who provided the necessary space for our library collection, volunteered to be our librarian, organized shipments of materials dispatched by various members, and who has recently joined Polonus.

It has been a few months since I mentioned the status of our Membership Directory, and in the interim, I have been cleaning the "egg off my face". However, I am pleased to report that a hard copy of the directory will be distributed to members attending WESTPEX 2010 and subsequently, distributed to the remainder of our membership and posted onto our website for "members only" use.

Enclosed with this bulletin you will find an insert announcing that Warwick & Warwick of Warwick, England will be auctioning what is reputed to be the long lost collection of the Kingdom of Poland, assembled before WWII by the famous early-Poland expert, Władimir Rachmanow. This auction is scheduled for 5 May 2010.

In the previous bulletin I mentioned the significant milestones that Poland and Poles worldwide will celebrate in 2010. I want to add here that to honor the 200th anniversary of the birth of Fryderyk Franciszek Chopin, UNESCO has proclaimed 2010 International Chopin Year. This suggests that many countries will join in honoring Chopin philatelically, through the issuance of commemorative stamps. For the topical collectors, this will be a prolific year. Perhaps we have a member specializing in Chopin as a topic and would like to contribute to this bulletin with an article? Let us know.

Hope to see you in San Francisco in April!

WESTPEX 2010 Update

The time draws nearer for Polonus' 8th Annual Meeting and Exhibition, to be held in conjunction with WESTPEX 2010 on 23-25 April at the San Francisco Airport Marriott Hotel. More information can be found on the WESTPEX website, www.westpex.com, or on the Polonus website, www.polonus.org . This promises to be one of the "best ever" exhibitions of Polish philatelic material on the continent. If you are looking for a "philatelic highlight of the year", it is not too late to make plans to attend this event. The following is a summary of Polonus' planned activities and show highlights:

- Exhibit entries are now closed and, at final count, there will be 19 exhibits representing 88 frames of Polish philatelic material. This is an outstanding response by Polonus members, some of whom will be visiting from Poland and New Zealand.
- The WESTPEX Bourse Team Leader informed us that 30 of the dealers scheduled to participate will be bringing their Polish material to the show. In addition, Bieniecki International (Poland Specialist) will be participating and located at Bourse Table #12.
- On **Friday, 23 April at 6:15 pm** (following the close of the show), a Polonus members' reception will be held in the Bayside I Room, located at the lobby level of the hotel. Details regarding this reception will be provided in the Polonus Member "Welcome Packet" available at the Polonus Society table.
- On **Saturday, 24 April at 9:00 am**, the Polonus Board of Directors Meeting will be held in the Santa Barbara Room, with attendance by officers, directors and committee chairs only.
- On **Saturday, 24 April at 10:30 am**, the Annual Membership Meeting will be held in the Santa Barbara Room for members and guests. Election results will be announced at this meeting. In addition to the presentations on the agenda, the remaining time for this two-hour meeting will be devoted to an open forum.
- On **Saturday, 24 April at 1:00 pm**, Professor Julian Auleytner, from Warsaw University (Poland) and a Polonus member, will present "*Provisional and Local Issues of the Polish Second Republic: 1918-1920"* in the Bayside I Room. Professor Auleytner will also be available to autograph his latest philatelic book on the same subject. This event will be open to the public.
- On **Saturday, 24 April at 6:00 pm** the Awards Banquet will be held in the Junior Ballroom on the main level of hotel. We highly recommend all members attending WESTPEX to join us at this event. Refer to the WESTPEX website for reservations and more details.
- On **Sunday, 25 April at 11:00 am**, Polonus Board Chairman, Dr. James Mazepa, will provide a docent tour of the Polish exhibits. This will be a great opportunity to gain some valuable insight from a highly respected philatelist, exhibitor and judge.
- Polonus will have a hospitality room at the hotel, the details of which will be included in the Polonus Member "Welcome Packet". This room will be open at designated times and provide members with a great opportunity to get to know each other and exchange collecting interests.
- As one of two featured Guest Societies, Polonus will have a Society Table to promote Polish stamp collecting and philately, as well as, provide a gathering spot for members. **We request all members attending WESTPEX 2010 go to the Polonus Society Table immediately after the registration process. We will have a "Welcome Packet" for you with the final schedule of events and information to help you get the most from your attendance at the show. Finally, please let me know if you are planning to attend so that we can have a "Welcome Packet" prepared for your arrival.**

Polonus Library Opens

Dr. Mary Ann Frost

The mission of the Polonus Library is to provide access to scholarly writings and historical references related to Polish philately thereby increasing awareness, encouraging collecting, and supporting exhibition of Polish postal materials.

The library collection of the Polonus Philatelic Society consists of books, journals, auction catalogs, and historical reference material related to the Polish postal system. We currently have over 40 books, including 400 Lat Poczty Polskiej 1558-1958, The Kingdom of Poland: Poland No. 1 and Associated Postal History by Bojanowicz, and Polskie Taryfy Pocztowe 1918-1939 by Zbierski. We also have a broad range of journals, including the Filatelista by PZF, Przegląd Filatelistyczny by Fischer, and the Philatelic Exhibitor by AAPE. Add to this an extensive collection of Auction Catalogs, Monograms, and numerous books pertaining to various aspects of Polish philately on CD's, produced by Chris Kulpinski. We have a valuable resource now available to use by our membership.

The Polonus Library opened in its current location in Clearwater, Florida early in 2009. The holdings and lending procedures are detailed on the Polonus website. Borrowing privileges are open to members of Polonus. **Visits to the Polonus Library are by appointment only. Contact Dr. Richard Mallow (727-938-9921) for appointments.**

Contributions of library materials or funds to support the further development of the library are appreciated. The address of the Polonus Philatelic Library is: Successful Living Institute, Dr. Mary Ann Frost, 29605 US 19 N, Suite 330, Clearwater, FL 33761.

New Members

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

Stefan Rogozinski - #1682
10828 18th Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T6J 6P1 Canada

Dr. Mary Ann Frost - #1683
3920 Moreno Drive
Palm Harbor, FL 34685

Dr. Alan C. Wheeler - #1684
30 Lynnbrook Road
Frontenac, MO 63131

Request for information:
Terry Hines is looking for information pertaining to post WWII postal rates. If you can provide information, or suggest a source, please email him at TerenceHines@aol.com

1919 Kraków Issue – Form I Overprint and Error Sequence

Robert Puchala
(edited by Hank Bieniecki)

The overprint sequence for Form I of the Kraków issues has previously been written about in detail by S. Mikstein. It is my objective in this article to clarify this information, incorporate my own research findings, and present a summary of this information.

Phase I - Form I Overprints

Editors Note: *In this article the position(s) of the stamp in the sheet will be designated as I=Form I followed by a number indicating the position of the stamp in the sheet of 100 stamps.* **I-30 = Position 30 in Form I.**

The 15 hal. stamps were the first to be overprinted, as this was the rate for postcards, which were at that time the most popular form of mail and were also frequently used for business communications. The first overprinted sheets included all the initial overprint type errors, including 10 positions with a "Thin Z" in POCZTA and the "Double Dot" in place of rhombus (diamond) type setting error in position I-73 of the sheet. At this point the "damaged A" error in position I-30 of the sheet did not exist. A complete sheet of stamps from **Phase I** of the overprinting is currently not available for reference. **Figure 1** illustrates a block of 20 with overprints from positions I-17/50, which includes position I-30, exhibiting the complete undamaged POCZTA POLSKA overprint.



Figure 1: Block of 20 including undamaged A in position I-30



Figure 2

Figure 2 shows a pair of 15 hal. stamps plated as positions I-29/30 on a corporate registered letter from Kraków on 19 January 1919, which illustrates the undamaged overprint.



Figure 3

In **Figure 3** the single stamp (far left) exhibits position I-30 with the complete, undamaged letter A in POLSKA.

Phase II - Form I Overprints

After a small number of 15 hal. stamp sheets were overprinted, the letter A in POLSKA in position I-30 was damaged mechanically. The letter was at the edge of the overprint die. It was probably damaged by an accidental strike on the lead type matrix. As a result of this damage the letter "A" in the word POLSKA was deformed and flattened. Due to this initial damage position, I-30 exhibits just a fragment of the damaged letter. The second and third stamps in **Figure 3** illustrate position I-30, where only a fragment of the "A" is imprinted.

Phase III - Form I Overprints

The "Damaged A" error was probably spotted by the printers after they had overprinted a large number of 15 hal. sheets. The flattened portion of the "A" was reinforced mechanically. From that point forward, I-30 of the sheet exhibited the error known as the "Damaged A" which appeared on all Kraków values subsequently overprinted using Form I.

Thus, there are three overprint variations of I-30 on the 15 hal. (1) I-30 with undamaged POCZTA POLSKA overprint (2) I-30 overprint virtually without the letter A in POCZTA, and (3) I-30 with the "Damaged A" in POLSKA (Fig. 3). The undamaged overprint is very rare. Overprints with the missing A are more common than those with the damaged A.

Overprinting of 15 hal. stamps was followed by sheets of the 50 and 60 hal. stamps. As the degree of dilution of the printing ink is typical and uniform for most of the values, it can be assumed that the stamps were overprinted in sequence, grouped according to their value, which allows easier identification of the sequence of overprints. Following these two values the 80 hal. sheets were the next to be overprinted.

Phase IV - Form I Overprint and Transitional Error

During overprinting of the 80 hal. stamps a characteristic indent first appeared in the upper part of the letter P in POCZTA in position I-73 with the "double dot" error. This fault did not appear on the initial overprinted stamps with values of 15, 50 and 60 hal. as well as a small number of 80 hal. stamps. **Figure 4** illustrates a sequence of stamps from I-73 on 80 hal. stamps with undamaged letter P, with the letter P exhibiting an indent in the upper part (**Phase IV**), and on 40 hal. stamps from the final **Phase VI**, showing further wear to the type of the letter P in POCZTA.



Figure 4

Phase V - Form I Overprint – Transitional Error Variety

Editors Note: *(Mr. Puchala's diligent study of the phases of the Form I have disclosed that a previously unexplained scarce transitional overprint fault occurred during the late stage of printing of the 80 hal stamps. The author was the first to collect sufficient examples of this scarce overprint error, and to propose a valid theory on how this error occurred. The key take-away for readers is to recognize and understand these very scarce transitional error varieties, rather than to understand the proposed mechanism.)*

During the later period of overprinting of the 80 hal. stamps a most interesting and scarce transitional printing variety developed. A foreign body apparently fell between the type and the sheets of stamps to be overprinted. This was most probably a type centering element such as a piece of fabric or cardboard. As the object was greasy and moving, it blocked different portions of the overprint during subsequent printing. Consequently it either blocked portions of the overprints or caused the blurring of the overprint ink. The fault first appeared in position I-7 and for a prolonged period it affected primarily the letter P in POCZTA. Over time as a result of the method of printing, this foreign element subsequently impacted positions I-17, I-26, I-37 and finally I-47.

Four strips of five stamps with overprints from positions I-7 to I -47 are shown in **Figure 5**



Figure 5: Strips of 5 illustrating the various stages of transitional errors on 80 hal and resulting residual damage on 1 K.

The left row illustrates the first stage of **Phase V,** where just the letter P in POCZTA on stamp I-7 is damaged. The second row of 5 stamps illustrates the migration and impact of the foreign object on overprint positions I-7 to I-17. Further progression of the foreign elements migration is illustrated in the third row of 80 hal stamps, which illustrate the final level of damage to the overprints in positions I-7 through I-47. Ultimately permanent residual damage to the type is also found in the overprinting of the 1K as illustrated in the 4th row of **Figure 5**.

It has been previously believed that the form damage to stamps in the seventh column was irreversible and was the final phase of use of this Form I overprint matrix. To prove that this was in fact a temporary overprint fault, two columns of stamps in pos. I-7, I-17 with overprint damage are shown in **Figure 6**.



Figure 6

The second pair exhibits damage to the overprint stamp in positions I-17 which is much greater than on the first pair. At the same time, the overprinted stamp in position I-7 shows the letter O in POCZTA, which is indiscernible on the same stamp in the first pair. This would not be possible if the damage was irreversible. Additionally, two stamps with overprints in position I-7 are shown **Figure 7.**



Figure 7

The first is a very interesting 80 hal. stamp from the very early **Phase V**, where the deformation of the P in POCZTA is limited to the upper portion. The second is a 5 hal. stamp with the characteristic absence of the bottom of the letter P in POCZTA. This proves that the damage in the seventh column must have occurred first, as otherwise the bottom of the letter P in POCZTA on the 80 hal. stamp would also be missing.

The die with this fault was used to overprint all the remaining sheets of 80 hal. Stamps. This is presumed because I know of no 80 hal. stamp with an overprint in position I-7 with the bottom of the letter P in POCZTA missing, which would be typical for **Phase VI**. I estimate that several dozen (perhaps even over 100) sheets were overprinted during **Phase V**. As shown in **Figure 5**, there were very large differences in the extent of damage to the overprint and they always impacted the overprints in position I-7. It is in the final phase that the letters P in POCZTA and POLSKA in position I-47 were damaged. The largest damage to overprints on stamps in positions I-7 and I-27, known to me, is shown in **Fig. 8**.



Figure 8

Stamps with damaged overprints in the seventh column in this overprint phase deserve to be placed in the catalogue as an error or a transitional overprint fault. They are certainly rarer than the catalogued errors 'damaged A' and 'double dot' on these stamps, Due to their changing character they are more interesting, and sometimes quite spectacular.

Phase VI

After the 80 hal. stamps had been overprinted the fault was noted and work was halted (possibly when a shift has ended). The foreign body was removed and the type matrix was probably cleaned. The presence of the foreign body resulted in permanent damage to the letters P in POCZTA and POLSKA in the area affected by the fault. The column of overprints with the characteristic damage to the letters P in POCZTA and POLSKA are shown in **Figure 5**. The damage is characteristic for all subsequently overprinted values. The Form I type overprint faults gradually progressed, after approximately 35% of the estimated 4000 sheets were overprinted with the Form I die. **Figure 4** (far right stamp) illustrates the 40 hal. stamp from the end of Phase VI illustrating overprint in position I-73, with the letter P in POCZTA badly damaged.

The damage of the letter P in POCZTA in position I-7, with the missing bottom of the "P" (**Figure 7** at the right) is the most characteristic error and merits inclusion in the catalogue for **Phase VI** of the overprint. This fault appears on the following values of postage stamps overprinted with Form I: 3, 5, 6, 10, 12, 20, 40, 90 hal. and 1 K, and also on the 50/42 hal. postage due stamp. Since it appears in one position on the sheet, its rarity is equivalent to catalogued errors identified in the Fischer catalogue as B2, B3 and B10.

Of course, it would be possible to define additional phases by observing the increasing deterioration, or appearance of additional damage to the overprint in other positions, but this seems pointless. **Phase IV** was included in my article because this fault was singled out by Prof. Mikstein in his work. Similar work could be done in several other positions in the sheet.

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Mikstein S.: Cracow issue (II), Łódzki Biuletyn Filatelistyczny nr 3/1974 str. 185-190
Walisch S., Ryblewski J.: Usterki nadruków z końcowej fazy użycia I formy przedrukowej na 80 hal. znaczku wydania krakowskiego (PZP 43), Filatelistyka nr 11-12/1999 str. 544-545

Mystery Item

What is interesting about this item is the legend in the upper left, reading ***Znaczek Pocztowy*** – Postal Stamp or is it Postage Stamp?

In any case, is it a revenue and if so, why is it not identified as such?
Is it a postage stamp and if so why is it printed on the sheet?
Is it a money order or money transfer?
The item appears to be bank related, so when was the Znaczek Pocztowy marking applied?
Was the item purchased with the marking already imprinted.





Revenues from Russian and Prussian occupation eras are imprinted on a sheet with the cost of the transaction and give no reference to the fact that the cost is postally related.

If you can shed any light on this item, it would be appreciated.
Contact Chris Kulpinski at chris@kulpinski.net

A New First Issue Przedbórz Forgery

Sam Ginsburg

Background: Przedbórz, Poland is on the Pilica River, about 110 km north of Kraków. In 1917-18, it issued 18 local delivery stamps. These are interesting because a) there are hundreds of varieties of both genuine and forged stamps, and b) 80-95% of the items listed on eBay (and probably Allegro) are forgeries.

For several years, I have been fascinated by the variety of forgeries of these stamps. In the past, writers usually just discussed how to differentiate a genuine stamp from a forgery. There was little interest in separating one type of forgery from another. Regarding the 1st Issue (Mi. 1 & 2), Schroeder [1949] seems to have been the first writer to identify more than one type of 1st Issue forgery. Barefoot and Blunt seem to be the first to illustrate **four** types of forgeries in modern philatelic literature. (Alex Penn may have published something around 1953, but I know of only a draft of his article.) The present article is the first ***printed*** article to document **five** types of 1st issue forgeries. (A description was posted to my www.prz.ginsburgs.org website in early February 2009.)

What's New?

Note: The following discussion applies equally to Przedbórz #1 & #2, the 1st Issue. The red 2 gr. stamps are #1's, the blue 4 gr. are #2's.



Fig. 1 ***Newly Discovered Type F5 - Forgery***

The new forgery, F5, is shown in **Fig. 1**. The main distinguishing marks are in the ***bottom*** Grosze: Notice the *ultra-wide-open G*, and *very-short-top Z*. These descriptions are in comparison to the other forgeries shown below. While I call it an ultra-wide-open G, and very-short-top Z, or an F5, (Forgery #5), it could just as well be called the Bert's Nose (from Sesame Street) or the "Bad Beak".



Type 5 Forgery



Genuine

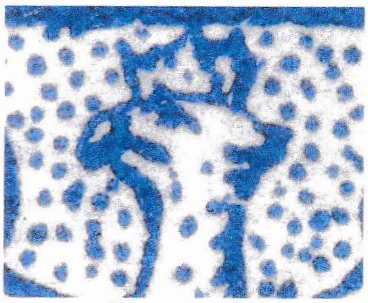


Fig. 2 ~ ***Type 5 Forgery***

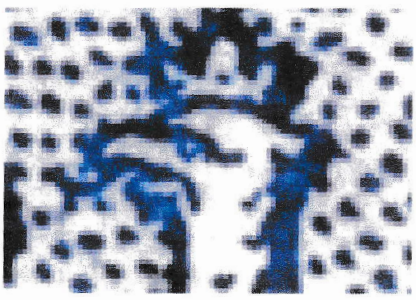


Fig.2A ~ ***Genuine***

Look at the Eagle's beak in Fig. 2. It looks like Bert's nose to me. A genuine beak is shown in Fig. 2A. In comparison, the F5 forgery hardly looks like an eagle's head.

Other Forgeries

The rest of this article shows points of identification for genuine stamps and for the five types of forgeries. Some of these are my own discoveries: I was looking for objective points of comparison, not the Rorschach tests you see in some articles. (The www.prz.ginsburgs.org web site has more distinguishing points.)



Fig. 3

Genuine stamps



Dot on left wing, touches margin, but not the U. (The U represents a wing feather.)



Two fine lines from top of Crown to top inside frame.



Fig. 4



Type F4-Forgery - The dot on the left wing touches the U, but not the wing margin.



Only one line from the top of Crown to top inside frame.



Type F1 - Forgery



Type F2 - Forgery



Type F3 - Forgery



Type F5 - Forgery

There are no dots on left wing margin of these forgeries and the lower Grosze lettering is described below.

Lettering

The lettering of these various stamps has numerous differences, often visible on eBay scans. I find it easiest to look at the lower Grosze, especially the G and the Z as shown in the following pictures.

Genuine Stamps have sharp lettering



Type F1 *forgeries have a fat G and short-top Z.*



Type F2 *forgeries have a pretty normal G, and a Z with a slightly sloping top bar*



Type F3 *forgeries have a tight-mouth G; lower bar of the Z slopes down slightly to the right.*



Type F4 *forgeries have a wide-mouth & narrow G and a pretty normal Z.*



Type F5 *forgeries have a ultra wide-mouth G and a very-short-top Z*



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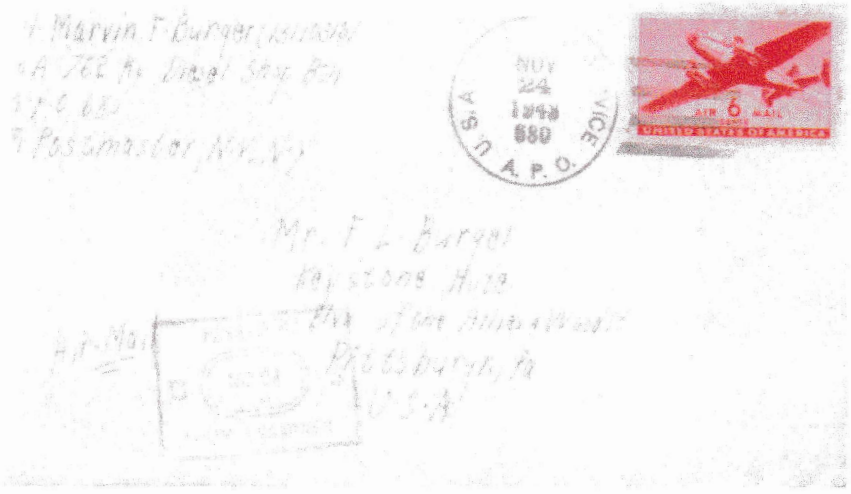
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Polish Refugees During World War II – Iran

Regis Hoffman

This is the first of a planned series of articles that will chronicle the postal history of Polish refugees during the Second World War in non-European locales.

The cover shown below begins the tale. At first glance, it appears to have no relationship to this topic or Polish postal history. The cover was mailed on November 24, 1943 from U.S. Army Post Office #680 located in Ahwaz, Iran. It is addressed to Mister F. L. Burger at the Keystone Hotel in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (the building is now part of Point Park University).



It is the letter inside that provides historical significance. The letter is from Marvin Burger, the son of the recipient. Several lines from the letter are:

November 21, 1943

"Had quite a bit of entertainment the last few days; a big dance Friday night with a hundred Polish girls furnishing the female atmosphere. The fact that we speak no Polish, and they, little English, provided many amusing incidents."

What were one hundred Polish girls doing in Iran during the war?

The primary reference for this article is the book "The Polish Deportees of World War II – Recollections of Removal to the Soviet Union and Dispersal Throughout the World", edited by Tadeusz Piotrowski. 2004. McFarland & Company.

After the invasion of Poland by the USSR in World War II, over 1.6 million Poles were deported to the Soviet Union. After Germany turned its sights on the USSR, many Polish refugees in the Soviet Union were granted amnesty, and allowed to leave, and arrangements were made to transport them to Iran.

The evacuation of Polish people from the USSR to Iran occurred in three waves. The first began in late March 1942, and consisted of 30,000 military personnel and over 11,000 children. The second stage transferred 43,000 military personnel and 25,000 civilians during August of 1942. The final phase had over 2,000 civilians, and an unspecified number of military personnel. The Polish people were sent mainly via Ahwaz (in south Iran) and the ports of Khorramshahr and Basra to Africa and India.

Personal recollections of the stay in Ahwaz are recorded in the reference book. It is described as "one of the hottest places on earth" and "this must be hell on earth". By the end of 1943, 2,834 Polish refugees remained in Ahwaz. This cover then refers to the remaining Polish refuges there.

Warsaw in Ruins Perforations: More Information

Dr. James Mazepa

In the last Bulletin, our editor provided us with an introduction to a very interesting variety of post-war Poland, the private perforations on the Ruins of Warsaw issue, Fisher 380-385. I can add that I have three letters. Figure 1, is a registered letter from Chropaczow with a six zloty stamp with private perforations. The letter is enhanced by provisional straight line cancels in red and black, a provisional double circle date stamp without town indication dated June 3, 1946, and a provisional registration cachet.



Figure 1

Figure 2 is a registered letter franked with two three zloty privately perforated stamps from Ostrolenka 1, dated January 8, 1946.



Figure 2

Figure 3 is a letter franked with a three zloty stamp from Środa Wielkopolski with an unclear date of June ???.

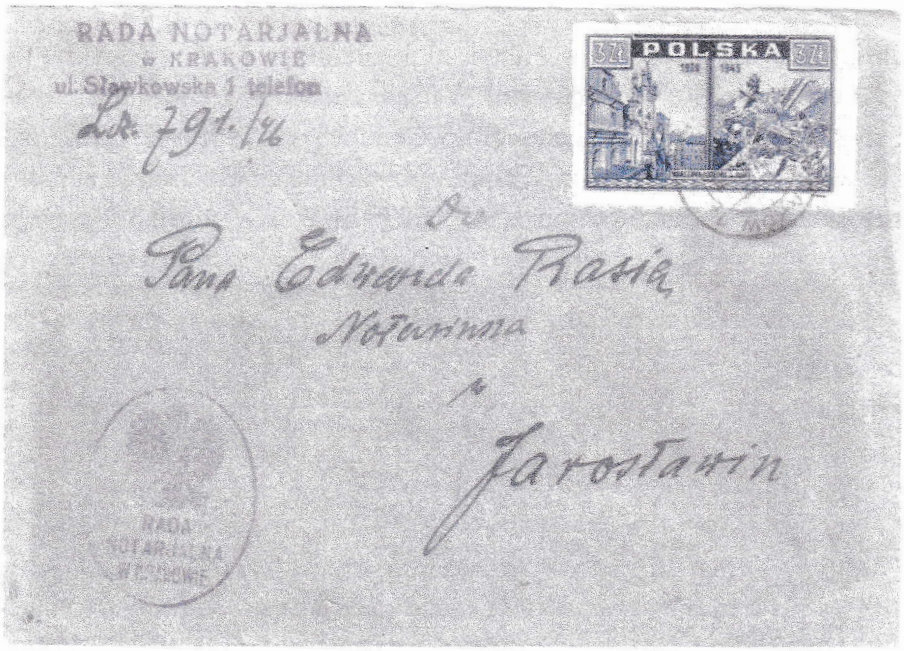


Figure 3

I have been recording letters I have seen with private perforations and have found these towns: Mosina (6 zl.), Trzciel (3 zl.), Chojnic (6 zl.), Ostrolenka – without a number, as opposed to Ostrolenka 1 shown in Figure 2 (6 zl.), Niedobczyc (3 zl.), and Krasnik (10zl.), and Biała Krakowska 1 (1 zl)

This list is by no means complete. One can conclude that the perforating process was done locally to facilitate separation, and the stamps were not shared with neighboring post offices. All that I have seen are perforations, not rouletted (see *Fundamentals of Philately,* by L.N. Williams). These perforations would typically be made with a perforating wheel, a perforating machine, or a sewing machine.

One can deduce that the most commonly perforated stamps were the 3 zloty and the 6 zloty since they were the stamps most in demand as these paid the ordinary letter rate and the registered letter rate. I have seen only one 1 zloty and three 10 zloty

While Fisher places a 150% premium for letters with private perforations, this would mean a price of only $3.00-$5.00 at today's rate for all but the scarce colors. However, they typically start at about $20.00. Many of these letters are enhanced with provisional postmarks. Foreign destinations other than the United States are especially desirable. Since U.S. dealers are not aware of these private perforations, with a bit of luck, one can find them in dealer's boxes. I would collect these stamps on cover. The wide margins make them susceptible to fakery; however, I have not heard that the forgers have applied their trade here. It is also interesting that the imperforate overprinted Ruins of Warsaw issue, Fisher 388-393, lists only one value with private perforations.

A Letter from Murnau

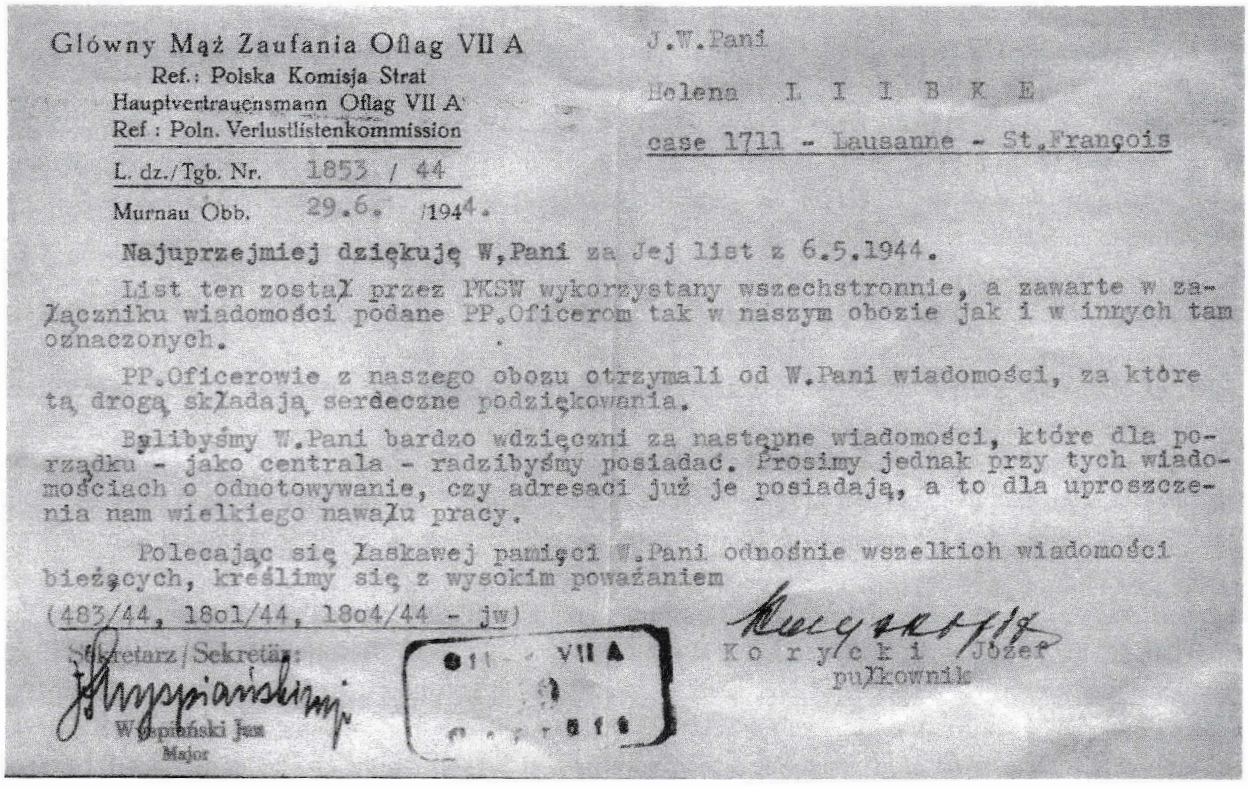
Jan Niebrzydowski

The Murnau POW Camp was originally set up by the German Nazis to house Polish officers captured in September, 1939 and was operational until April, 1945. It housed up to 7,000 captives and was located in Bavaria, which is in Southern Germany.

During WWII, the Germans endeavored to respect the Geneva Convention, especially in their showcase camp at Murnau, mindful of the fact that their own soldiers were POW's in Allied camps.

Prisoners at Murnau had access to internal postal service, theater performances and parcels from the outside world. There was also a form of self-government headed by the Chief Delegate of the inmates (Hauptvertrauensmann). He had the privilege of the use of a typewriter, various printed material and seals. In Murnau this function was performed by Col. Józef Korycki , with support from his secretary, Maj. Jan Wyspański.

The letter shown below was sent from Murnau by Col. Korycki to Ms. Helena Liibke in Lausanne, Switzerland on the 29th of June, 1944. It was signed by both Korycki and his secretary (who used his seal).



Główny Mąż Zaufania Oflag VII A
Ref.: Polska Komisja Strat
Hauptvertrauensmann Oflag VII A
Ref : Poln. Verlustlistenkommission

L. dz./Tgb. Nr. 1853 / 44

Murnau Obb. 29.6. 1944.

J.W.Pani
Helena L I I B K E
case 1711 - Lausanne - St.François

Najuprzejmiej dziękuję W.Pani za Jej list z 6.5.1944.

List ten został przez PKSW wykorzystany wszechstronnie, a zawarte w załączniku wiadomości podane PP.Oficerom tak w naszym obozie jak i w innych tam oznaczonych.

PP.Oficerowie z naszego obozu otrzymali od W.Pani wiadomości, za które tą drogą składają serdeczne podziękowania.

Bylibyśmy W.Pani bardzo wdzięczni za następne wiadomości, które dla porządku - jako centrala - radzibyśmy posiadać. Prosimy jednak przy tych wiadomościach o odnotowywanie, czy adresaci już je posiadają, a to dla uproszczenia nam wielkiego nawału pracy.

Polecając się łaskawej pamięci W.Pani odnośnie wszelkich wiadomości bieżących, kreślimy się z wysokim poważaniem

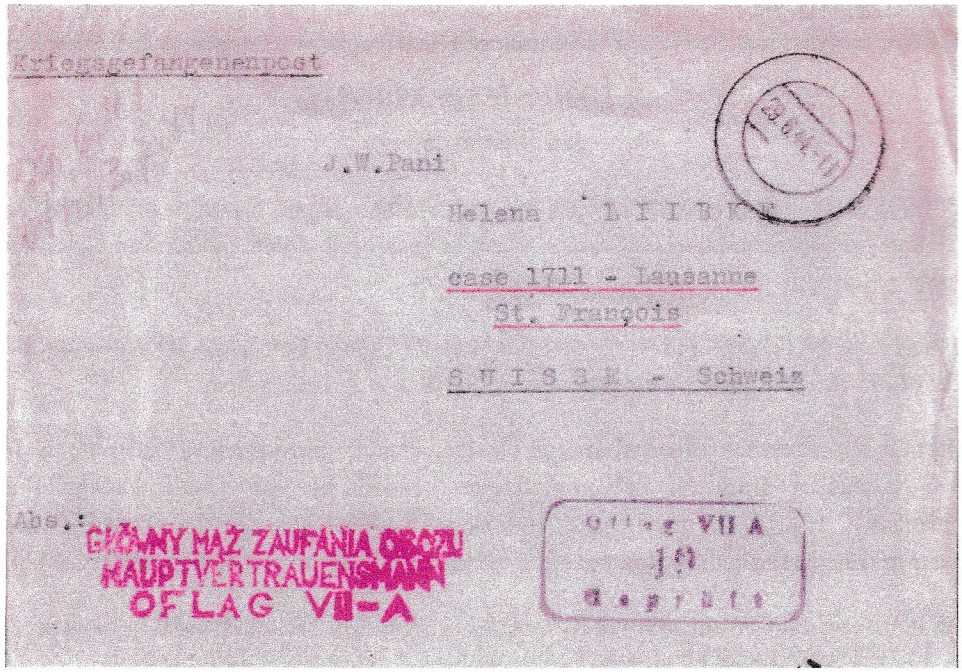
(483/44, 1801/44, 1804/44 - jw)

Sekretarz / Sekretär:
Wyspiański Jan
Major

VII A

Korycki Józef
pułkownik

The letter, written on his official stationery, Col. Korycki expresses his thanks for news concerning the officers from other POW camps and requests continued cooperation. That the letter was censored is confirmed by the censor mark.



The letter was sent in an ordinary cover with a muted date stamp and a framed censor cachet - Oflag VIIA Geprüft 19. The cover also has a red three line, bilingual hand stamp – Chief Delegate, Oflag VIIA.

Helena Liibke is a recognized name among POW collectors. She was born in 1893 and after graduating with a degree in economics from the University of Warsaw, she worked for the Warsaw Citizens Charitable Committee. In 1919 she became the secretary to Helena and Ignacy Paderewski. She stayed with the musicians' family until their departure from Switzerland to the USA in 1940.

At Paderewski's request, she remained in Switzerland during the War and served as a go-between facilitating contact with people in Nazi occupied Poland and Poles who had escaped to the West. Using a variety of underground addresses, she helped soldiers serving under the Allied command, prisoners of war, military and civilian internees keep in touch with their families.

She also help reunite families and find missing persons. With the aid of the International Red Cross and other charitable organizations, she sent parcels with basic necessities to Poles interned in Switzerland and Germany.

After WWII, she went to the USA and settled in California, taking with her almost all of the correspondence that Paderewski had left, as well as all the letters she had received during the War. According to Edward Wolski who was familiar with this correspondence, it consisted of more than 20,000 items. At his suggestion, she divided these items among a number of museums and cultural institutions in America, Poland and Switzerland. Mr. Wolski told me that, as a token of gratitude for their friendship and support that he and his family had shown her, she had given him about 1,000 cards and covers.

As he was advanced in age, he sold me about 500 items, almost all of which are still in my possession. The correspondence that has been preserved is remarkable in that it speaks of the tragedies of many Polish families during World War II. Ms. Liibke died in 1986. Mr Ed Wolski was a Polonus member.

Postal Money Order Forerunner

Chris Kulpinski

Sending money by mail is a time honored tradition.

Shown below is a receipt form given to the sender upon submission of the money to be sent by mail, as well as to cover fees to the post office. Obviously, it served as proof of acceptance by the post office and the fact that money was sent.

It's a receipt form for foreign correspondence, used at the Warsaw Main Post Office to record a money transmission of one ruble to someone named Sviderskiy in Kronstadt. Note that this is actually domestic usage, not foreign, as Poland was part of the Russian Empire at the time. The city was, and is a Russian seaport town, located on Kotlin Island, thirty kilometers west of Saint Petersburg near the head of the Gulf of Finland. It is under the administration of the federal city of Saint Petersburg and is also its main port. Traditionally, the seat of the Russian admiralty and the base of the Russian Baltic Fleet were located in Kronstadt guarding the approaches to Saint Petersburg.

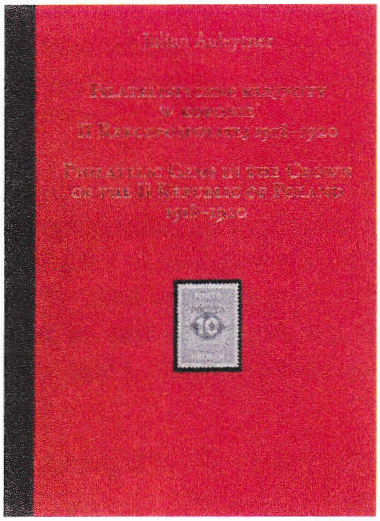
The form was made out on 5 April 1858, and shows that the sender was charged 15 silver kopecks for the weight rate, one kopeck for the wax seals and three kopecks for the duty.
I have taken the liberty to enhance the scan to show the Russian Eagle watermark.



Book Review

by James Mazepa

PHILATELIC GEMS IN THE CROWN OF THE II REPUBLIC OF POLAND 1918-1920



by Julian Auleytner, published 2009, ISBN 978-83-61121-13-8, hard bound 167 pages, available from Bieniecki Int'l, Inc. PO Box 489, Maryville, Ill 62062, $110 post paid in North America. *Email:* hank@biistamp.com

In 1979 the Royal Philatelic Society of London published ***THE KINGDOM OF POLAND: Poland No. 1 ASSOCIATED POSTAL HISTORY*** by M. A. Bojanowicz, which is the major publication on the classical period of the Kingdom of Poland. However, the postal history of the period between 1865 and 1918 is tied to the three countries that occupied Poland. The history of the Polish post in the early part of the 20th century has been relatively ignored outside of Poland. With the growing interest in the posts of the Second Republic beginning November 11, 1918, the need for scholarly work which explores the development of the Polish Post in this tumultuous period was needed. Professor Auleytner has provided this for us. To enhance the usefullness of the book, it is bi-lingual, Polish and English.

The development of the posts is documented with the first provisional issues of Warsaw, Lublin, Cracow and Poznan, as well as with the use of the remaining stamps of the occupying countries of Germany and Austria. The author provides us with a detailed listing of the elusive local overprints. They range in rarity from the only recorded example to fewer than five known. Many are pictured for the first time in a philatelic publication. To accomplish this, Professor Auleytner uses not only examples from his own collection, but those of other students of this period. The usefulness of his documentation is enhanced by the inclusion of the dates of known use. The author wisely includes only the local overprints made at the post offices and not the many speculative overprints so often encountered.

The author then goes on to address the opening and development of the post offices in Upper Silesia, Great Poland, and Pomerania, and, breaking new ground, the post offices in the Eastern Territories. He also includes a chapter on the Polish Post Offices in Turkey and Odessa.

This publication will no doubt become the standard reference for this period of Polish postal history

New Issues

Dan Lubelski & Frank Karowski



Date of Issue	September 25, 2009
Sheet Format	12 stamps
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Łukasz Walendziuk

26th European Women's Volleyball Championship

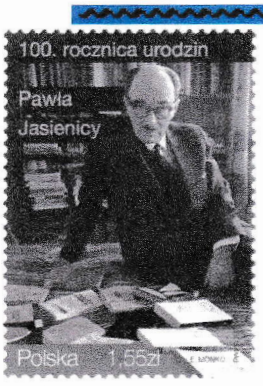
Poland hosted the 26th European Women's Volleyball Championship in late September and early October. Sixteen teams competed, with Italy winning the gold (1st place) and Poland taking the bronze (3rd place). Volleyball originated in the USA and is a very popular sport in Poland. Earlier in 2009 the Poland's men won the gold at the European men's competition held in Turkey. The 3zł stamp features a drawing depicting the dynamics of players' movements, and a distinctive commemorative cancellation from the Lodz Post Office shows a large volleyball.



World Post Day

Date of Issue	October 9, 2009
Sheet Format	20 stamps
Printing Method	Steel Engraving & Rotogravure
Designer	Bożydar Grozdew

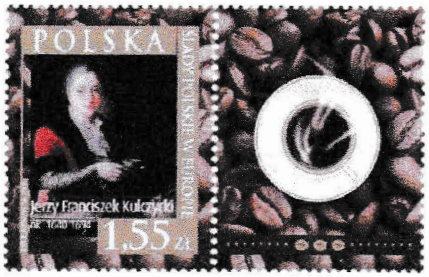
This 3zł stamp depicts a folded envelope soaring into the sky as a kite. Since 1972 the Universal Postal Union has organized an annual competition for young people who must write letters on a specific topic. These letters are judged at the national and international levels and prizes are awarded on October 9. It is also noted that the week between October 9 and 15 was designated as International Letter Writing Week.



100th Anniversary of the Birth of Pawel Jasienica

Date of Issue	November 10, 2009
Sheet Format	50 stamps
Printing Method	Rotogravure
Designer	Ewa Monko

This 1.55zł stamp honors Pawel Jasienica, one of the most widely read Polish historical writers of the 20th Century. His most famous work is a history of pre-partition Poland -- "Polska Piastów" (1960), "Polska Jagiellonów" (1963), and "Rzeczpospolita Obojga Narodów" (1962-72). He was severely criticized by the government for his strong belief in the individual's power to influence history, which contradicted Marxist philosophy. His complex career spanned both the academic world and the military, including a period of imprisonment. The stamp features him in a library setting, and the distinctive first day cancellation shows an open book.



Poles in Europe

Date of Issue	November 16, 2009
Sheet Format	8 stamps
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Kazimierz Bulik

Within the "Poles in Europe" series, this 1.55zł stamp honors Jerzy Franciszek Kulczycki, known in Austria as Georg Franz Kolschitzky. He opened the first coffee house in Vienna, one of the first such cafes in Europe. He was proficient in both Turkish and Hungarian and during the siege of Vienna in 1683 he was able to pass through the Turkish lines to secure outside assistance, and thus help prevent surrender of the city. After the victorious battle led by Polish King Jan III Sobieski, he was deemed a hero and was accorded both a financial reward and 300 bags of coffee beans from the defeated Turks (which some thought to be food for camels). Soon after, he opened his famous cafe. The stamp of Kulczycki includes a tab that shows a cup of coffee from above. This special issue has a subtle scent of coffee, making it comparable to the fragrant 2005 stamps depicting "Roses in Polish Embroidery."



Date of Issue	November 20, 2009
Sheet Format	6 stamps
Printing Method	Rotogravure
Designer	Kazimierz Bulik

Lost Art

Poland has experienced very significant losses of art at various times in its history, most notably during the "Swedish deluge" (Potop Szwedzki) of the 17th Century, during the partitions, and later in the two world wars of the 20th Century. In rare instances the works of art have been located and returned, such as the Veit Stoss altar stolen by the Nazis from St. Mary's Basilica in Kraków. However, many other art objects remain missing, including the masterpieces shown on the three 1.55zł stamps issued: (1) an etching by Rembrandt van Rijn entitled "St. Joseph's Dream" (1638) now sought by the National Museum in Gdańsk; (2) a painting by Peter Paul Rebens entitled "Jesus Collapses under the Cross" (1612-5) missing from the National Museum in Warsaw; and (3) a drawing by Albrecht Dürer called "Exlibris Willibalda Pirckheimera" (1513) traced by the Department of Drawings of the Warsaw University Library. In addition to the three stamps issued, there was a notable first day cancellation from the Warsaw 1st Post Office that depicts an empty picture frame.



Christmas

Date of Issue	November 27, 2009
Sheet Format	100 stamps
Printing Method	Rotogravure
Designer	Ewa Szydłowska

Two Polish Christmas stamps were issued in 2009: one with a 2.40zł denomination shows a stylized drawing of Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus on a starry night; the other 1.55zł stamp shows young angels singing carols, with a Christmas tree and stars in the background. An interesting first day cancellation from the 1st Post office of Warsaw portrays a donkey under the star of Bethlehem, shown as a comet.