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Marking Mickiewicz's Birthday

By SOPHIE HODOROWICZ KNAB

The year 1998 marks the two hundreth anniversary of the birth of Adam Mickiewicz, Poland's greatest poet. To try to understand the man and the forces behind his writing it's important to place his life and work in context with the country and turbulent times he lived in.



Poland honored Mickiewicz in 1947 with this issue Scott's #403. (Fischer #427).

It was to be Adam Mickiewicz's fate to be born in a country that had ceased to exist as a proud and independent republic. At the time of his birth, Poland had been partitioned by three powerful nations. The first partition occurred in 1772 as a result of political maneuvering by Russia, Prussia & Austria. The partitioning powers imposed a new constitution that deprived King Stanislaus Poniatowski of his prerogative to summon & dismiss Poland's parliamentary assembly. All actions of the Polish government became subject to review by the three powers.



In 1949 Mickiewicz was honored again with this 10 zl. of the Famous Poles issue Scott's #464, (Fischer #505).

In 1793 Russia and Prussia (Austria did not participate) agreed to partition Poland a second time with Russia appropriating most of the Byelorussian and Ukrainian territory west of the Dniepr. Prussia seized the much-coveted cities of Gdańsk and Toruń and the western province of Poznań. On March 24, 1794, Thaddeus Kościuszko came out of self imposed exile and in the great square of Kraków swore to fight until the end for liberty, integrity and the independence of his native land. On April 4th, he won the famous Battle of Racławice. In spite of successes, the combined forces of Russia & Prussia were too strong, and Kościusz-

ko, seriously wounded, was taken prisoner by the Russians.

In November of 1975, King Stanislaus Poniatowski was forced to abdicate his throne and died in Russia. The last and final partition of Poland by the Russian, Prussian and Austrian monarchies took place. The partitioning powers divided Poland in the following manner: Russia seized 62 per cent of Poland which consisted of about 45% of the population, establishing her western frontiers on the Bug and Niemen Rivers; Prussia took 20 per cent of the territory with roughly 23% of the population; Austria annexed 18 per cent of the land with 32% of the population The borders of the three zones met on the Bug River near Brześć. The Polish Commonwealth ceased to exist. Extending over vast territories of central and eastern Europe, its massive size had been the result of the union between the Kingdom of Poland and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, which had been formed in the 16th century as a result of the marriage of Queen Jadwiga of Poland and Jagiełło of Lithuania.



THE PARTITIONED COMMONWEALTH 1795

Throughout the whole partition period, which lasted over a hundred years, Poles never, under any circumstances, became reconciled to foreign rule in any of the partition zones. The idea of an independent Poland was carried on the banners of Polish insurrectionists, soldiers and revolutionaries fighting for independence at home and abroad. It found expression in rebellions, plots, secret societies and social movements directed against the system of oppression. It lived in revolutionary deeds and symbols, songs, in the sacrificing of blood and life, and in writing and poetry.

1918-19 SECOND PROVISIONAL ISSUE

3 pf. (Scott 15) (Polish Catalog 6 a). Varieties B10 and B11

By CONRAD P. STRAUB, Ph.D.

In 1962 Włodarski published an article[1] and a table[2] of the stamps of the Second Polish Provisional Issue and identified the various error groupings occurring in the sheets overprinted "Gen.-Gouv./Warschau" and subsequently overprinted "Poczta Polska." For sheets bearing the German overprint H2886-18 98, he listed only the error grouping IIAe.

I checked through the various Polish catalogs,[3-5] and found that none listed the varieties B10 and B11 for sheet H2886-18 98. The only reported error grouping for this sheet was IIAe. However, Mikstein[6] in his original article confirmed that error groupings IIAe and IIAg appeared on sheet H2886-18 98, but in a later table he reported only error grouping IIAe. In his Court of Honor exhibit at POLAND '93,

Poznan, Mikulski included sheet H2886-18 98 with error grouping IIAi He also exhibited several sheets with booking number H3123-15 93/94 with error grouping IIAf and sheet H3875-18 99/100 with error grouping IIAf.

In my collection I have copies of 3 pf (Sc. 15) with varieties B10 and B11, which were confirmed by Dr. Stanley Kronenberg as coming from sheet H2886-18 98. Since this sheet has not been identified with varieties B10 and B11, I feel that they should be so listed, along with the sheets with error groupings held by Mikulski.

Accordingly, I suggest that Włodarski's tabular notation for the 3 pf be modified as follows:

Table I

Cat. No.*	Denom.	Color	GGW HAH	Error Grouping A d	e	f	g	h	k
6a	3 pf	dk. olive brown	H2886·18		+	+	+	+	
6b		lt. olive brown	H3875·18		+	+	+?		
6c		dk. olive brown	H3695·18				+		
6d		yellow brown	H3123·15 I		+	+			
			H3123·15 II						

* Catalog numbers and colors as given in reference 4

The catalogs can be modified to include the additional varieties.

Table II

Cat. No*	Denom.	Color	GGW HAN	Errors or varieties B6 11/	B7 49	B8 86	B9 80	B10 83	B11 65
6a	3 pf	dk. olive brown	H2886·18	+	+	+	+	+	+
6b		lt. olive brown	H3875·18	+	+	+	+	+	
6c		dk. olive brown	H3695·18						
6d		yellow brown	H3123·15 I	+	+	+	+	+	
			H3123·15 II						

* Catalog numbers and colors from reference 4

/ Position in sheet

Members of POLONUS having any of the above designated sheets, should check them and note the error groupings observed. If different from the above two tables, they should be reported to me through POLONUS.

Changes for other denominations, if warranted, will be reported in subsequent articles.

REFERENCES:

1. Włodarski, Zbigniew. Second Polish Provisional Issue, Bulletin of the Polonus Philatelic Society, Issue No. 205, pages 1-7 (November 1962).

2. Włodarski, Zbigniew. Second Polish Provisional Issue, Bulletin of the Polonus Philatelic Society, Issue No. 206, pages 4-5 (December 1962).

3. Polskie Znaki Pocztowe. A. Łaszkiewicz and Z. Mikulski, eds. Vol. I. Warszawa 1960.

4. Katalog Specjalizowany Znaków Pocztowych Ziem Polskich, III ed., Part 1, Krajowa Agencja Wydawnicza. Warszawa, 1989.
5. Fischer, Andrzej. Katalog Polskich Znaków Pocztowych, 1997. Andrzej E. Grabowski and Stanisław Styła, eds., Bytom, 1997.
6. Mikstein, S. Drugie polskie wydanie prowizoryczne dla b. okupacji niemieckiej. Nakładem I1. Fil. Lwów 1932-1934.

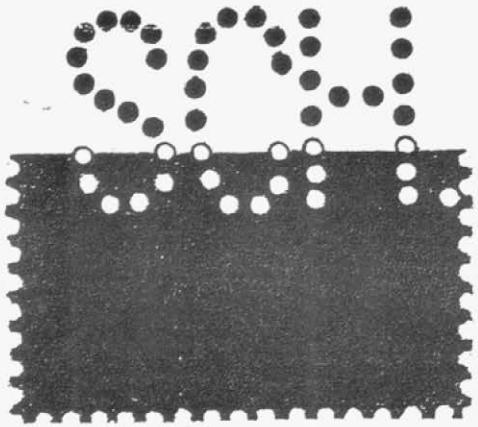
DZIEDZICE PERFIN

By STANLEY KRONENBERG

The photograph shows the postage stamp of Poland which was issued locally in Dziedzice in January, 1919. It is a halved 50h. Austrian stamp with the violet overprint "25/halerzy". This stamp is used, it is postmarked Dziedzice, 19 January 1919.



Before this stamp was overprinted and halved it was a perfin. The illustration shows the reconstructed "SCH." According to the listing of Polish perfins by Aleksander Sękowski, "Filatelistyka", Decem. 1990 p. 154, the "SCH." stands for Refinery of the Petroleum Company "Schodnica" in Dziedzice.



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FLOYD LEWAND of Chicago, IL

78th Apostolic Journey of Pope John Paul II to Poland (6th Visit)

By ARKADIUSZ WALINSKI



(CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS ISSUE)

MAY 31—JUNE 10, 1997

John Paul II's most recent visit to Poland from May 31 to June 10, 1997 was also his longest. The Pope visited 12 cities, meeting with more than six million people on different occasions.

There were three principal reasons for this Pastoral visit: the 46th International Eucharistic Congress in Wrocław; the 1000th anniversary of St. Adalbert's martyrdom and the 600th anniversary of the foundation of the Faculty of Theology at the Jagiellonian University in Kraków.

The Holy Father arrived at the Wrocław International Airport on Saturday morning, May 31, and was welcomed by authorities of Church and State including Poland's Primate, Józef Cardinal Glemp and President Aleksander Kwaśniewski. After arrival ceremonies, the Holy Father was taken to Wrocław's Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, a Gothic structure built in the 14th century. In the afternoon the Holy Father took part in an ecumenical prayer service in Hala Ludowa (the People's Hall).

One of the highlights of the Holy Father's visit to Poland, was the solemn Mass he celebrated in Wrocław on Sunday, June 1st, for the closing of the 46th International Eucharistic Congress.

On Monday, June 2nd, the Holy Father was taken by helicopter to Legnica, where he celebrated an outdoor Mass at the airport, during which he crowned the image of Our Lady of Graces, venerated in the Shrine of Krzeszów. In the late afternoon, the Holy Father arrived in Gorzów Wielkopolski, where he celebrated a Liturgy of the Word in front of the Church of the First Polish Martyrs.

On Tuesday morning, June 3, John Paul venerated the relics of Saint Adalbert in the Cathedral of Gniezno. Later in St. Adalbert's Square, the Holy Father celebrated an open Mass commemorating the Millennium of the holy Bishop's martyrdom. Attending the liturgy were heads of State from various countries linked with St. Adalbert's mission: Pres. Aleksander Kwaśniewski of Poland; Pres. Vaclav Havel of the Czech Republic, Pres. Algirdas Brazauskas of Lithuania; Pres. Michal Kovac from Slovakia, Pres. Leonid Kuczma from the Ukraine, Pres. Roman Herzog from Germany and Pres. Arpad Goncz from Hungary. In the afternoon the Holy Father arrived in Poznań, where he met with young people for a prayer service in Adam Mickiewicz Square.

On Wednesday morning, June 4, the Holy Father arrived in Kalisz where he celebrated Mass in front of the Shrine of St. Joseph. The

Shrine built between the 14th & 18th centuries, contains a 17th cen. image of the Holy Family. In the afternoon the Holy Father arrived in Częstochowa, home of the famous Shrine of Our Lady of Jasna Góra. After venerating the image of Our Lady, the Holy Father greeted the faithful gathered outside the Shrine. In the evening, the Holy Father left for Zakopane in the Tatra Mountains.

On Thursday, June 5, the Holy Father had no public commitments but took several trips in the picturesque Tatra Mountains.

On Friday morning, June 6, the Holy Father visited Holy Church in Zakopane, the last church to be built by the Pope while he was Archbishop of Kraków. Later in the Wielka Krokiew, a ski jump complex, the Holy Father celebrated Mass for the beatification of Sister Maria Bernardina Jabłońska and Sister Maria Karłowska.

On Saturday morning, June 7, the Holy Father celebrated Mass for the dedication of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Zakopane. The Church includes a shrine dedicated to Our Lady of Fatima and it was built in thanksgiving for the Pope's survival after the attempt on his life in 1981. In the afternoon, the Holy Father lead the recitation of the Rosary in front of the Shrine of Our Lady of Ludźmierz. The wooden statue of the Madonna and Child venerated in the Shrine, was carved around the year 1400. In the evening the Holy Father arrived in Kraków, where he visited the Shrine of Divine Mercy.

On Sunday morning, June 8, in Kraków's Błonie Esplanade, the Holy Father celebrated Mass for the canonization of Jadwiga (Hedwig) Queen of Poland (1374-1399). The Mass was attended by over a million and a half people. In the evening the Holy Father went to St. Ann's Church to take part in celebrations marking the 600th anniversary of the Faculty of Theology of the Jagiellonian University of Kraków, where he himself had studied before and after the war.

Early on Monday morning, June 9, the Holy Father celebrated a private Mass in St. Leonard's crypt in the Wawel Cathedral in Kraków, where on November 2, 1946, the day after his priestly ordination, he had offered three Masses. After visiting the Ukrainian Institute of Kraków, the Holy Father was taken to the Rakowice Cemetery where he visited his parents' grave. In the afternoon, the Holy Father travelled to Dukla in the far southeast Poland, where he visited the friary of the Bernardine Franciscans, where he prayed at the tomb of Blessed John of Dukla.

On Tuesday, June 10, the last day of his visit in Poland, the Holy Father celebrated Mass for the canonization of Blessed John of Dukla in the city of Krosno. In the afternoon the Holy Father left by helicopter for the airport in Kraków-Balice. After official farewell ceremonies at the airport, the Pope John Paul II left for Rome.

I would like to thank Mr. Bogdan Michalak from Poznań, Poland, President of the Polish Guild of St. Gabriel and editor of their Bulletin for providing me with clear markings of the postmarks described in this article.

VATICAN:

Vatican City - May 31, 1997

Commemorative travel postmark in Latin. Portrait of Pope John Paul II and logo of the 46th International Eucharistic Congress in Wrocław.

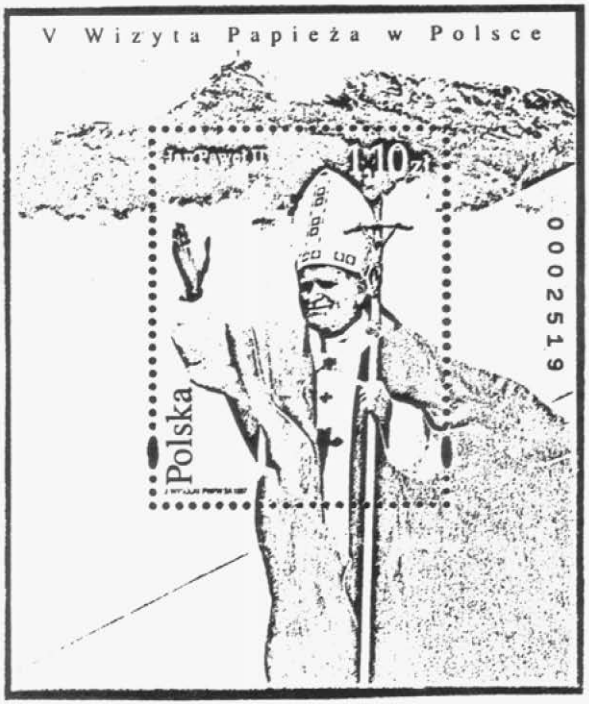
* IO PAULUS II PASTORALI EUCHARISTICO * / ANIMO POLONIAM REVISIT / POSTE VATICANE + 31.V.—10.VI.97 *



POLAND:

First Day of Issue: May 28, 1997.

1.10 zł. Souśenir Sheet. Pope John Paul II in greeting gesture. In background, the Tatra Mountains with Giewont Peak.



Wrocław - May 28, 1997

Commemorative First Day of Issue postmark. Coat of Arms of Pope John Paul II.

V WIZYTA PAPIEŻA JANA PAWŁA II W POLSCE. 28.05.1997. WROCŁAW 1.

- - (5th visit of Pope John Paul II in Poland).



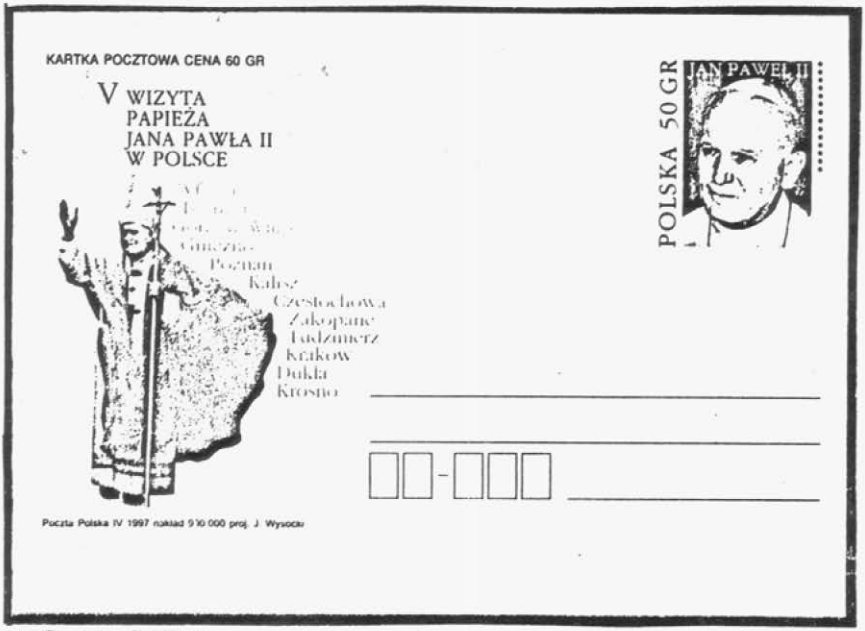
Warszawa - May 15, 1997:

Commemorative postmark. Pope John Paul II in greeting gesture. V PIELGRZYMKA DO OJCZYZNY / KRAJOWA WYSTAWA FILATELISTYCZNA / WARSZAWA 1. 15.05. 1997. (5th Pilgrimage to the Homeland. National Philatelic Exhibition. Opening Day of the Exhibition).



Commemorative postmark. Crucifix from the Pope's Pastoral Cross. V PIELGRZYMKA DO OJCZYZNY / KRAJOWA WYSTAWA FILATELISTYCZNA / WARSZAWA 1. 22.05.1997. (5th Pilgrimage to the Homeland. National Philatelic Exhibition. Last Day of the Exhibition).





POSTAL CARD:

50 gr. printed stamp. Portrait of Pope John Paul II. Illustration on left side of card: Pope John Paul II in greeting gesture (portion shown on souvenir sheet). Names of cities visited: Wrocław, Legnica, Gorzów Wlkp., Gniezno, Poznań, Kalisz, Częstochowa, Zakopane, Ludźmierz, Kraków, Dukla, Krosno.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

Stamp collectors display plenty of stick-to-itiveness

By Phuong Le TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

Contrary to popular opinion about stamp collection, Roman Strzelecki does not collect stamps because he has nothing better to do with his time.

He does it to document history, to relax and to challenge himself.

He does it because, sometimes, there is no satisfaction greater than being able, after months or years of hunting, to complete a full set.

Such as the one he amassed commemorating Pope John Paul II's visits to 81 countries.

"It's a funny hobby because you're collecting little pieces of paper," said Strzelecki, 75, president of the Polonus Philatelic Society which held the PolPex '98 stamp show in Niles.

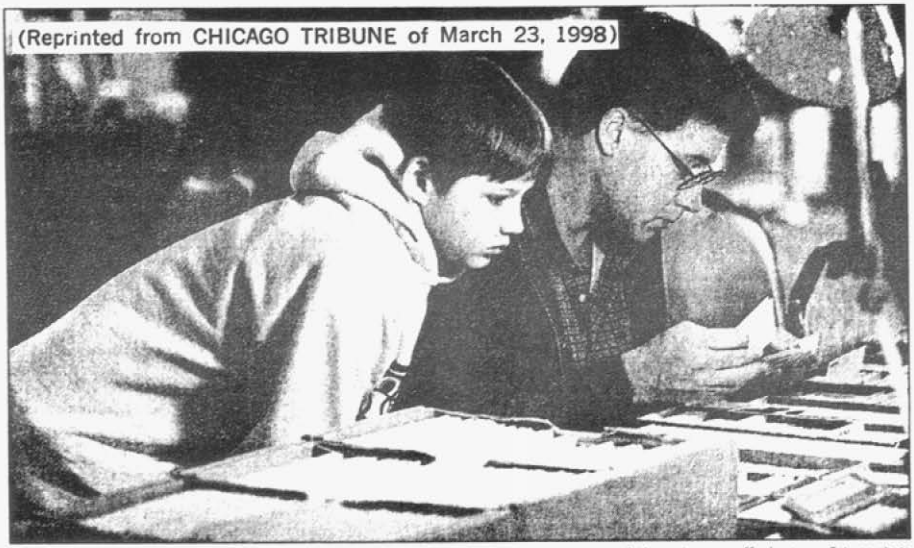
"But people do it for the joy, for the urgency to complete a set and say; 'I've got a book and it's from A to Z,' " he said. So it was for the several dozen philatelic enthusiasts, young and old, who browsed the booths at the House of the White Eagle banquet hall Sunday in search of stamps to round out their collections.

There was the Chicago father and son who wanted stamps associated with railroads and Latvia.

And the Glenbrook physical education teacher and avid golf player who searched for anything related to golf and the Olympics.

Stamp collectors are "curators for the future because they have a piece of history," said Ray Cough-

(Reprinted from CHICAGO TRIBUNE of March 23, 1998)



Mark V. Kriesemint, 11, and his dad, Mark A. of Chicago inspect some of the stamp offerings. Tribune photo by Chuck Berman

lin, a stamp dealer who specializes in U.S. land possessions.

Coughlin said he learned about history and geography through stamp collecting. Every time he discovered a stamp about some faraway country, he would go to the library and find out more about the subject.

He said stamp collections tell a story, whether it's about the history of U.S. involvement in the Philippines or the evolution of elephants. Or, in the case of two 8th-grade boys, who used about 100 stamps to document the progression of hair loss in men.

"You develop such a knowledge about subjects," said Luis Garcia, 74, who has been collecting since he was 6. "And you develop such friendships with people."



U.S. Postal Station at POLPEX 98.



President Roman Strzelecki presents medal to Teresa Poniecka-Lederer for her Copernicus Topical exhibit.



Arkadiusz Walinski accepts medal for his Pope Johu Paul II's Fifth Visit to Poland display.

Rare Stamps of the Second Lublin Issue of Poland

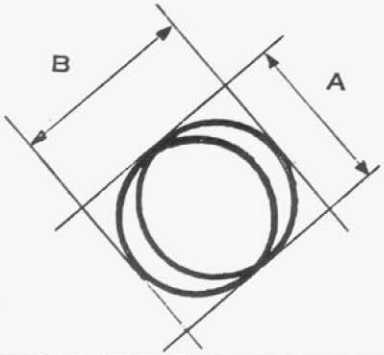
By STANLEY KRONENBERG

The second Lublin issue of late 1918 and early 1919 is relatively easy to obtain provided one is watchful to avoid the 'numerous forgeries of these stamps. However two of the stamps of the second Lublin issue are very rare. They are Scott number 38, 45h/80h dark blue (with bars instead of stars) and Scott number 39, 50h green, both with double overprints of which one is normal and the other inverted.' One half sheet of 80h denomination and one half sheet of 50h denomination of Austrian occupational stamps, each half sheet consisting of 10 x 5 stamps, were overprinted in this manner.

45h/80h stamp. The two overprints are shifted in respect to each other in the direction of 14 degrees from the vertical. The amount of the shifts can be determined by measuring the distances a and b as shown in the sketch below: a=11.3mm, b=13.1mm.

50h stamp. The two overprints are shifted relatively to each other in the direction of 14 degrees from the vertical. The amount of the shifts can be determined by measuring the distances a and b as shown in the sketch below: a=11.3mm, b=13.1mm.

The above measurements together with the determination that the overprints are made lithographically are sufficient criteria to determine the authenticity of these stamps.







POLPEX 98

El Nino brought Chicago some mild weather March 20, 21 & 22, so the collecting crowd showed up for POLPEX all three days. Fortunately, the House of the White Eagle in Niles, IL has enormous parking facilities so they were easily accomodated. Besides a U.S. postal station, there was a United Nations postal station as well. Although it has not come up to the magnitude of Compex or Chicago Philatelic Society Exhibitions, our Polpex show has developed into a major philatelic event in the Chicagoland area.

The quality of the material displayed warrented the medals that were given to the exhibitors: Arkadiusz Walinski, Fred Szebel, Vito Lukosevicius, Stanley Dobrzycki, Roman Strzelecki & Chester Schafer.

For the first time a representative of the Governor of Illinois, Pat Michalski, attended a Polpex.

The administrative board of Polonus has already booked the House of the White Eagle for next year's Polpex on March 19, 20 & 21. It will be a larger exhibition than usual as 1999 happens to be the 60th anniversary of the Polonus Philatelic Society.

We have already received the donation of an imported crystal eagle from Edward Dykla, president of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America for the Grand Award.

Make plans to exhibit! Prepare your collections now!

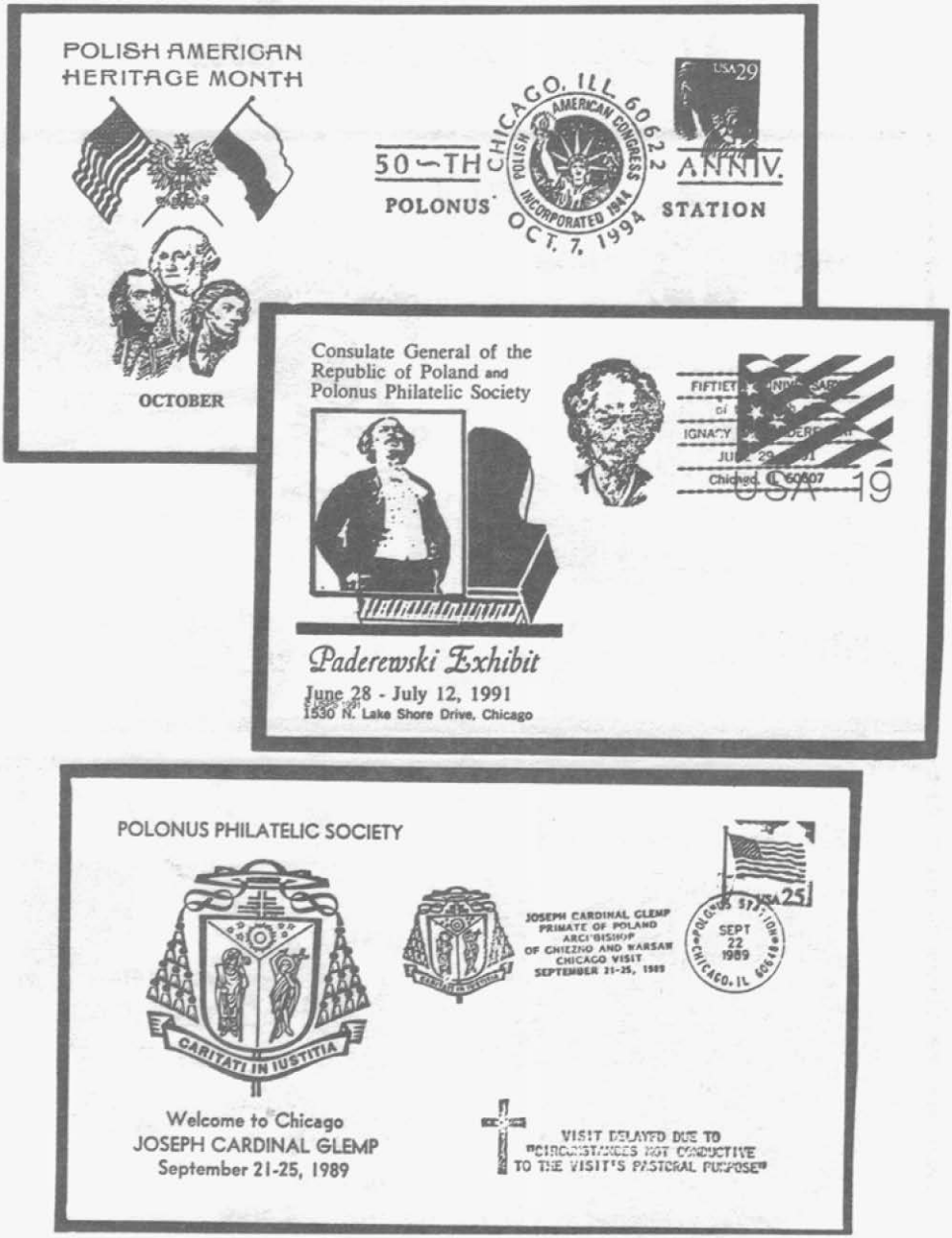


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