

BULLETIN OF THE

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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BARTCZAK WINS POLPEX GRAND

John Bartczak received the Grand Award and a Polonus Gold Medal for his exhibit of "Galicia Postal District: the Stampless Period." His exhibit was a detailed study of the postmarks, many of which were very rare, the routes, and the rates of the Galicia area of Poland from the time of the Kingdom to 1795 and the Austrian administration to 1850. The Reserve Grand Award (President's Award) and a Polonus Gold Medal were awarded to Janet Kohn for her exhibit of "Concentration Camp Mail."

POLPEX-84 was held the weekend of March 31st-April 1st, at the S.W.A.P. Hall in Chicago. The theme of the show was "The Summer Olympics in Los Angeles" and souvenirs were prepared to honor this event. The Polonus Philatelic Society, the largest and oldest society devoted to Polish philately in the free world, celebrated its 45th Anniversary during the exhibition and traditional "BEEBA" Banquet and Awards Ceremony. To everyone's delight, the founding-father of Polonus, Mr. Chester Mikucki, was able to attend, just as he did when he first called for the formation of a Polish stamp club in Chicago in 1939!

The highest honor the Polonus Society can bestow is Honorary Mem-



John Bartczak holds plaque he received as Grand Award winner.

bership, and two outstanding philatelists were accorded this honor at the banquet on Saturday evening. Mr. Bud Hennig and Mr. John Ross were selected for their outstanding and long contributions to philately in general and Polish philately in particular, on the international, national and local levels. Each recipient was given a specially designed medal to commemorate the occasion.

Others receiving awards were as follows:



Scene at Polpex opening ceremony: left to right: W. Poniecki, S. Rusin, R. Strzelecki, J. Mistarz, A. Szebel, J. Bariczak, C. Mikucki cutting ribbon, A. Marquart and E. Link.

LIST OF AWARDS

GOLD MEDALS:

John Bariczak, "Galicia Postal District: Prestamp Period," and the Grand Award.

Janet Kohn, "Concentration Camp Mail," & the Reserve (President's) Grand Award.

VERMEIL MEDALS:

Tom Gobby, "Poland: 1918-24" and the Polonus Research Award.

Dr. Conrad Straub, "Polish Postage Dues."

Fred Blau, "Palestine: Polish Forces"

SILVER MEDALS:

Chester Schafer, "Polish Constitution Issue."

Chester Mikucki, "Polish Revenues."

Bob Pauk, "Bielorus - A Postal Outline" and the Novice Award.

SILVER-BRONZE MEDALS:

Walenty Poniecki, "Poland: World of Sports."

K. Kuzmin, "History of Polish Sports"

Fred Szebel, "The Polish Awakening"



Thomas Fuerst, George Trefonas and Dr. James Mazepa judged the exhibition.

Postal History of Martial Law in Poland."

Milton Kohn, "Overrun Countries of World War I"

BRONZE MEDALS:

Chester Schafer, "Polish Army in France W.W. II"

M. Bialobrodec, "Pope John Paul II: His Travels."

LITERATURE AWARD: Gold Medal for Best Article in Polonus Bulletin Joe Michaud, for "Censorship Dur-



Bourse Chairman Roman Strzelecki (extreme left) also had a bourse table and always seemed to have a crowd around him.

ing the Martial Law Period in Poland."

Judges for the Exhibition were Dr. James Mazepa, Thomas Fuerst and George Trefonas. The judges commented on the fact that several exhibitors were present, and several "older" exhibitors were showing new

and different collections. Special attention was given to the exhibit of T. Gobby which was an excellent study of the Polish inflation period and the rate changes and the exhibit of B. Pauk, who received the Novice Award, which was a seldom seen presentation of the White Rus-



Honorary Polonus Memberships were presented to (left to right) Bernard "Bud" Hennig and John Ross. Dr. James Mazepa did the commentaries while Pres. Bartczak made the presentations.

sia of Eastern Europe.

Special Olympic souvenirs are available: Two cached envelopes, one for each day of the exhibition, \$2.; pair of souvenir sheets, \$1.; souvenir cards mint, \$1.50, or cancelled, \$2.; and the program booklet with special articles, \$1. A special package is available of all the above items for \$6.00 (plus \$1. postage). Please include postage on all orders which can be sent to John Bartczak, 10428 S. Ave. O, Chgo., IL 60617.

The Polonus Philatelic Society is planning to celebrate the 125th Anniversary of Polant #1 next year and hold a convention at a major National Show. Information regarding this or other aspects of the Society can be had from Dr. James Mazepa, Box 1217, Oak Park, IL 60304.

—J. Mazepa

POLPEX PATRONS

The following arrived too late to be included in the POLPEX 84 program catalog:

STANLEY KRONENBERG
FRANK WIERZBOWSKI
JOSEPH CLARY
ANTHONY SZAFRANSKI
DR. JAMES MAZEPA
EDWARD WASINIAR
JOSEPH JOZEFOWSKI
M. GAJEWSKI
NORBERT SCHERER
MARIAN CIURUS
HENRY KOWALSKI
STANLEY DOBRZYCKI
DAVID REED
T. CZERKIES
ROBERT SPERRING
PETER KOZUCH
LEONARD NOVAK
LINDSEY FREDERICK
FELIX BEINER
JOHN JASINSKI
TOM PODL
T. A. GACKOWSKI

POLPEX WELL WISHERS

Randall Hawthorne
T. J. Dulski
Michael Czeplechowicz
Arno Winard
Gary Keins
Longin Buzewicz
M. A. Kamiewski
Andrew Zajdler
Henry Kapica
Charles Satkewich

NEW POW AND DP CATALOG

"Katalog der Lagerpost um 1945" by Manfred G. Heber, 8 x 9, hard cover 2-ring binder, 702 pp., self-published by author, 1984 - Price \$35.95 p.p.d. dropshipped directly from Germany. Available in U.S.A. and Canada from Postal Covers, Box 26, Brewster, NY 10509.

This is a highly specialized catalog of the stamps, postal stationery and postal markings of the Polish, Ukrainian & Baltic Prisoners of War in the German Camps, during and after World War II.

Forty different Camps are listed, from Augsburg (Lithuanians) to Woldenberg (Polish OFFLAG IIC). All stamps and stationery are individually illustrated and described in detail, with all known varieties and quantities issued where known. Pricing is based on current market values.

The illustrations include some of the difficult "Schalterbogen" (counter sheets) which are seldom found.

This work concludes with several articles on the subject by leading experts in this field.

A welcome addition to the Michel Specialized Catalog, which list only some of the camps and no postal stationery.

Polish collectors will be especially impressed with the amount of Polish related material present. This book is a must for any collector beginner or specialist of the World War II period.

An Unusual Częstochowa Cover from W.W.I

By CONRAD P. STRAUB and STANLEY KRONENBERG

The World War I cover whose front and reverse are shown in the figures is franked with the 10 pf. German occupation stamp "Russisch Polen" which is cancelled: "CZENSTOCHAU/7. 4. 16. 11-12 V/****". Its address reads: "Katarzyna Skierlak, Dom Kornitz, Pas Gros Petermetz, Kreis Racibor". This cover contains the following markings on its face: a red Częstochowa local delivery payment postmark with a 5 fen. charge, a violet censor's mark: "V Armeekorps, Posen", a two-line violet stamp: "Zurück. Nur Deutsche Sprache / zulässig Auslandstelle Posen" (Return. Only German language permitted/foreign (mail) place Poznań), the handwritten note: "Absender in Czenstochau" (sender in Częstochowa) and a two-line rubber stamp: "Mit Hilfe des Meldeamtes nicht ermittelt" (not found through the police address registration office). On the reverse side of this cover is a purple local Częstochowa delivery payment postmark & the name "Skierlak" written in red crayon.

Of particular interest are the two

Częstochowa postmarks, particularly since "Polskie Znaki Pocztowe", vol. IV, p. 1080 states that the local Częstochowa postmark on the face of the cover was in use until mid-February 1916. After this date, this postmark was used sporadically until it was withdrawn and destroyed on August 1, 1916. The postmark on the reverse was used after mid-Feb-



ruary, 1916. As indicated above, this cover is postmarked April 7, 1916.

The Postal Service of the German



Occupation Forces during World War I delivered mail to some post offices and collected mail from these offices. Local mail pickup and delivery were not included in the prepayment of postage; a separate payment for both the outgoing and incoming mail had to be paid by the sender or the addressee, respectively. In the case of this cover, the local 5 fen. Częstochowa postmark is the postage paid by the (unidentified) sender. This letter was then forwarded to the censors in Poznań because it was routed outside of the "Russisch Polen"/"General Gouvernement Warschau" area. The censorship stamp in violet is double-ringed (34 and 32 mm. diameter) and is inscribed "Prüfungs-u. Überwachungsstelle des V Armee-korps, Posen" with an eagle in the center, "F.K." on its breast. At that time, this letter was stamped "Zur-ück. Nur Deutsche Sprache/zulässig Auslandstelle Posen". (Only after January 2, 1917 was correspondence in Polish permitted, see S. Żółkiewski, *Organizacja poczty w G.G.W. 1915-1918*, "Filatelista" 13(12):311-317 (1966). Also added by hand in ink was "Absender in Czenstochau" (the sender is in Częstochowa).

After return of this letter, the postmaster in Częstochowa had the problem of what to do with it because there was no return address. He first assumed that the sender's last name was the same as the last name of the addressee, crossed out the address on the face and wrote with red crayon on the reverse: "Skierlak". The local delivery payment stamp of April 11, 1916 was also imprinted but no payment was collected. This letter was forwarded to the police office where the addresses of all local residents were filed (*Meldeamt*). There the finding

was negative; nobody was listed by the name of Skierlak. The postmaster to whom the letter was returned stamped it "Mit Hilfe des Meldeamtes nicht ermittelt" (not found thru the police address registration office), and placed it in the dead letter file. It was never delivered or returned to the sender.

GEMS OF POLISH PHILATELY



The first set of stamps for independent Poland was issued November 17, 1918 by overprinting unissued designs of the Warsaw City Post. These four stamps constitute a fascinating issue with several major varieties which are relatively inexpensive. One of the key varieties is the 25 pfennig overprint on the 2 groszy value instead of the 10 groszy value. The Ruch catalog lists this as a proof, but it could equally be a made-to-order variety. Until recent discoveries by Polonus members, it was thought that only one sheet was made, but now we know that at least two sheets received the wrong overprint. Singles are very difficult, and blocks are rarities. Here is one of two possible lower left corner blocks. Just a very few examples are known cancelled on piece.

Collecting Official First Day Covers of Poland

By STANLEY KRONENBERG

In its usual meaning, a First Day Cover (FDC) has the stamps postmarked on the day they are put into circulation. Quite different is the concept of Official First Day Covers (OFDC); these are covers officially prepared by the government authorities who affix the stamps in a uniform order on specially prepared covers, cancel them with applicable first day cancellations and then offer them for sale to philatelists. Such OFDC's do not exist in the U.S.A., but numerous countries including Poland issue them.

The first OFDC's in Poland were issued on December 16, 1950 soon after the currency reform of 1950. They are two covers containing the set of stamps with the portrait of President Bierut in groszy denomination, "Scott" numbers 490-496. Since that time most Polish stamps exist on OFDC's. They are available in Poland for sale to the public in all government operated philatelic "Ruch" stores and occasionally at major post offices. They can also be obtained through subscription.

In their original unaddressed state these covers can be used for pre-

payment of postage not only on the day of issue of the affixed and already cancelled stamps but at any later time provided that the stamps are postally valid (fig. 1). Thus all Polish OFDC's franked with stamps issued by the Polish Ministry of Communications after March, 1955 are still valid for postage; unaddressed OFDC's may thus be looked at in philatelic terms as precancelled covers. For the same reason they cannot be considered as having been "cancelled to order" as would be the case with other unaddressed and unmailed FDC's.

On postally used OFDC's with additional postage e.g. for registration or for airmail the added stamps are cancelled with the postmark showing the date and the place of mailing. Figure 2 shows the front and the back of an example of such a cover. The stamps on the front of this cover (Scott numbers 1039 and 1040) are cancelled with the commemorative cancellation of Warsaw 1, December 30, 1961. The registration label and additional stamps on the reverse are tied with the postmark of Poznań 2, Railroad Station,

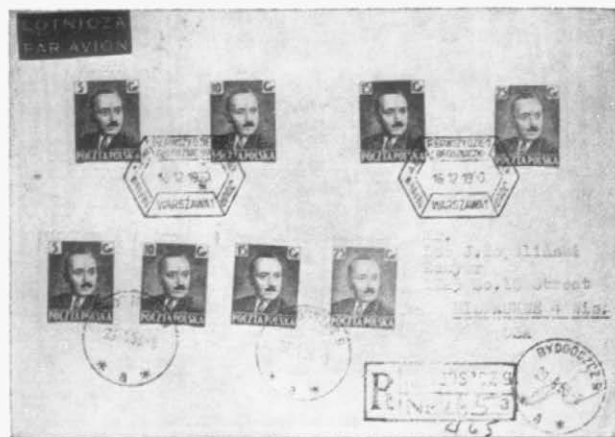


Figure 1:

The front of the very first Polish Official First Day Cover issued Dec. 16, 1950. It was sent to the USA on June 29, 1953. From 1950 to 1954 the first day cancellations were horizontal in shape with 'first day of issue' in Polish, French and Russian.

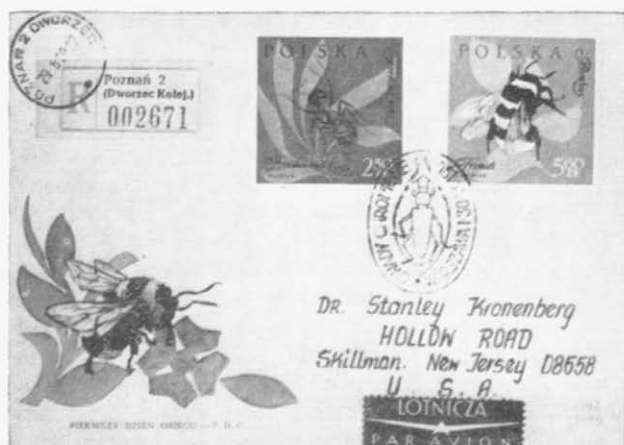


Figure 2, (part 1)



Figure 2,

August 29, 1969. The transit postmark is Warsaw 3, *M-20*, August 31, 1969. Also on the reverse is the purple U.S. arrival postmark for registered mail: "Skillman, N.J., September 3, 1969". Thus the OFDC's can be collected either unused as they were issued by the authorities or used, after they provided a postal service. Of particular interest are those OFDC's which have seen postal usage on the day of their issuance and thus come closest to the FDC concept in the U.S.A. An ex-

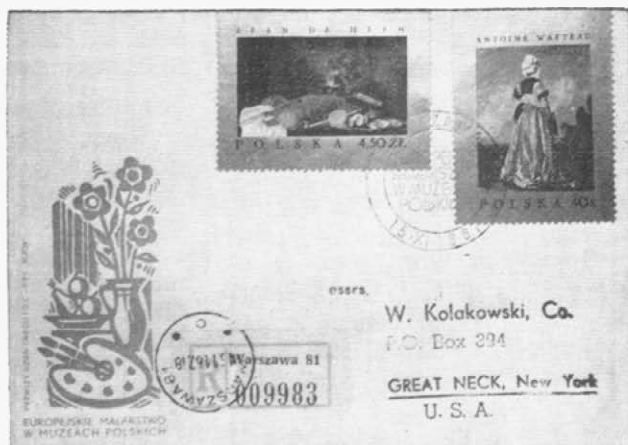
ample of such a cover is illustrated in figure 3. Only the commemorative stamps (Scott numbers 1552 and 1557) bear the commemorative first day cancellation: "Warsaw 1, November 15, 1967". The registration label on the front and the stamps on the reverse are cancelled with the regular date cancellation of Warsaw 81 on the same day (November 15, 1967); transit postmarks are from Warsaw 8 (November 16, 1967) and from New York G.P.O. Registry Division (November



Figure 3, (part 2)



Figure 3,



(part 2)

Figure 3, (part 1)

17, 1967). The arrival postmark is from Great Neck, N.Y. (November 17, 1967). Such covers can be obtained almost exclusively by subscription.

With each stamp issue the Polish Government prepares typically 20,000 OFDC's. Occasionally they may number as few as several thousand or as many as 60,000. Unsold and surplus OFDC's are officially destroyed by cutting out the stamps which are then sold together with other used stamps to the public by

weight. The 1972 Ruch catalog lists most issued numbers of OFDC's which makes it possible for a collector to estimate their availability. In the 1981 Ruch, which is the most recent complete catalog of postage stamps of Poland, this information is omitted.

Cancellations showing the place and the date of the issuance of the stamps are especially made for these occasions and their design compliments the stamp design. They are imprinted in a neat and uniform



Figure 4

Figure 5

manner not at post offices but during the fabrication process of the OFDC's. There are instances where the first day of issue was celebrated on one and the same day, but in two different places. For example, the set Scott numbers 823-825 exists with first day cancellations of Warsaw (19,000 issued) and Lublin (6,000 issued). In the 1950's many OFDC's had on the front side an additional impression showing a postilion blowing a horn and the inscription: "Pierwszy Dzień" (First Day), (see figure 4).

OFDC's have imprinted colorful cachets on their fronts which match the subject matter of the stamp design and of the commemorative cancellation. Polish graphics are world famous for artistic designs of posters and they have extended their art and skills to the designs of the cachets. Two of my favorite designs are shown in figures 5 and 6.

Stamps, cancellations and cachets on an OFDC unite and complement each other. Arts, sciences, culture, history form some of the numerous topics. Needless to say, some of the OFDC's make propaganda for the Communist Party in a rather coarse manner. Poland's OFDC's are collected not only by collectors of

Poland but appeal to most topical collectors. Collecting them is educational, affordable and lots of fun.

ST. CASIMIR

March 4th, 1984 was the 500th anniversary of the death of St. Casimir. A hundred and twenty years after his death, the Saint's coffin in Wilno, Lithuania, was opened and the body was found to be well preserved. On a parchment above his head was a Latin prayer to the Virgin Mary which he had sung every morning. In many Polish and Lithuanian communities his feast day is celebrated by a festival known as "Kaziuk". Flowers and pastry are the conspicuous parts of the event. The Vatican recently issued special stamps to honor this Saint.

WINNER'S CIRCLE

John Bartczak, for "Galicia Postal District," a Gold Medal at the ASDA SHOW in New York; and a Vermeil medal for the same at MILCOPEX in Milwaukee, plus Postal Best Silver Medal and Philatelic Fiesta in California, Gold Medal.

Dr. Josef Kuderewicz, for "Polish Military Mail," a Silver-Bronze at MILCOPEX in Milwaukee.

Joe Clary's "Poland Postal History" a Gold medal at SESCAL, Calif.



Figure 6

Special Postal Cancellations Used by the Polish Post During the Second Papal Visit In Poland

By STEFAN CZARNIECKI

On June 16, 1983, Pope John Paul II was able to fulfill the promise he made in 1979 to return to Poland. The Papal visit began June 16th, when the special Alitalia Boeing 727 called "Cita di Urbini" taxied to the tarmac of the Okęcie Airport in Warsaw. It ended in Kraków's Balice Airport eight days later, June 23rd, when the pontiff departed for Rome, mission accomplished.

The main reason for the pilgrimage of the church leader was the desire to join the Polish people at the monastery of Jasna Góra to celebrate the 600th anniversary of the Black Madonna of Częstochowa.

The Polish post office prepared a set of artistically made cancellations for every date and place wherever the Pope managed to be except the unexpected visit to the remote village of Chochółów, close to the Tatra Mountains. There he found a few hours retreat and met privately with the Solidarity leader, Lech Wałęsa.

1. In anticipation of the Papal visit to Poland, the monument of the "Pilgrim of Peace" had been unveiled in Lublin. On that occasion a special cancellation was used on May 30, 1983.

2. Warsaw celebrated the great cultural event of the theatrical premiere of the play written by Cardinal Wojtyła, "Promieniowanie Ojcostwa" - "The Radiation of Fatherhood" and the Post Office issued the cancellation dated June 11, 1983.

3. June 16th was the date of arrival on Polish soil, and also the official date of First Day issue of two Polish stamps with a likeness of the Pope (31 zł and 65 zł and SIS).

The FDC covers and regular mail during that date were stamped with a special cancellation stating: "II Wizyta Papieża Jana Pawła II w Polsce, Warszawa 1 - 16.VI.1983."

4. June 17th Warsaw cancellation represents the Coat of Arms of the Vatican State and Poland respectively, and a statement about the official meeting which took place in Warsaw.

During the outdoor Mass at the sport stadium, the Holy Father outlined his message "Christ the same yesterday, today and forever" and that the history of Poland is intimately tied to its religious history.

5. June 18th, His Holiness went by helicopter to the Catholic Center in Niepokalanów, founded by Franciscan father Maksymilian Kolbe. The pope celebrated the solemn Mass for the intention of the modern martyr who gave his life in Auschwitz in place of another prisoner. The cancellation says: "Jan Paweł II w Niepokalanowie - Sw. M. Kolbe" + Teresin k/Sochaczewa." The likeness of the saint has a prisoner's No. P16670.

6. June 18th. This day the Pontiff travelled by air to the monastery of Jasna Góra. A cancellation shows the Pope's image and the words: "Jan Paweł II w Częstochowie + Częstochowa 1 - 18.VI.1983."

7-8. June 19th witnessed the outpouring of the Polish people to join their spiritual leader on His pilgrimage to celebrate the 600th anniversary of the Black Madonna.

The first postal cancellation for the date of June 19th bears the words: "600 lat obrazu Jasnogórskiego - Częstochowa."



The second postal cancellation used on the same date represents the image of the Holy Icon: "Jan Paweł II na Jasnej Górze - Częstochowa 1 - 19. VI. 1983."

9. June 20th - His Holiness went also by helicopter to Poznań, the seat of the first Polish Diocese, founded in the year 968, embracing the whole country then ruled by Mieszko I. During the solemn Mass, the Pope carried on the beatification of Mother Urszula Ledochowski

(born 17. IV. 1865 in Loosdorf near Vienna). The postal cancellation depicts the gothic sculpture from XIV century on a gravestone located in the St. Peter and Paul cathedral in Poznań. The words: "Poznań - Papież Jan Paweł II - 20.VI. 1983."

10. The same day, June 20th, the Pope arrived in Katowice, capital of industrial Silesia.

The first cancellation used in Katowice says: "Papież Jan Paweł II - Katowice, 20. VI. 1983." It commemorates

morates the event of the Pope's arrival during a heavy rainstorm to an audience of a half a million people, who got his message: *"Human work really is at the heart of all social life. Through it, justice and social love are formed, if the whole working sector is governed by a just social order. But if this order is missing, injustice takes the place of justice and love is replaced by hatred."*

11. The second Katowice cancellation used on this date needs explanation. An abandoned airport at Muchowiec was used for the outdoor Mass. A gigantic coal-like cross was erected and the altar decorated with the venerable icon from Piekary Śląskie. Combined choirs and brass bands provided an exhilarating liturgy, presided over by John Cardinal Król of Philadelphia. The Pope's homily was *"about the dignity of work and the rights of workers."*

The Pope called again for dialogue between authorities and Solidarity. All that happened in front of the Shrine's Icon, the patroness of Justice and Social Love, which had arrived after a parish to parish pilgrimage through Upper Silesia. After that description the second cancellation has more meaning. It reads: *"20. VI. 1983, Katowice i Papież Jan Paweł II - Madonna Piekarska."*

12. June 21st: The Pope visited Wrocław, the capitol of Lower Silesia and since the year 1000, the seat of bishops belonged to the Polish metropolia in Gniezno. The cancellation represents the eagle of the Polish Piast Dynasty. The pontiff venerated here St. Hedwig of Silesia.

13. June 21st - On his helicopter flight to Kraków, His Holiness' helicopter landed on Góra Sw. Anny. The cancellation on that occasion is remarkable because it shows a typical XIV century wooden sculpture in gothic style of St. Ann as a

grandmother holding the Virgin Mary and Christ on both her arms. The sculpture took part in the procession during the Mass held outside the Franciscan Monastery on the slopes of the mountain. The St. Ann Shrine has been a place of pilgrimages for Poles of the Opole region since the Medieval times. One of the princes ruling Opole was the founder of the Monastery at Jasna Góra.

14. June 22nd - The Kraków cancellation of June 22nd, represents the Polish eagle from the time of King Sigmunt I of the Jagiellonian Dynasty.

The Holy Father on his first day in Kraków received the doctorate Honoris Causa from the Jagiellonian University. In the afternoon, two million pilgrims spread out over the Kraków Blonia to celebrate the beatification Mass of Rafael Kalinowski & Adam Chmielowski, better known as "Brother Albert."

Please note the reproduction of the two cancellations from Kraków celebrations at the Blonia Mass.

In his farewell message, the Pope expressed wishes of *"Peace, which is so much desired by all Poland."*

Pope John Paul II also went to Nowa Huta to the housing complex at Mistrzejowice in order to consecrate St. Maximilian Kolbe's church which had just been completed. The church authorities provided a large cachet in green ink on that occasion.

15. June 23rd. In the afternoon

His Holiness departed from the Kraków airport, Balice to Rome. The cancellation used in Kraków had the emblem of the Polish Airlines LOT, and the explanation: *"Przelot Jana Pawła II - Kraków-Rzym."*

Also it is worth mentioning that the mail dispatched from Vatican on June 16 and received in Vatican on June 23rd, was provided with special cancellation.

NEW ISSUES

Folk Musical Instruments

The first six stamps of a series of 12 were issued in February, 1984 showing Polish folk musical instruments:

- 5 zł—Rzeszów dulcimer with original striking sticks, 8,000,000 iss.
- 6 zł—drum with clankers and kettle-drum, 8,000,000 issued.
- 10 zł—Polish three-row accordion, 5,000,000 issued



- 15 zł—three-string gouged double bass from the 18th century, 5,000,000 issued.
- 17 zł—bag-pipe from the Wielkopolska district, 3,000,000 issued.
- 29 zł—country band carvings in wood by folk artist Tadeusz Zak from Kielce, 2,000,000 issued.

Rotogravure printed in sheets of 50 stamps on chalky paper, PWPW Warsaw. Designed by Zbig. Stasik.

ESPANA-84 International Philatelic Exhibition

A 27 zloty offset printed stamp showing a reproduction of a painting by El Greco (Domenico Theotocopuli 1541-1614) St. Francis' Ecstasy was issued to commemorate the Polish participation in this event April 27 thru May 26. Quantity issued: 6,000,000. Designed by J. Konarszewski.

—ARS Polona

NEW MEMBERS

- Dr. Joseph A. Malejka
333 E. 30th Street
New York, NY 10016
- Sherman B. Karp
4047 N. Bartlett Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53211

POPE JOHN PAUL II 1983 VISIT TO POLAND

Poland issued the following to commemorate the Pope's 83 visit:

Set of 13 Commemorative Cancellations on Postal Cards				\$ 6.50
Set of 7 Mint Commemorative 1983 Postal Cards				\$ 1.50
1983 Pope Stamp Issues	Mint	Used	FDC	
2 stamps + Souvenir Sheet	3.30	1.60	4.50	
1979 Pope Stamp Issues				
2 Stamps + Gold Souvenir Sheet	3.55	2.40	4.50	
Limited Edition Silver SS	20.00	20.00	20.00	
Special Max Photo post Cards of Pope John Paul II				
bearing commemorative cancels		4 types		\$ 5.00
Additional varieties when available			each	\$ 1.25
1979 Visit cancels at Oswiecim on Photo Cards			each	\$ 1.25
<i>Terms of Sale: Please add \$1.00 for Postage and Handling.</i>				

Terms of Sale: Please add \$1.00 for Postage and Handling.

ASDA — Polonus — APS

BIENIECKI, INC. Box 100 Granite City, IL 62040

Polonus Celebrates Forty-Fifth Anniversary

By ROMAN H. STRZELECKI

The first meeting of the Polonus Philatelic Society was held at the Polish Veteran's Hall on Wood St. in Chicago, on February 26, 1939. This year Polonus celebrates its 45th Birthday. At Polpex 84, during our traditional 'Beeba' and presentation of Awards, there was a Birthday Party.

The first meeting which was organized by Chester Mikucki and attended by about 50 collectors, including a large number of experienced philatelists, opened a wide road to a successful Philatelic Society. They outlined their aims and goals:

1. To promote and encourage Polish Philately.
2. To research and expertize the stamps of Poland.
3. To publish a bulletin devoted to Polish philately.
4. To translate and research Polish philatelic articles into English.
5. To submit articles on Polish philately to other publications.

In October, 1939, Polonus issued its first bulletin, which was a mimeograph issue, but in November, 1940, the first monthly magazine came out, and today, after 45 yrs. it is still the same format and it is still devoted to stamps of Poland. This year we published the 400th issue of the Bulletin. Polonus, over the years had in its ranks over 1200 members, of which over 400 are now in good standing.

Somehow, Polonus has been lucky. Over the years fellow philatelists, who joined the Society, had a bit of love towards each other, and thus the group became a dynamic Society.

Polish collections have grown tremendously and began winning awards at International shows. The

stamps of Poland became popular and gained recognition along with Polonus.

The history of Polonus is long and colorful as the Society became involved in campaigns with the U.S. Post Office in issuing the Overrun Nations stamp, the Paderewski, the Millennium and finally the Copernicus stamp. And all was a part of an effort of a dynamic group, which had one thing in common, a love for the stamps of Poland.

Then a new wave of members came to the Society, and once they got the feeling of belonging, new ideas soon became a reality. Better participation in International shows, experimental rocket flight covers, minting our own medals, and many other projects were the result of hard work for the betterment of the Society.

Many good members have passed on, but their spirit and memories are still with us and we will treasure those memories for a long time to come.

To our new members we extend our helping hand and the knowledge of our past experience. We welcome them as we once were welcomed.

On this, our 45th Anniversary, it is only fitting to wish all of the Polonus Family, many happy returns and better years to come and a "staropolskie STO LAT!"

NEW MEMBERS

Raymond A. Reszke
6020 W. Henderson St.
Chicago, IL 60634
Jan Joseph Koss
724 Highview Road
Pittsburg, PA 15234

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday May 25, 1984

Regular Meeting at Polish American Congress Building. Election of Officers. Starting at 8 pm.

Friday June 22, 1984

Regular Meeting at Polish American Congress Building. Installation of Officers. Starting at 8 pm.

RESEARCH & STUDY GROUP

The Polish POW and DP Camp Study Group has changed its name to the Polish World War II Research and Study Group, to better reflect the larger area of interest facing the Group. The Group is dedicated to the study of Polish postal history from 1939 through about 1948, which is about the time the DP camps were finally dissolved.

The Study Group publishes an extensive quarterly newsletter. Anyone wishing a sample copy and information about the organization may write to: Chris KULPINSKI, BOX 464, FEASTERVILLE, PA 19047. Dues are \$10.00 for two years.

POLONUS TO PUBLISH INDEX TO BULLETIN

An index to the first 400 issues of the *Polonus Bulletin* will be published within the next several months. Our California member, Marion Dudek has worked on this project for close to a year now, and the preliminary review of the work promises to be one of the most important contributions to Polish philately ever printed. The 400 issues of the Bulletin are like a treasure house without a key, but the key is now at hand.

But now we are issuing a CALL FOR OLD BULLETINS. The cost of publication will be quite high, close to \$2500. In order to finance the project, we are selling complete sets of the Bulletin to interested parties. Any old duplicate or extra Bulletins

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

James Mazepa, Publications Comm.
P.O. Box 1217, Oak Park, IL 60304
Address all correspondence to:
P.O. Box 82, River Grove, IL 60171
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— Annual Dues are \$10.00 —

(Please remit in U.S. Currency)

Stanley Rusin, Treasurer

P.O. Box 56148, Chicago, IL 60656

to make up the complete sets. This is true of not only the older issues, you might have are sorely needed but even the more recent. So, if you have some to spare, please send them to Chester Mikucki, 4604 No. Overhill Ave., Norridge, IL 60656. He will be putting together the sets for us.

IN OUR MAIL BOX

Dear John Bartczak:

Received your letter. Many thanks for taking the time to answer my questions.

I originally came from Bronx, NY and moved to Middletown, CT 1 1/2 years ago. Country living is beautiful but very boring, so I took up collecting Polish stamps as a hobby. My wife loves it here she has her family in Middletown.

I am retired and receiving compensation for war injuries during World War II.

Please place my request in your bulletin reading as follows:

John B. Chomiuk, 220 Newfield St., (507), Middletown, CT 06457. Collecting Polish stamps. Would like to receive your duplicate stamps. Will return stamps not needed. Will pay postage. —John B. Chomiuk

NEW MEMBER

Edward T. Superson

1850 W. 24th Court

Panama City, FL 32405