



BULLETIN OF THE POLONUS POLISH PHILATELIC SOCIETY



**An Overrun Country first day cover with the destination of Warsaw;
it got as far as New York . . . read more on page 11**

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

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

Dues and Changes of Address to be sent to: Polonus Polish Philatelic Society, P.O. Box 2212, Benicia, CA 94510

Articles for publication to be sent to the editor.

Membership queries to be sent to the membership chairman.

General Society matters and complaints to be sent to the president.

Message from the President

Ed Andrews
afacinc@yahoo.com

Wesołych Świąt

Happy holidays to all our members and families, and I wish you a safe, prosperous 2019.

Dues . . . Are Due

Our intrepid treasurer, Bill Williges, is sending out dues notices. We hope you respond quickly and provide any change of contact information. Your details are important so we can assure uninterrupted delivery of your quarterly *Bulletin*.

Huge Success at Filatelic Fiesta stamp show 2018 – Polonus' Western Regional Exhibition

As mentioned in my previous messages, Polonus had an informal get-together of members at Filatelic Fiesta stamp show in San Jose, California (October 20-21). Nine Polonus members entered exhibits at Filatelic Fiesta, totaling about 38 frames or one-third of all exhibits. For a complete list of exhibits refer to Andrew Urushima's article on page 6.

Upcoming Articles

Bob Ogrodnik and I wrote an article on POLPEX material for the American Topical Association journal, *Topical Time*. The article, *Using POLPEX Philatelic Material to Expand and Enrich Your Topical Area*, is tentatively scheduled for the December issue. Our intent was to make topical collectors aware of POLPEX material as a resource for topical subjects. Hopefully this upcoming article will generate additional sales for the Polonus store and store annex (eBay site).

I wrote an article designed to celebrate Poland's independence and introduce Polish philately to a wider audience. This article appeared in the November issue of *The American Philatelist*, journal of the American Philatelic Society. The article, *Józef Piłsudski: Father of Poland's Independence - The Second Republic*, is adjunct to my exhibit of the same name. I have shown my exhibit at various World Series of Philately shows this year.

Reminder to Exhibit - 100th Anniversary of Poland's Independence

There is still time for you to represent Polonus and show Polish

philately to a wider audience in 2019. Exhibiting at a WSP or regional show promotes Polish philately in general, but at this time, acknowledges this significant anniversary.

Committee Changes

We had a boomerang event in that Tom Wzrosek, who stepped down as the *Bulletin's* advertising manager, agreed to continue in the position. "Welcome back" Tom.

Support Polonus via Smile.Amazon.com

Polonus has registered with the Amazon Smile Foundation as a charity. Anyone choosing Polonus Philatelic Society (note abbreviated name) as their charity on the Smile.Amazon site will have 0.5 percent of their purchase price automatically donated to Polonus. This is at no cost to you, the purchaser; rather the donation comes from the Amazon Smile Foundation. The same benefits apply if you are an Amazon Prime member. The Smile.Amazon site is the same as buying on the familiar Amazon site. Simply go to <https://smile.amazon.com>.

Please consider purchasing all your Amazon items from the Smile.Amazon website, choosing Polonus Philatelic Society as your charity. Your future visits to Smile.Amazon will then automatically credit Polonus with a donation. If you, family or friends shop on Amazon, please consider Polonus as it will be a great source of new revenue for the society.

Want to Enjoy Polonus More?

It's easy ... get involved. The experience of involvement, minor or large, brings you closer to the organization and those dedicated to running it, which benefits all. We still have a number of volunteer positions open where even minimal assistance can help improve our operations and services. Contact me for more information.

Please continue to let us know how we are doing. We are only as good as our ability to service the needs of our membership. We need to hear from you if we are not providing an activity, service or resource that would help you and other members. Contact me using the email address on page 2.

POLPEX Store Offerings

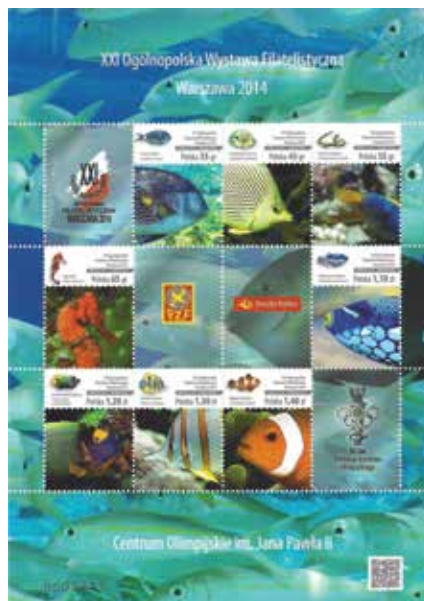
Polonus Website and Store Offerings

Visit the website for a complete offering of POLPEX Store inventory including POLPEX souvenir sheets and show cards. In addition, visit the store annex eBay site under the seller name polonusstoreannex-0. This site offers a mix of POLPEX material as well as donated material for sale. There are philatelic items of every description offered on the eBay site with up to 50 new lots each month. Most eBay lots are fixed price and offer free shipping. If you have excess philatelic material to donate for sale please contact Ed Andrews.

December Bulletin Special

Our special this month is a 2014 souvenir sheet issued for the XXI Ogólnopolska Wystawa Filatelistyczna, (Nationwide Philatelic Exhibition) held in Warsaw. The sheet comes in the original issued envelope and has topical interest for those collecting Olympics and fish. The sheet (Fischer 263; Michel 4716-4723) is available for \$22 with free shipping. We only have six copies so purchase is on a first come, first serve basis.

We have a limited supply of special covers from the recent Kościuszko anniversary event at the Polish Museum of America in Chicago. They are available for \$10 with free shipping.



To order any of the offers, send a check or money order with item description(s) to:

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Or, use PayPal, sending a remittance to the address info@polonus.org. In all cases, indicate what payment is for, making sure you have listed your return mailing address.

Free shipping is only offered for domestic mailing

Any address outside the United States should contact Ed Andrews at afacinc@yahoo.com or 919-932-0942 for an estimate of international shipping costs. For inquiries about other store material contact Ed Andrews.



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POLAND NEW ISSUES

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CANADA

From the Editor

Amanda L. Morgenstern

Further Adventures Regarding the Rzepicha Armored Train

The article in issue 569 on the Rzepicha armored train ended with a list of its armaments, including a German revolver (caliber 3.7 mm). My letter in issue 570 noted this weapon was likely a 3.7 cm Hotchkiss revolving cannon. A very similar model can be seen at the National Artillery Museum at Fort Sill, Oklahoma; below is a photo taken on my visit (October 2018). According to Gordon Blaker (museum curator), the wheeled mount on the Rzepicha may be removed, the cannon mounted on a platform, and it could easily pivot and fire out either side of the rail car. Incidentally, *Scientific American* gave the Hotchkiss weapon a rave review in the cover article of its January 10, 1874 issue.

- Sam Ginsburg



Photo taken by Sam Ginsburg on his recent visit to the National Artillery Museum at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. This weapon is similar to the Hotchkiss canon mentioned in a previous article.

Apology to Raimundas Marius Lapas

We would like to apologize for three mistakes noted by author Raimundas Marius Lapas in his recent article, *Charity is the Spice of Riches* (edition 571, pp. 5-7, June 2018):

Page 5, second column, fourth line from bottom should read, "now in Vilnius." The Soviets seized the city September 19,

1939, when Wilno ceased to exist. A treaty was signed, and on October 10 the city was returned to Lithuania as Vilnius, its rightful capital.

Page 6, first column, third line from bottom should read, "Lithuania's State Archives in Vilnius," not "Wilno."

Page 7 in the acknowledgements it should read, "Lithuania's State Archives in Vilnius," not "Wilno."

These errors were not in the author's original text and were not errors of the editor. We apologize to Raimundas and thank him for his contributions to the *Bulletin*.

Apology to Dr. James Mazepa, RDP

I would like to sincerely apologize to Jim Mazepa for inadvertently cropping off the bottom of his Lublin cover (i.e. the front of the cover) in his latest *Gems of Polish Philately* article, *First Lublin Issue: A 1919 Money Letter* (*Polonus Bulletin*, Edition 572, p. 16; September 2018). This cropping caused Jim's cover to appear damaged which it is not. Please see his complete cover below. My apologies, Jim.

- Amanda L. Morgenstern



Cover belonging to Jim Mazepa

From Jim's article: "Shown here is one of the money letters which is correctly franked 1 krone 75 hallers. One krone was the flat rate for a money letter and 75 hallers was the fee to send 100 kronen. All money letters had to have the weight indicated, here, 11 grams. Money letters had to be sealed with wax on the back flap. This is one of the most outstanding letters of the first Lublin issue."

Polonus Exhibits Excel at Filatelic Fiesta

Andrew Urushima

Polonus is beginning to expand its presence outside of annual meetings. In glorious fall weather, members gathered in San Jose, California, (October 20-21) for Filatelic Fiesta. Sponsored by the San Jose Stamp Club, Filatelic Fiesta is a two-day World Series of Philately show and exhibition. Representing Polonus were past president, Bob Ogrodnik; treasurer, Bill Williges; and Dr. Paul Phillips, who was part of Jury.

The exhibition consisted of over 120 frames spread among all classes, with many fine exhibits from seasoned and distinguished exhibitors. Our Polonus members submitted eight high-caliber exhibits covering a wide variety of Polish philately. These exhibits represented an impressive one-third of frames at the exhibition. Polonus also contributed a single frame exhibit, *Overview of Polonus and the Joy of Collecting Polish Philately*. Our exhibitors received many high awards and society sponsored awards including four Large Gold / Golds and four Large Vermeils / Vermeils.

Highlighting the competition, winning the show Grand Award, a Large Gold, and the Polonus Award for Best Polish Exhibit, was Dr. James Mazepa's exhibit, *Warsaw Postal Administration First and Second Provisional Issues*. Mazepa's exhibit was also honored with the American Philatelic Society's Award for Research. To cap off the palmares banquet, Mazepa received a call from Jury Coordinator Stephen Schumann, made directly from the banquet lectern, to deliver the good news.

Also winning a Gold Medal was Edwin Andrew's exhibit, *Józef Piłsudski: Father of Poland's Independence - The Second Republic*. This impressive multi-frame display exhibit includes many unique, non-philatelic items to balance out the story of Piłsudski's life and accomplishments. The exhibit was prominent in the front row where it garnered much attention. Andrew's exhibit also won the American Topical Association First Award. Other gold medal winners were Bob Ogrodnik, Ron Klimley, and Andrew Urushima (Large Gold). A full summary of award winners appears to the right.

As a World Series of Philately show, Filatelic Fiesta had a distinguished panel of accredited judges. Chairing the jury was Mark Banchik from New York, and assisting were Dr. Phillips and James Graue from Washington.

To round out the show, Bob Ogrodnik presented a seminar, *Collecting Poland – A Philatelic Adventure*. The seminar was well attended by an attentive group of California philatelists.

Award Winners

MULTI-FRAME EXHIBITS

Dr. James Mazepa

Warsaw Postal Administration First and Second Provisional Issues

Large Gold & Grand Award

APS Award for Research

Polonus Award

Dr. Edwin J. Andrews

Józef Piłsudski: Father of Poland's Independence- The Second Republic

Gold

ATA First Award

Ron Klimely

The 1966 Polish Millennium Stamp

Gold

Robert Ogrodnik

Production and Use of 1946 Polish Air Mail Issue

Gold

APS Medal of Excellence 1940-1980

Bill Williges

Przedborz Poland Locals December 18, 1917 – August 1918

Vermeil

Errors, Freaks, Oddities, First Award

SINGLE-FRAME EXHIBITS:

Andrew Urushima

The 1944 Gross Born Olympics

Large Gold

Dr. Ross Marshall

Poland Judicial Mail in ex-Austrian controlled provinces 1924-1933

Large Vermeil

Dr. Edwin J. Andrews

The Seven Months of Marienwerder Plebiscite Stamps

Vermeil

Dr. Ross Marshall

Poland- First Official Stamp of 1920

Vermeil

History of the Polish Legion

As told by the 25th Anniversary Postal Card Series (Part 1 of 2)

Raymond J. Pietruszka

The Polish Legion was an important development for the foundation of the Polish Republic. One of many significant achievements of Józef Piłsudski, the Legion initiated the Polish Army. In August 1914, Piłsudski established the Legion from young Poles living in both Austrian and Russian-Poland. After a failed attempt to start a rebellion in Russian-Poland, on August 27, 1914, the Legion was accepted into the Austro-Hungarian Army (1). The Legion served with distinction until 1917, eventually becoming core to the new Polish Army developed in 1918, after Poland's independence.

Founding of the Legion was commemorated in 1939 when Poland issued a stamp, souvenir sheet (Figure 1), and a series of 32 postal cards. Each postal card features a unique photo reproduction of the Legion in action under the Austro-Hungarian Army. As a set, these cards are a historical representation of the First Brigade of the Legion which was commanded by Piłsudski; there were three brigades. The Legion itself was commanded by an Austro-Hungarian General (1). The postal cards show status of the Legion's key leaders and its importance to the Polish nation.

Honor of first combat fell to the Uhlans of the First Brigade who engaged Russian troops within Russian territory (August 1914). Uhlans were light calvary armed with firearms, swords and lances, capable of fighting mounted or dismounted. Looking like an infantry squad, a section of the Uhlan is shown in Figure 2.



Figure 1, 1939 commemorative souvenir sheet, 25th Anniversary of the Founding of the Polish Legion



Figure 2, First Uhlan Patrol - August 1914



Figure 3, Commandant Piłsudski with staff - August 1914

Growth of the Legion continued through 1914. Without much leadership and formation experience, the Legion saw a considerable amount of combat in 1914. Most of these engagements were minor and demonstrated they had much to learn about fighting as part of a large army. None of these battles are reflected on the postal cards; the battles produced no great victories and overall, the Warsaw Offensive failed to reach its objectives (2).

Early days of the Legion are shown in Figures 3 and 4. Figure 3 presents Piłsudski with his staff preparing to move out in a staff car. A formation of new recruits from the Austrian Carpathian Mountains, still dressed in their local costume (Figure 4), represents the basis of the Legion: a composition of Poles from all regions of greater Poland. By the end of the war, recruiting areas



Figure 4, Huculska Company of the Second Battalion of the Polish Legion - November 1914



Figure 5, Outpost of the Second Battalion of the Polish Legion in the Carpathian Mountains - November 1914

included land claimed by both the Ukraine and Poland. Figure 5 shows the Second Battalion entrenched in the Carpathian Mountains.

The Legion advanced to more permanent fortifications. These deep trenches with reinforced overhead cover were the type found on front lines (Figure 6). On the postal card, Piłsudski is center stage inspecting the Fifth Battalion, and to the right is the new type of trench. Piłsudski is shown meeting the officers of the First Battalion at their headquarters (Figure 7), and in the next card, Kazimierz Sosnkowski, a loyal follower of Piłsudski, is introduced as the First Brigade chief of staff (Figure 8). These postal cards (Figures 6, 7, and 8) state the Legion was beyond the Nida River. This means as a result of the stalled Warsaw Offensive, the Legion was entrenched in Russian-Poland, beyond the Carpathian Mountains.

A superb cavalry officer and friend of Piłsudski, Władysław Zygmunt Belina-Prażmowski served as commander of the First Cavalry Regiment. An interesting card, Figure 9, shows the officers from the cavalry regiment of the First Brigade (4).

A Russian counter-offensive in September 1914 left the Austro-Hungarian army demoralized and weak. They went through extensive reorganization and training. At this time, the Germans formed a joint German-Austrian-Hungarian army, the 11th army under General August von Mackensen (5); the Legion was part of this formation. In May 1915, the Gorlice-Tarnów Offensive began. The heavy use of artillery along with a two-to-one advantage in infantry crashed the Russian defense and began the most successful Central Powers Offensive of the war.

The next three cards (Figures 10, 11 and 12) show all branches of the Legion moving forward: the infantry crossing the Nida River in force, the cavalry looking for the enemy, and the artillery moving forward to support the offensive.



Figure 6, Commandant Piłsudski on inspection of the Fifth Battalion, with the Polish Legion entrenched beyond the Nida River - March 1915

These were von Mackensen's tactics; the cavalry found the enemy, the infantry pinned and engaged the enemy, and the artillery destroyed them. By the end of May 1915, the Russians had been pushed out of Poland, but they did not give up without a fight. In June, the Russians counterattacked at Konary (Figure 13) and drove right into the Legion; they held the line for 30 days until the Russian attack collapsed. Figure 13 shows a well-built trench line in June 1915, likely after the Konary battle (6).

The Austro-Hungarian Army continued advancing into Poland. The First Brigade crossed the Wsyle River deeper into southern Polish Territory (July 1915 (Figure 14)), stopping just before the town of Urzędów. The Russians were in full retreat and the Legion had to march hard to keep the pressure on. This march resulted in numerous injuries and illnesses.

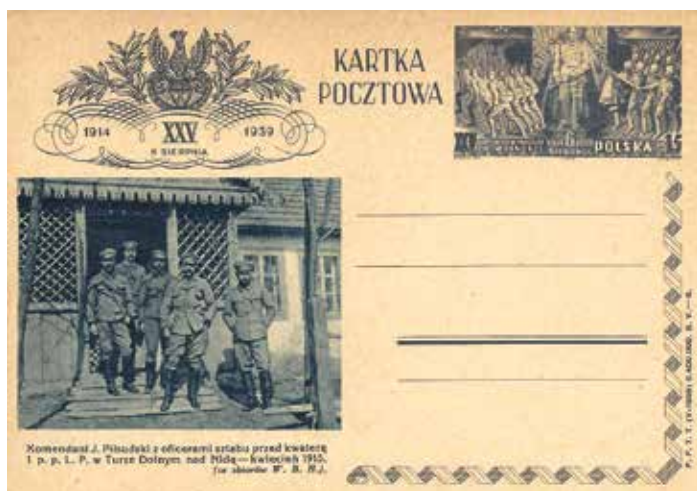


Figure 7, Commandant Piłsudski with staff officers in front of the First Battalion's quarters beyond the Nida River - April 1915



Figure 10, Crossing the Nida River - May 1915



Figure 8, Commandant Piłsudski and chief of staff Kazimierz Sosnkowski beyond the Nida - April 1915



Figure 11, Beliny Ukani (lancers) on patrol - May 1915



Figure 9, Regimental Commander Belina-Prażmowski with officers in front of their quarters - April 1915



Figure 12, Artillery of the First Brigade of the Polish Legion on the march - May 1915



Figure 13, In the trenches - June 1915



Figure 15, First aid station of the Legion First Brigade - July 1915



Figure 14, The First Brigade of the Legion crossing the Wysle River - July 1915



Figure 16, Commandant Piłsudski and staff observing battle - July 1915

A field first aid station near Urzędowo is shown in Figure 15. It appears the nurses are treating non-combatant head and foot injuries; both nurses appear to be women.

The Russians stopped retreat, halted the Legion, and the great Battle of Jastków was fought (July 3 - August 3, 1915). The Legion's First Brigade took on the Russians in a hard fight (7). Figure 16 shows Piłsudski and his staff overseeing the brigade during the battle.

The Gorlice-Tarnów Offensive combined with attacks in the north resulted in the Great Russian Retreat of 1915. Warsaw fell to the Germans on August 5, 1915, and by the end of August, most of Poland was in Austro-German hands (5).

At this point, the offense halted. The Austro-Hungarians had advanced over 190 miles and run out of supplies; Russians gave up land to save their army; Central Powers established a new front line and regrouped; the Legion attained reinforcements.



Figure 17, Arrival of the Warsaw Battalion of the POW - August 1915

Figure 17 shows the "Warsaw Battalion" moving to the front in August 1915. Considering Warsaw had just been liberated on August 8, who were these soldiers (in Figure 17)? They were members of the Poliska Organizacja Wojskowa (POW), in English, the Polish Military Organization (PMO). The POW was a secret military organization created by Piłsudski in 1914 Russian-Poland. These young men had been training and engaging in sabotage since the war started in August 1914. The POW was directly under the command of Piłsudski, independent of the Austro-Hungarian Army Command (8).

Part 2 of this article will be in the March Bulletin

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The Poland Flag Stamp of the United States Overrun Country Series

Dr. James Mazepa, RDP

Part 5: First Day Covers Sent to Foreign Destinations

In part 4 I discussed various first day cachets for the Poland stamp. These are usually very colorful cachets and most are readily available. I planned to discuss patriotic cachets in this edition, but chose instead an interesting aspect of first day cover collecting: foreign destinations. Finding Overrun Country first day covers addressed to foreign destinations is difficult; Axis powers would not allow letters with this issue into their country. The Axis governments considered the Overrun Country Series propaganda.

The Overrun Country stamps had a face value of 5 cents, the surface rate to foreign countries. The air-mail rate at the time was 30 cents.

A first day cover sent to Poland would certainly be a fantastic cover. Mr. H. Ryther attempted to send a FDC to Warsaw and it got as far as New York (Figure 1). In New York censor 9839 opened the letter and enclosed Form OC-12 (Figure 2). This enclosure informed the sender the letter could not be forwarded because it was addressed to an enemy occupied country. The censor then applied a label over the address "Returned to Sender by Censor".

Figure 3 was sent to Canada without problems, evidence that mail to Canada was not censored at the time. However, I have letters after June 22, 1943, that were censored; a FDC would not have received special treatment.

First day covers to England are probably the easiest to find. Figure 4 was sent to Sussex and opened by British censor 3744. A very interesting cover sent to England is Figure 5, also opened and censored by the British. In the meantime, the recipient moved (the letter is back stamped July 20, a month in transit) and the letter was forwarded to Johannesburg, South Africa.

Another forwarded letter was sent to Mr. Pellowe, a representative of the U.A.C. (Union Africaine de Commerce) in Bekwai-Ashanti, Gold Coast. It would seem Mr. Pellowe was transferred to Accra where the letter was forwarded (Figure 6).



Figure 1, Attempt to send a FDC to Warsaw which got as far as New York

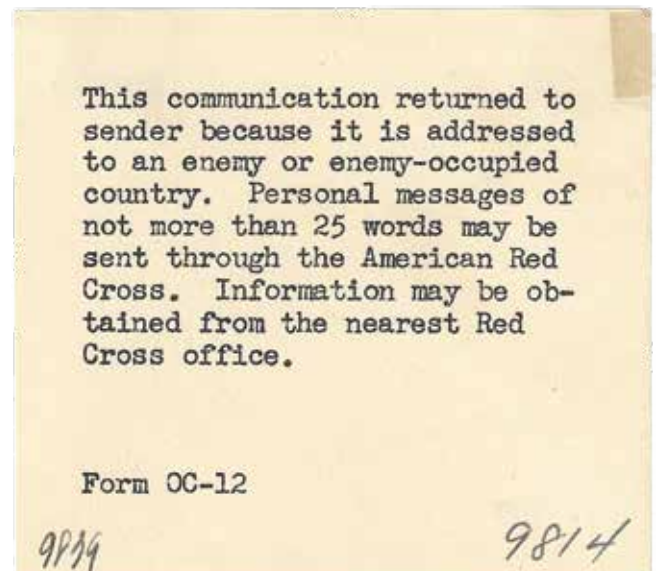


Figure 2, Form enclosed in the above FDC



Figure 3, FDC sent to Canada

The letter sent to the exotic destination of Tasmania (Figure 7) is over paid; 5 cents would have sufficed. This letter had three censor examinations. The first was by the U.S. censor whose cellophane tape is covered by the second censor tape, an Australian Military District 6 "Opened by Censor." Lastly, the cover was marked with the diamond-shaped "Passed by Censor 1" in Hobart, the capital of Tasmania.

Sweden was a neutral country during World War II, and because of this neutrality, mail could be sent to Sweden without a problem. Figures 8 and 9 are two letters paying the two possible rates, 5 cents for surface and 30 cents for airmail. Interestingly, the

surface rate letter received both the U.S. (9839 New York) and British censor examinations, while the airmail letter only received U.S. censorship (9442 New York). The use of the Poland stamp to pay the 30-cent airmail rate is very difficult to find. Happy hunting!

In Part 6, I explore the multitude of patriotic cachets.

References

1. *Mellone's Specialized Cachet Catalog of First Day Covers*. Vol. 1, 2nd Edition. 1940-1947.



Figure 4, FDC sent to Sussex, England



Figure 7, FDC sent to Tasmania



Figure 5, A FDC censored by the British and in the meantime, the recipient moved to Johannesburg, South Africa.



Figure 8, The above FDC shows the 5-cent surface rate



Figure 6, A FDC sent to Bekwai-Ashanti, Gold Coast and forwarded to Accra



Figure 9, Showing the 30-cent airmail rate

Gems of Polish Philately

Rare Stamps of the Second Warsaw Provisional Issue, 1918-1919

Dr. James Mazepa, RDP

If asked, most collectors of the 1918 Warsaw provisional issues would say the rarest stamp is the 20 fenig ultramarine. Based on Scott and Michel this would seem to be correct. However, check the Scott catalog and one will see there is no Scott 22; why is this? Originally the 20 Fenig blue was listed as Scott 21 and the ultramarine as Scott 22. Sometime in the 1960s, I'm unsure of the year, Scott revised the listing as "21 blue" and gave the ultramarine the sub number "21a", thus omitting "22"! Checking the Scott catalog values, "21a" has always been the most expensive stamp of the series.

The 20 fenig ultramarine (21a) is a very confusing stamp. In Fischer there are six shades of blue listed for the 20 fenig: light blue, violet blue, blue, sapphire, ultramarine and grey ultramarine. Further aspects of this stamp are two different colors of the GGW overprint, intense black and red-black, and three different overprint ink types: very glossy, somewhat glossy, and dull matte. Lastly, there are two different print settings, form one and form two. These settings are determined by space between the second and third line of the overprint.

Distinguishing the 20 fenig shade of blue can be near impossible. The easiest way to determine the stamp as ultramarine is to verify the stamp is form two, and the GGW is intense black and very glossy. Ninety-five percent of those claimed to be 21a on eBay are form one. I have never encountered a genuine 21a on eBay without an opinion from a recognized expert. It is estimated that five ultramarine sheets were overprinted, creating 500 examples of this stamp. I note however, based on auctions, dealer offers and those viewed in collections, I estimate there are less than 50 examples of 21a on the market. The current price in Fischer for the 21a ultramarine is 3000 zł unused / 6000 zł used (today's conversion, 1 zł = \$0.265 US dollars).

The 30 fenig brown-orange and black in form two is the next most difficult Provisional to find. Fischer values this stamp at 3000 zł unused / 3500 zł used. The GGW overprint must be in very glossy, blue-black ink; I have not seen a census for this stamp.

Rarest of the Second Warsaw Provisional Issue is the 40 fenig in form two, bearing the GGW overprint in intense black,

aniline ink, sent to the city of Lubicz; only two sheets existed. Of the two sheets (200 stamps less than 10 unused and 10 used are believed to survive. All used examples are postmarked March 23, 1919, a late date for this issue. Position 49 of the sheet has an inverted "k" in POLSKA; only two examples are possible; both are recorded; one is cancelled and the other is unused (Figure 1). The truly unique inverted "k", unused, catalogs in Fischer at 30,000 zł.

According to post office records, the total of 20 fenig stamps overprinted was 595,000 (all colors); 30 fenig 769,000 (all colors); 40 fenig 400,000 (all colors), and surviving quantities are slim in comparison. These Provisional Issues are rare for several reasons. Initially, at the time of overprinting and for years after, no one paid much attention to the color varieties rendering the majority of these stamps common. Many of this issue were purchased by citizens who wanted a souvenir of the new Polish Republic. Numerous post offices sold their entire stock of this issue which explains the second printing, form two. Secondly, stamp dealers, especially in Vienna, bought large quantities for packets, and these were consequently lost over time. Finally, many fine collections of this issue were destroyed during World War II. Stamp quantities available do not reflect the number originally overprinted as so many were destroyed; an estimated survival rate of 10 percent or less would be reasonable. When collecting Warsaw Second Provisional Issues, aim to buy unused, never hinged stamps; currently these bring up to three times Fischer value. When finding plate varieties and plate flaws, try to collect these in pairs or blocks.



Figure 1

Development of Airmail Services in Poland (1929 – 1939)

Part 16 (1 of 3): Air Rallies and Experimental Flights

Dr. Jerzy W. Kupiec-Węgliński

16.1. The Challenge Air Tournament

The Challenge International Tourist Plane Competition, organized by Fédération Aéronautique Internationale (FAI), was the major aviation event in interwar Europe. Aimed to test a pilot's technical skills and stimulate progress in aircraft design, the Challenge consisted of three parts: technical trial, a rally around Europe, and a maximum speed test. German crews won the first two Challenge Cups in 1929 (Paris) and 1930 (Berlin).

16.1.1. Challenge Cup 1932

Forty-three teams from six countries entered Challenge-1932 in Berlin (August 12 – 28); only 24 crews completed the competition. The Polish team included pilot Franciszek Żwirko, and mechanic, Stanisław Wigura (Figure 1). Flying a Polish-made RWD-6 airplane, they won first prize; RWD stands for last names of Stanisław Rogalski, Stanisław Wigura, and Jerzy Drzewiecki, designers of the RWD-6 airplane. Defeat of a favorite German team made the aviators instant heroes in their native Poland. Barely two weeks later (September 11, 1932) while flying to an air meeting in Prague, Żwirko and Wigura fatally crashed at Cierlicko, (near Cieszyn) Czechoslovakia, when the wing of their RWD-6 broke in a heavy storm.

In April 1933, the Polish Post issued a 30 gr stamp commemorating Żwirko and Wigura's Challenge-1932 triumph. Figure 2 is a registered first day cover, posted on Saturday, April



Figure 1

15, 1933, addressed to Albuquerque, New Mexico. The cover is endorsed with directions to be flown to Paris. During that time, CIDNA provided three flights a week from Warsaw to Paris: Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. This item was flown on Tuesday, April 18, 1933 (11:20 a.m. Warsaw departure and 8:10 p.m. Paris arrival). The cover was then transported by sea to New York (April 24, 1933 transit marking). In the United States it was carried by Contract Airmail (CAM), Route 34 (New York - Los Angeles), operated by Transcontinental and Western Air, arriving in Albuquerque on April 25, 1933 (registry and AMF cancellations on reverse). Transit time from Poland was 10 days. The postage of 1 zł 60 gr is consistent with the European

airmail rate for a 20-gram letter (60 gr standard postage per 20 grams effective July 1, 1932 – October 1, 1934; 60 gr registration fee; and 40 gr air fee per 20 grams). This cover was likely handled with other first day covers headed to Europe and the required air surcharge of 70 gr (per 10 grams for letters addressed beyond New York) was overlooked by the postal clerk.

16.1.2. Challenge Cup (1934)

The Żwirko & Wigura victory in 1932 gave the Polish Aero Club opportunity to organize the next International Tourist Plane Competition (August 28 – September 16, 1934).



Figure 2

Of the 34 airplanes entered, only 19 completed the 1934 air race. Once again, Polish aviators were victorious; pilot Jerzy Bajan and mechanic Gustaw Pokrzywka won first prize (Figure 3). Success was not only a result of piloting skills, but of the technical features of Polish-designed RWD-9 aircraft, Jan Śniadecki (registration SP-DRD). The triumph was achieved by Polish crew of Stanisław Płonczyński and Stanisław Zienter taking second place. Victory gave Poland the right to organize the 1936 tournament, but they declined because of financial constraints. As other countries also declined, Challenge-1934 became the last. The Polish Aero Club was given the right to retain this prestigious European aviation trophy.

On August 28, 1934, the Polish Post issued two stamps commemorating Challenge Cup-1934. These were red overprints of the first Polish airmail stamp of 1925 (20 gr) and the “Żwirko / Wigura” issue (30 gr) of 1933. Figure 4 shows a lovely example of an overweight first day cover addressed to Germany, carrying several 20 gr and 30 gr Challenge-1934 overprints. Posted as registered in Warsaw on August 28, 1934, it was flown by LOT to Berlin and then transported by train to Halberstadt, some 150 km north of the German capital. This cover shows correct 1 zł 90 gr franking for the second weight increment of 90 gr (60 gr foreign surface letter rate per 20-gram plus 30 gr for additional 21-40-gram); 60 gr registration fee; and 40 gr airmail surcharge.

The cover in Figure 5 is one carried by a Polish Challenge-1934 competition airplane. It was carried from the eastern city of Vilnius to Warsaw, with the final leg of the rally being over Europe and Northern Africa (9,537 km). The cover features a special four-line green cachet (CHALLENGE / 1934 / WILNO – WARSZAWA / expedie par “PZL-26” – 65”) and commemorative Vilnius departure and Warsaw cancellations of September 15, 1934. These special cancels were used (August – September, 1934) in post offices of Katowice 1, Lvov 1, Wilno 1, Warsaw 19 – Airport, and Warsaw 31. This is one of only 50 covers flown from Vilnius to Warsaw on the very last Challenge-1934 tournament flight. The postage is correct for domestic printed matter of 5 gr (per 25-gram) plus 15 gr for air service.

In addition to the Polish Post, the paramilitary Air and Gas Defense League (LOPP) issued a set of semi-official propaganda stamps (or labels) to commemorate the Challenge Cup of 1934. These labels



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6

References

1. Bura, F. *Challenge 1934*. *Filatelista* 1971; 18; pp. 235-7.
2. Bura, F. *Złoty Jubileusz*. *Filatelista* 1984; 13; pp. 303-4.
3. Kupiec-Weglinski, J. *Transatlantic Flight Attempt by Stanley Hausner. La Catastrophe*. *The Journal of the Wreck and Crash Mail Society*; 21(77); p. 10; 2015.
4. Reklewska-Braun Z, Braun K. *Bracia Adamowiczowie: Emigranci-lotnicy, Pierwsi Polscy Zdobywcy Polnocnego Atlantyku*. Rzeszow. p. 186; 1912.

depict a contemporary airplane and consist of five values: 5 gr (orange), 10 gr (violet), 50 gr (blue), 1 zł (green), and 5 zł (red). The cover in Figure 6 was expedited during the Challenge-1934 competition by LOT from Warsaw to Lvov, where the "Arrived by Airmail" straight-line cachets in black were applied. Posted September 11, 1934, it was franked with printed matter rate of 20 gr commemorative overprint adhesives struck with Warsaw 31 special canceller. Also shown is a 5 gr orange LOPP label attached voluntarily, which did not contribute to actual postage.

Acknowledgements

Thank you Jacek Kosmala (Warsaw, Poland), for sharing philatelic items from your collection (Figures 1 and 3).



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A Short History of the Society for Polish Philately in Great Britain

Stowarzyszenie Polskiej Filatelistyki W. Brytanii

Jan Korzeniowski, S.P.P. Chairman

Polish philatelic circles in Great Britain sprang up in the early 1940s when hundreds of Poles arrived on the shores of Scotland. They were directed toward the ports of Edinburgh and Glasgow. A majority of arrivals were Polish soldiers. Military units across Scotland were organized to defend the shores from the imminent invasion of German troops.

Headquarters of the Polish forces were based in Perth, a central Scottish city. Among the thousands of soldiers there was no shortage of philatelists eager to pursue their hobby. The first philatelic circles formed in Edinburgh and Glasgow, where a denser population of Polish people resided. These circles soon began issuing bulletins to its members.

Over time, the danger of German invasion dwindled and the well-trained Polish units were gradually moved to southern England. This movement of soldiers was with intention of invading France, followed by the liberation of Europe.

The size and location of those units throughout the war can be best appreciated in an excellent philatelic catalog, *Polish Exile Mail in Great Britain 1939-1949* (Figure 1). This catalog was written by well known philatelists

Jerzy Kwiatkowski

(George K. Kay) and Ron Negus, both now deceased. This is a genuine encyclopedia on the movements of Polish troops.

Post-war, a majority of Poles did not return to their homeland but remained in Great Britain, or immigrated to other countries. Canada appeared to be a very desirable place to settle and thousands of Polish people

immigrated with hopes of making a better life.

The Polish philatelists who remained in Great Britain rejoined, or formed new philatelic circles, particularly in London, Bradford, Birmingham, Manchester, and Leicester.

The main philatelic organization was in London where provincial Koła electing delegates gathered as the central committee of Polish philatelists in Great Britain. Many Koła members are now advanced in age, have passed away, or given up philately.

New and young members do not have the same knowledge or passion as their predecessors. We (the Society for Polish Philately in Great Britain, S.P.P.) currently have 90 members from around the world including: Canada, Japan, United States, and various European countries. In the last decade thousands of young Polish have arrived in Great Britain looking for work, but up to now, only a dozen have joined our society.

Our society aim is to promote Polish culture and traditions, to inform our English colleagues and future generations about historical events like Poland's struggle for independence, patriotism, and the outstanding personalities, all which deserve recognition.

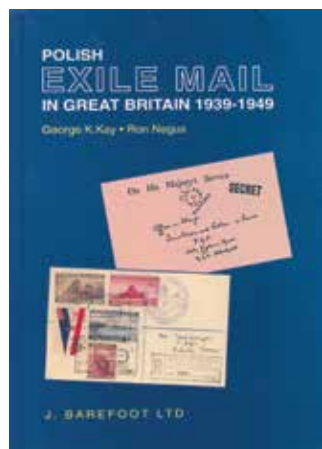


Figure 1



Figure 2

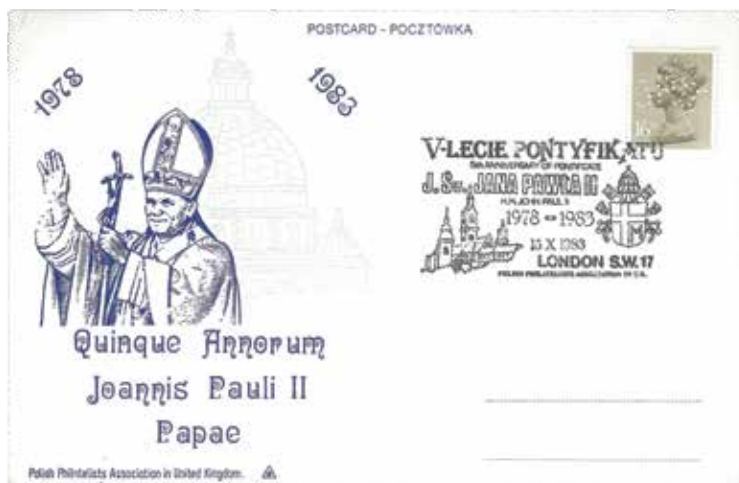


Figure 3

Over the years, our society achievements in conjunction with The Polish Institute, General W. Sikorski Museum, and the Institute of Józef Piłsudski in London, have been extensive. The S.P.P. has issued over 500 items including: covers, postcards, souvenir cards, medals as prizes for exhibition displays, exhibition catalogs, and journals, among other small items.

In the 1980s, the Polish Philatelic Association used British postage stamps (with perfin) and cancellations on covers, postcards, and exhibition correspondence (Figures 2, 3, and 3a).



Figure 3a

A fully illustrated color catalog was published in 2004 showing all the Polonica items issued in Great Britain. S.P.P. member Adam Tutak, with dedication and financial burden, has collected the scarce remaining items to produce this valuable reference catalog, *Polish Postal and Commemorative Service in GB, 1941-2003*.

We hold monthly meetings in the White Eagle Club, Balham, London, where members have opportunity to display their collections and exchange philatelic material. The S.P.P. holds postal auctions twice a year; communication between members is promoted by a quarterly bulletin, *Dyzizans*.

For more information, comments and contact with our society, write to:

Jan Korzeniowski, S.P.P. Chairman
30 Watling Street
Dartford, Kent, DA1 1RF, Great Britain



Auction House

Phila World

Auction House Phila World organizes monthly auctions offering wide range of Polish rare stamps and postal history items.

Please visit our website or contact us.

www.auction-stamps.com

Phone number +48713164030

E-mail info@znaczki-aukcja.pl



Using *Poczta Polska*, the Polish Post, to Enhance your Collection

Dr. Edwin J. Andrews

During the recent Polonus membership meeting at St. Louis EXPO, I mentioned using *Poczta Polska* to acquire material for my Józef Piłsudski display exhibit. After discussing how easy it was to get new material, several members encouraged me to write a short article of introduction to *Poczta Polska* and their many offerings.

Poczta Polska is the Polish postal administration headquarters in Warsaw. In addition to postal services, it provides banking, insurance, and logistic services. The website is easily accessed via <https://www.poczta-polska.pl/en/>. The post plays a major role in the Polish economy, with more than 86,000 employees throughout Poland. It is also one of the oldest postal authorities in the world (established October 18, 1558); the earliest postal service was founded by Franz von Taxis (1497) on behalf of Emperor Maximilian I of the Holy Roman Empire. But enough about history . . .

How do I get Polish philatelic material?

The first step is to access the website and register as a user, a necessary step to making a purchase. If you require the English version of the site click on the “EN” symbol in the upper right of the site index browser as shown in Figure 1 (top, green arrow). The bottom of Figure 1 shows the English version which you can now use for maneuvering the site.

Once you have registered, simply click the “Philately” tab (Figure 1, bottom, blue arrow) to familiarize yourself with the various philatelic materials offered. Figure 2 shows the philately menu provided for further exploration. (Note: they also offer numismatic material for those with topical / display interests.)

The Philately tab “Welcome Page” features the most recent stamp offers, and a news and popular products feature. Click an item on the menu and a complete page of products will appear. For example, if I click on “Stamps”, I will get a new menu of options as shown in Figure 3. Figure 4 shows an example of what a product page might look like if I chose “Envelopes” from the menu bar, further specifying “First Day Covers”.



Figure 2



Figure 1

Each item is described in detail along with a picture that can be enlarged by clicking on the image. If you decide to buy an item, you will need to be logged in as a registered user. Notice to the right of each item there is a price in PLN (Polish Złoty), and a tab indicating whether you are logged in or need to log in. From this point, the process is simple; fill your basket (versus a cart) and pay for your material. Shipping charges will be added to your purchase based on your mailing address. You will have the option of regular mail versus registered, or other more secure services. I have never used anything but regular mail and have never

had a problem receiving material, usually within two weeks. Payment options are

plentiful, including Skrill and PayPal. If you need to convert PLN to dollars, divide by four to get a rough estimate. For more precise estimates use a free Google currency converter. On completion of your order, you will receive an email detailing your purchases and the total price, including shipping.

The site is colorful, intuitive and provides a huge amount of philatelic products to suite any need: canceled material, stamps, special presentation folders, stationery, philatelic supplies, etc.

Lastly, I should mention that depending on the category you are exploring, there may be several past years of material available. This varies by item and I expect they have limited inventory for most. I hope you will take the opportunity to visit the *Poczta Polska* site and even if you do not register, at least explore their colorful and interesting offerings. Have fun.



Figure 3

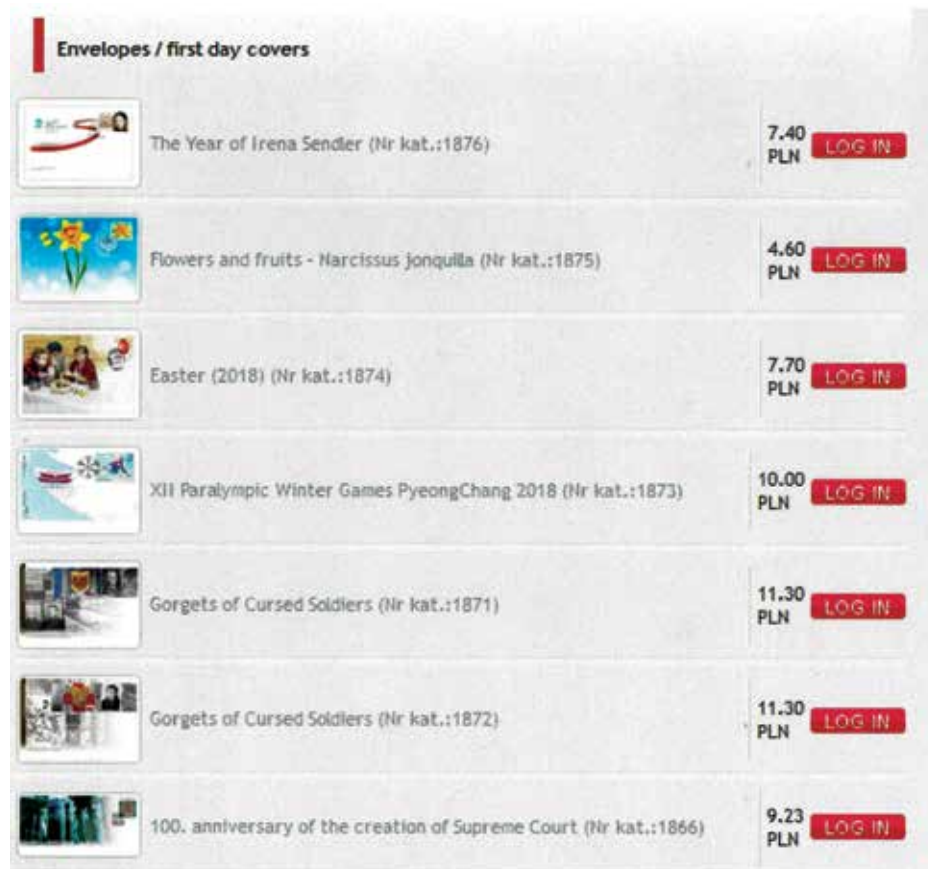


Figure 4

Enhance Your Collecting Experience

▪ *Join a Study Group - See page 2* ▪

POLONUS Society News

Obituary

*Michael Joseph Sivak
(1948-2018)*

Michael Joseph Sivak passed away unexpectedly on October 31, 2018 in Kauai, Hawaii shortly after his 70th birthday. Mike was the only child of Michael and Josephine Sivak but grew up with many cousins and relatives in South Bend, Indiana. He married his high school sweetheart, Marguerite Lubelski, just months after graduating from Washington High School in 1966.

Mike was a skilled craftsman and carpenter his entire life. After Hurricane Iniki devastated the island of Kauai, Mike and Margie permanently relocated from Indiana to Hawaii in 1993. He helped rebuild the community by repairing homes, schools, churches, and businesses. In later years, he built the Kapaa Boys & Girls Club and numerous new residential homes and commercial buildings.

Mike was an avid stamp collector and member of the Polonus Philatelic Society. He taught himself Polish and Russian in order to trade with other collectors in his two favorite countries. He enjoyed filling in crossword puzzles using Cyrillic letters so he could practice writing in Russian. Mike loved to snorkel, go to the movies, and reading all types of books. He also found time to serve as president of the Rolling Meadows Homeowners Association.

Mike is survived by his wife of 51 years, Margie; his children Kristi Foster, Dawn Frese, and Michael J. Sivak III; and his granddaughter Danielle Sivak. He will be remembered for his dedication to his wife, his sharp wit, and his Aloha spirit.

We Want to Hear from You!

The Bulletin is our member publication and we depend on our members to fill the pages. We encourage articles of any length with accompanying illustrations.

You don't have to be a writer . . .

- **Submit articles, ideas or questions to the editor: *Amanda L. Morgenstern* a.morgenstern@hotmail.com**

New Webmaster

Allan Clapp



In 1981 I began working in the computer field as a programmer, and later as a webmaster and website builder. One of my first positions was webmaster for a public broadcasting service station. During my three years there, I built an online pledging system and an automated

air schedule page generator. I am now fluent in eight website building languages. Alongside my website work, I spent 17 years in statistical research in educational psychology.

I became Polonus webmaster in March 2018. I am rebuilding the website, including improved search functions. The new website will go live in early 2019. In addition to being webmaster of polonus.org, I manage the 1,000+ page website for PNC3 (Plate Number Coil Collectors Club).

As a volunteer I have taught on many subjects: debit / credit card fraud prevention (including data breaches), computer operating system maintenance, social media site safety (what not to post to protect children and property), user ID and password safety (how to prevent illegal access to money), and website / phone crossover scams and how to spot them. Several other of my web developments include: member collecting interests page generator, an Excel sheet-based search engine, and a large menu management system that supports over 1,500 menu items.

My personal interests include: artificial intelligence, electronics, wood working, science fiction and reading. My goal in life is to stretch my mind every day.

I enjoy being Polonus webmaster and look forward to the improved website coming in 2019!

MY LETTERS OF REFERENCE CAN BE FOUND AT:

Milton-Union Public Library - <http://allan-clapp.com/MUPL.pdf>

Donald B. Richards - <http://allan-clapp.com/Donald-B-Richards.pdf>

Richard W. Hawks -

<http://allan-clapp.com/Richard-Hawks-Letter-Of-Reference.pdf>

New Issues

Frank Karwoski

Polish Herbarium

These four 2.60 zł stamps recognize herbal plants found in Poland (*Polski Zielnik*). The chaber blawatek or cornflower blouse (*centaurea cyanus*), often known as bachelor's button, is typically blue in color. It is an annual flowering plant native to Europe, in the family Asteraceae. In the past it often grew as a weed in grain fields but is now endangered in its natural habitat, largely because of herbicide use. The chaber blawatek has been naturalized in other parts of the world, and cornflowers are now used as an ingredient in tea blends, such as the Lady Grey blend of Twinings.

The rumianek pospolity or wild chamomile (*matricaria chamomilla*) is another annual flowering plant in the Asteraceae family, which possesses an apple-like scent. It is found in populated areas all over Europe and temperate Asia, and has also been introduced in other areas. It mainly grows near roads and in cultivated fields as the seeds require open soil to survive. The plant is used in herbal medicine for a sore stomach, irritable bowel syndrome and as a gentle sleep aid and laxative; it is an anti-inflammatory containing coumarin, a blood thinner. A relative of ragweed, it may cause allergic reactions.

The krwawnik pospolity or common yarrow (*achillea millefolium*) is another flowering plant species in the family Asteraceae, native to temperate regions of the northern hemisphere. It was known

in Latin as *herbal militaria* used in stanching the flow of blood from wounds. The plant has a strong, sweet scent, similar to that of chrysanthemums. It is a common source of food for some insects and is a frequent component of butterfly gardens. In the Middle Ages yarrow was part of a herbal mixture known as gruit, used in the flavoring of beer prior to the use of hops. Its historical use in medicine was based on its astringent effects. However, it can cause severe allergic rashes in humans and is toxic to dogs, cats and horses.

The macierzanka piaskowa, known also as sand thyme or Breckland thyme (*thymus serpyllum*), is a species of creeping dwarf evergreen shrub in the mint family Lamiaceae, which is native to most of Europe and North Africa. The strongly scented flowers are either lilac, pink-purple, magenta or white. It is a food source for butterflies and bees. Cultivated varieties are used as border plants and ground cover.

The four stamps are shown to be aged and worn, perhaps portraying to the stamp collector their status as apparent album weeds, just as the plants shown are often considered botanical weeds.

Date of Issue

August 31, 2017

Sheet Format

4 different stamps in pane of 4

Printing Method

Offset

Designer

Agnieszka Sancewicz



European Art in Polish Collections

An El Greco painting that portrays “The Ecstasy of St. Francis” (or St. Francis Receiving the Stigmata) is the subject of this 2.60 zł stamp. The painting shown was mysteriously found in 1964 in the attic of the rectory in Kosów Lacki, near Sokołów. The painting was darkened by dirt, but successfully restored. It shows a robed and gesturing St. Francis with a skull that symbolizes his wisdom and prudence. After fulfilling strict security and preservation requirements, the painting was first shown publicly at the Diocesan Museum in Siedlce several years ago. Siedlce is located in central-eastern Poland in the Mazovian Voivodeship, about 90 km east of Warsaw.



The Greek painter Domenikos Theotokopoulos (aka El Greco) was an artist from Crete during the Spanish Renaissance, with a dramatic and expressionist style. He is regarded as precursor of both Expressionism and Cubism.

Date of Issue
Sheet Format
Printing Method
Designer

September 2, 2017
Single in SS
Offset
Ewa Szydłowska

Historic Organs of Poland

One more in a series recognizing historic church organs in Poland (*Zabytkowe Organy*), this 11 zł stamp highlights the large antique organ at the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption located in Peplin, south of Gdańsk. The town of Peplin is in Tczew County in the Pomeranian Voivodeship.



The cathedral, formerly a Cistercian abbey, is a brick Gothic building completed in 1323, now one of the largest church buildings in Poland. The J. G. Wulf organ was restored in the late 19th century by the Prussian Terletzki-Gebrüder firm from Elbag. Issued for collectors, the stamp sheet is accompanied by a black-print numbered stamp sheet with obliterated denomination.

Date of Issue
Sheet Format
Printing Method
Designer

September 16, 2017
Single in SS
Offset & steel engraving
Marzanna Dąbrowska

Polish Operation of the NKVD 1937-38

The A denominated stamp (2.60 zł) solemnly recognizes the Polish Operation of the Soviet NKVD in 1937-38 (*Operacja Polska NKWD 1937-38*), a massive and brutal action of the Soviet secret police against alleged Polish "spies" within the Soviet Union. It resulted in the sentencing of 139,835 people and the sum execution of 111,091 ethnic Poles. In accordance with Order No. 00485, signed by Nikolai Yezhov, and approved by the Soviet Central Committee Politburo in 1937, the action was one of a series of such actions against ethnic groups during the period of the Great Purge. In addition to those killed, another 28,744 victims were sentenced to labor camps. Almost all of those killed were men. Their wives and children were dealt



with by Order No. 00486 which required their deportation to Kazakhstan for an average of five to 10 years. Their children were put into orphanages to be brought up as Soviets, with no knowledge of their origins.

Some historians have labeled the NKVD operation as genocide. About 40 percent of the victims came from the Soviet Ukraine, especially districts near the border with Poland. An additional 17 percent of the victims came from Soviet Byelorussia. The official first day cover states that the victims died because they were Poles (*Zgineli bo byli Polkami*), and shows photos of eight of the victims. It also indicates that the murdered victims were most often shot in the back of their heads. The knotted ropes shown on the stamp are likely an illusion to the bindings used to restrain the victims.

Date of Issue
Sheet Format
Printing Method
Designer

September 29, 2017
Single in sheet of 10
Photogravure
Agnieszka Sancewicz

Holy Mary of Piekary

This 5 zł stamp honors the Holy Mary of Piekary icon (*Matka Boża Piekarska*) located at the Basilica of St. Mary and St. Bartholomew in Piekary Śląskie in Silesia, in southern Poland, near Katowice. The church is the largest Marian pilgrim center in Silesia and second largest in Poland, superseded only by Jasna Góra. It was completed in 1849 as a replacement for the original small 14th century wooden church there.



The icon at the church is venerated as the patron of laborers. When St. John Paul II was Bishop of Krakow he visited Piekary every year starting in 1965; he preached homilies and taught on work, its dignity, and the rights of workers.

There are actually two sacred icons. In a complicated history, this icon is actually a copy of the original Lady of Piekary painting that dated back to the 15th / 16th century, which was taken to Opole in 1702 because of threat of fights over religion; it remains at the Holy Trinity Cathedral in Opole. The replacement painting at Piekary, which dates to the early 17th century, has itself become known for numerous miracles, and in 1925, the painting was officially crowned by Pope Pius XI. (Note: The original Lady of Piekary icon, now in Opole, became famous in 1676 when a plague broke out in nearby Tarnowskie Góry. Pilgrims from that city came to pray before the painting and soon thereafter the plague began to subside. That miracle gave rise to many subsequent pilgrimages of entire villages. King John III Sobieski stopped to venerate the icon as he led his army to Vienna to halt the Turkish invasion of Europe.

Date of Issue	October 13, 2017
Sheet Format	Single in sheet of 100
Printing Method	Photogravure
Designer	Adam Kultys

100 Years of the Militia of the Immaculata

This 5 zł stamp with tab, recognizes the founding of the Militia / Knights of the Immaculata (*100-Lecie Rycerstwa Niepokalanej*) a century ago by St. Maximilian



Kolbe. The stamp portrays the Virgin Mary and requests that she pray for us (*O Maryjo bez grzechu poczęta módl się za nami*). The attached tab shows a photo of St. Maximilian Kolbe, the conventional Franciscan and founder of this worldwide Catholic evangelical movement that aims to draw souls back to the knowledge and importance of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The MI movement is open to all Catholics over seven years old and encourages intercession to the Virgin Mary for the conversion of sinners. MI members wear the Miraculous Medal as an outward sign of their consecration. MI employs prayer as the main tool in the spiritual battle with evil. It now has more than 3 million members in 48 countries.

Date of Issue	October 14, 2017
Sheet Format	Single with tab in sheet of 50
Printing Method	Photogravure
Designer	Zenon Swiech

Feliks Selmanowicz Zagonczyk

This 3.20 zł stamp recognizes Feliks Selmanowicz Zagonczyk (1904 - 1946), identified as Karol Szach in the Polish underground, who fought in numerous Polish freedom operations in his lifetime. He served as a volunteer in 1920 in the Polish-Bolshevik War, later in the Polish Army in the early 1920s, then during World War II in the Vilnius Home Army Brigade, and in later anti-communist activities after the war. He was arrested and imprisoned several times and wounded twice before his final arrest in Sopot in 1946, where he was shot dead at a prison in Gdańsk, together with Danuta Siedzikowna, aka,



Inka, another underground anti-communist fighter. Before dying, he reportedly shouted out "Long Live Poland!"

Date of Issue	October 18, 2017
Sheet Format	Single in sheet of 20
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Zenon Swiech

The World Through the Eyes of Youths

These three colorful vertically aligned stamps, valued at 2.60 zł each, show the artistic creativity of Polish teenage students. As indicated in the green margins of the SS, the theme of the art is "A Time for Health" (*Czas na Zdrowie*). The design of the first stamp, titled "... Horse Health" (*Końskie Zdrowie*), was created by Ariadne Kruszy, a 14-year-old student from Łęborg. The second stamp design titled "The Personification of Health" (*Vosobienie Zdrowia*) was created by Kamila Rylska, a 15-year-old student from Rogolin. The third stamp, showing a bike and overlain clock, titled "There is Always Time" (*Zawsze jest Czas na Zdrowie*), was created by Sandra Marwitz, a 17-year-old student from Gniezno. The official first day cover (*Pierwszy Dzień Obiegu*) has the three stamps affixed horizontally.



Date of Issue	October 25, 2017
Sheet Format	3 singles in SS
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Rach Stefaniak

100 Years of Polish Avant-Garde

These four vertically aligned stamps recognize the centennial of Poland's avantgarde art movement – *100 Lat Polskiej Awangardej* – celebrated work that is experimental, radical or unorthodox. The opening of the headquarters of the Krakow Society of the Friends of Fine Art and the exhibition of Polish Expressionists on November 4, 1917, is often cited as the symbolic beginning of the Polish avant-garde. In 2017 there were exhibitions and programs across Poland remembering the most important figures and phenomena on the interwar and post-war avantgarde.

One of the stamps, denominated B or 2.60 zł, shows the red and blue cover of *Kurjer Bloku* (Block Courier) or BLOK (Block), an international review magazine of avant-garde, issue Nos. 6-7, from the early 1920s. This magazine was published in Warsaw and sponsored by the Jagiellonian Library.

The second stamp, denominated 3.20 zł, shows the 1926 black and light blue cover of the magazine *Praesens No. 1* (Latin: The Present), also published in Warsaw with government cultural funding. The third stamp, denominated 2.60 zł, black and red in color, recognizes Tadeusz Peiper (1891 - 1969),

the Polish poet, art critic, theoretician of literature and one of the precursors of the avant-garde movement in Polish poetry. His famous stage work was titled "Szosta! Szosta!" (It's Six! It's Six), published in 1925.

The fourth stamp is denominated 3.70 zł, in blue and olive, and shows today's online cultural magazine *Dwutygodnik* (Biweekly), founded in 2009 in Warsaw, published by the National Audiovisual Institute, and edited since 2013 by Zofia Krol. Permanent elements of the periodical include the *Wiersze* (Poems) section and the *Obyczaje* (Manners) section on contemporary social life. The two colorful official first day covers show these stamps affixed horizontally.

Date of Issue	October 27, 2017
Sheet Format	4 singles in SS
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Agata Tobalczyk



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 - \$50.00 for insertion in four issues
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POLONUS ANNUAL MEETING EXHIBITION SCHEDULE

Polonus has made arrangements with the organizers of the following APS World Series of Philately shows to participate as a "convening" or "featured" society:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2019 - CHICAGOPEX
November 22 - 24
Westin Chicago Northwest
Itasca, IL
www.chicagopex.org ▪ 2020 - BALPEX
September 4 - 6
Baltimore Hunt Valley Inn
Hunt Valley, MD
www.balpex.org | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2021 - APS StampShow
(Chicago)
August
Stephens Center
Rosemont IL
www.stamps.org ▪ 2022 - SESCAL
October
Ontario, CA
www.sescal.org |
|---|--|

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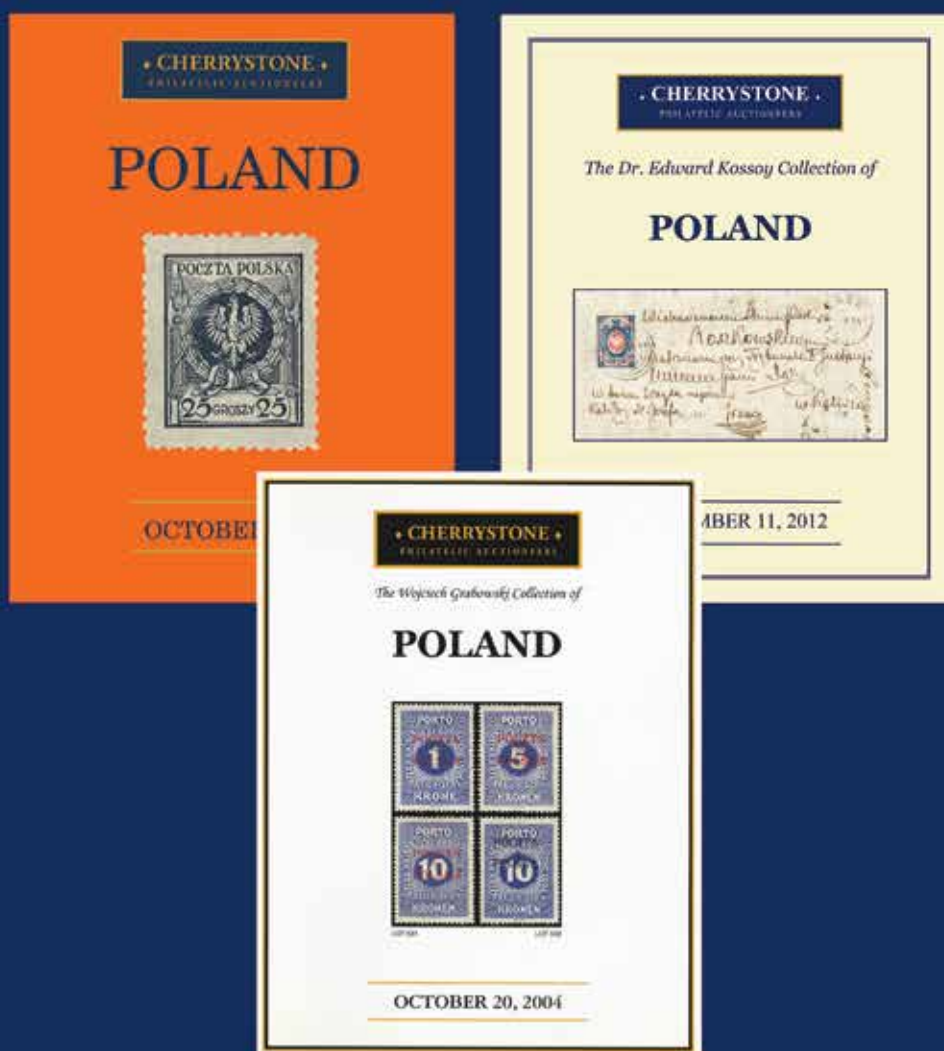
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