

BULLETIN OF THE

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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POLPEX TO FEATURE MILITARIA

POLONUS, the largest Polish Philatelic Society in the free world, is preparing for POLPEX 83/MILITARIA. This exhibition, international in scope, will be held at the Palmer House in downtown Chicago March 18-19-20, 1983. It will honor the 300th anniversary of King Jan Sobieski's Victory at the Battle of Vienna. POLPEX 83/MILITARIA will be the largest showing of philatelic and numismatic material of Polish and Foreign Militaria ever staged in this country and will attract collectors from all over the U.S. and abroad.

As has been our custom with a major philatelic exhibition, prominent Americans of Polish ancestry and friends of Polonia were invited to serve as the Honorary Committee for the exhibition. In addition, due to this special occasion, military and religious dignitaries of Polish and Austrian origin have been invited. Membership on this committee serves as an endorsement of our activities and as such gives an additional element of dignity and prestige to the efforts of our Society.

POLPEX 83/MILITARIA will be the first major philatelic exhibition of the 1983 season in Chicago. U.S., U.N.,

and Canadian postal services are invited to set up booths. A bourse limited to 50 dealers will operate on the premises.

Two-hundred frames of 16 pages each, of philatelic and numismatic collections will be presented in the Court of Honor and in competitive classes. Collectors from U.S.A. and abroad are invited to exhibit, and all types of military and war related material is acceptable. The deadline for entries is January 15th, 1983.

POLPEX entry forms are available from: John

S. Bobo, Entry Chairman, 1668 Sycamore St., Des Plaines, IL 60018.

To mark this occasion, some special events are planned. A reunion of Polonus members from all over the USA will take place. Several specialist societies will hold their annual conventions in conjunction with the exhibition. Collectors from U.S., Canada, Australia, England, France, Germany, Austria, and other countries will participate.

Plan now to take an active part in this unusual and extraordinary philatelic and numismatic show by exhibiting at and attending POLPEX 83/MILITARIA.



As at previous large POLPEX exhibitions in 1973, 1976, and 1979, a commemorative medallion will be struck in 1983 for the 300th anniversary of the Victory at the Battle



of Vienna. The gilded medallion in a presentation box, will be available in a limited quantity, to those who contribute the sum of \$50 or more to help defray the costly expenses of POLPEX 83/MILITARIA. In these inflationary times the treasury of Polonus cannot support an undertaking of such magnitude.

We sincerely hope that your generous help will insure the success of our most ambitious undertaking. Send your contribution of \$50 or more without delay to Stanley Rusin, Treasurer,, P.O. Box 56148, Chicago, IL 60648. Make check payable to Polonus Philatelic Society/POLPEX 83.

—Alfred Szebel, Exec. Chrm.

MEETING CHANGE

The October meeting will be held on October 15, one week earlier than usual. Dr. Stanley Kronenberg of Skillman, New Jersey, will speak on *Polish Forgeries*.

REST IN PEACE

STAN STANKIEWICZ
West Chester, Penna.

BLACK MADONNA EXHIBIT

Among the items on display at the Roman Dmowski Institute Exhibition held recently on the 600th Anniversary of Our Lady of Czestochowa at the Pope John Paul II Center in Chicago, there were eight frames of W. Poniecki's Czestochowa collection. The same exhibit was also shown at the Copernicus Center. An Arts & Crafts Fair was held outdoors. Mr. Poniecki set up his exhibit at the Northwest Stamp Bourse held indoors. When the rain came the people hurried indoors for shelter and came upon the philatelic exhibit. Thus were some art lovers introduced to philately and they loved it.

ENCLOSE S.S.A.E. WITH LETTER

Philatelic courtesy dictates that we enclose a proper sized envelope, with sufficient postage to bring the material requested to the address on the outside.

NEW MEMBERS

Frank Zielinski
4533 Georgian Terr.
Rockford, IL 61103
Ryszard Stroynowski
935 Medford Rd.
Pasadena, CA 91107

POLONUS LITERARY AWARD

The newly established Polonus Literary Award will be awarded for the first time at POLPEX 83 for the best philatelic article to have appeared in our *Polonus Bulletin* during 1982. Large or small articles are eligible. Send your material to our Publications Chairman James Maze-pa, Box 1217, Oak Park, IL 60304.

WINNER'S CIRCLE

Gold medal for *Galicia Postal History* at ROMPEX national philatelic exhibition, Denver, to John Bartczak.

MARQUIS ALBERGATTI and CROWNED W's

By RYSZARD Z. PODDUBIUK

His Excellency Marquis Francesco Albergatti Capacelli, General Aide-de-Camp and Chamberlain of Stanislaw August Poniatowski, King of Poland, was born on April 19, 1728. He succeeded his father Luigi as senator and served on several occasions as Chief Justice of the city of his birth, Bologna.

As a young man he became fascinated by poetry and drama, and started to translate popular French works which he later presented on the stage of his theatre at his villa in Zola. Original plays followed. His first comedy, "L'Amor Fiuto e l'Amor Vero", was dedicated to Carlo Goldoni, Italy's greatest comic playwright. Goldoni, touched by this gesture of friendship and respect, wrote five plays especially for Albergatti's theatre, and described one of them, entitled "Il Cavalier di Spirito", as "The portrait of a young Senator."

Among his literary friends "the young Senator" could count, beside Goldoni, other prominent Italian dramatists such as Vittorio Alfieri and Carlo Gozzi, writer and critic Giuseppe Baretti, poetess Elisabeth Camminer and that universal genius of the age of enlightenment, Voltaire.

Albergatti's detractors like to point out that it was perhaps the friendship of the famous men and women of his time that contributed more to his fame and renown than his own achievements. This judgement may be too harsh. He was not an outstanding playwright but his enthusiasm for and mastery of the Italian language compensated, to a degree, for his lack of dramatic inventiveness. He was also a prolific writer; between 1783 and 1785 he assembled all his works in twelve volumes and published them in Venice.

His married life was not happy. The second of his three wives committed suicide, which gave rise to some ugly rumors and accusations, but he was fully exonerated and declared innocent of any wrongdoing by the court of inquiry.

In 1800 he was given the responsibility for all printing and publishing by the government of the newly established Cisalpine Republic, and a year later he was appointed an inspector of the theatrical performances.

He died on March 16th, 1804.

I have not been able to establish how and when Albergatti became General Aide-de-Camp and Chamberlain to Stanislaw August Poniatowski. The only extensive biography of Albergatti known to me has been out of print for over a hundred years and my attempts to trace the original Polish investiture documents have not, as yet, produced any results.

The title of "Chamberlain", common in all courts of Europe for centuries, came to Poland during the reign of Stanislaw August. It was roughly equivalent to the ancient Polish title of "podkomorzy", but it was largely an honorary title given en masse to nobility that was enamoured with titles.

The other title is more significant. While still an honorary title it is more specific — "General Aide-de-Camp" was an officer who personally assisted the monarch either by conveying royal commands or obtaining sought intelligence.

Albergatti conducted a lively correspondence with Poland which started at the latest in 1779 and continued until at least 1795. It is this correspondence that is of particular interest to the postal historian.

I had an opportunity to examine what I believe to be a tiny fraction letters sent from Warsaw with Warsaw's first postmarks, the "Crowned W's".

Each letter comprises single piece of hand made, watermarked, ribbed paper approximately 15 by 9 inches folded once, prior to writing a letter. The text of the letter appears on one half of the folded paper, sometimes on one and sometimes on both sides. The completed letters were folded twice one way and twice again the other way, addressed and sealed with red sealing wax and what appears to be an impression of a signet ring.

Regrettably, all the sealing wax impressions are obliterated to the point where it is impossible to say whether they are all the same or whether some are different; however there is one partial impression on the earliest letter which I have attempted to interpret below:

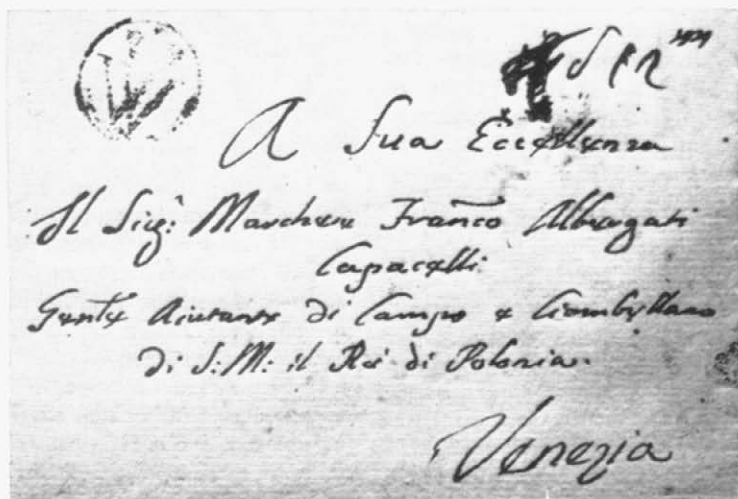
Within a single oval border, at the top, something that may be a clerical (cardinal's) hat with

cords and tassels spread downward on both sides. Below, a crown, over what appears to be a stylized Maltese Cross, very similar to one that forms part of the Order of the White Eagle. If there was an impression of any other additional features, they are no longer discernible.

All letters are written in Italian, appear to be in the same handwriting and carry what I believe to be the variants of the same signature: initials N:C:W:M: or W:C:W:M: and N:C: et M: or W:C: et M:. Curiously, the handwriting on the address side varies greatly from letter to letter.

In addition to Warsaw postmarks, each letter has a manuscript number of entry in the "Way Book", in the top right-hand corner of the address side as well as the rate markings and other minor annotations which I have not been able to decipher or identify.

The dating of the five letters conforms to that given by Mr. Bojanowicz in his "The Kingdom of Poland — Poland No. 1 and associated Post-



Letter dated August 21st, 1779.

il 
 A. Sua Eccellenza
 Il Sig. Marchese Franco Albergati
 Generale Ajutante di Campo e Cam-
 bellano di S. M. il Re di Polonia
 Venezia

Letter dated September 18th, 1779.

il 
 A. Sua Eccellenza
 Il Sig. Michele Franco Albergati Cap-
 celli Generale Ajutante di Campo
 e Cambellano di S. M. il Re di Polonia
 Venezia.

Letter dated February 23rd, 1782.

ALBERGATTI CORRESPONDENCE - PRELIMINARY TABULATION

Letter Dated	Addressed to	Postmark - Warsaw		
		I	II	III
August 21st, 1779	Venice		*	
September 18th, 1779	Venice	*		
February 23rd, 1782	Venice	*		
September 19th, 1789	Venice			*
April 15th, 1795	Bologna			*
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al History" published in 1979 but contradicts that in "Katalog Specjalizowany Znakow Pocztowych Ziem Polskich", published in 1981.

Of particular interest are the Warsaw II postmark, dated 1779 and the Warsaw III postmark dated 1795. It was for a considerable time assumed that the Warsaw II postmark was introduced five years after the introduction of the Warsaw I postmark. This gap is now reduced to more or less one year. Both postmarks seem to have been used continually until 1787 when the Warsaw III postmark was introduced. Could it be that eventually, as more letters will surface, we will discover that both Warsaw I and II were introduced simultaneously in 1778 or perhaps even earlier?

As for the Warsaw III postmark, it appears now that it was used at least until 1795, not 1793 as it was recently presumed. However there is still no evidence that it was used in 1794, during the Kosciuszko Uprising.

The key questions that come to mind are: Was the Warsaw III postmark used at all during the Kosciuszko Uprising? Was it used in conjunc-

tion with the revolutionary government's censorship seal? Was it used until the formal abdication of Stanislaw August? Was it used after abdication, and if so, for how long?

LETTER DATED AUGUST 21st, 1779:

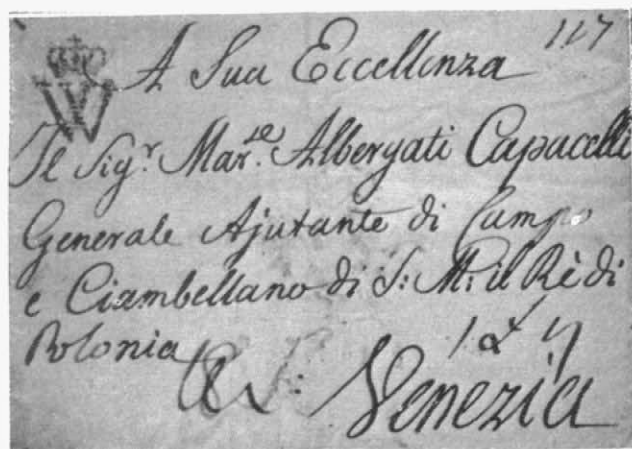
To the best of my knowledge it is the earliest letter bearing the Warsaw II postmark. However, since Mr. Bojanowicz lists 1779 as the year when this postmark was first used, there may be an earlier letter. One thing is certain, since it is a reply to an earlier Albergatti's letter, this is not the first letter in this correspondence. LETTER DATED SEPTEMBER

18th, 1779:

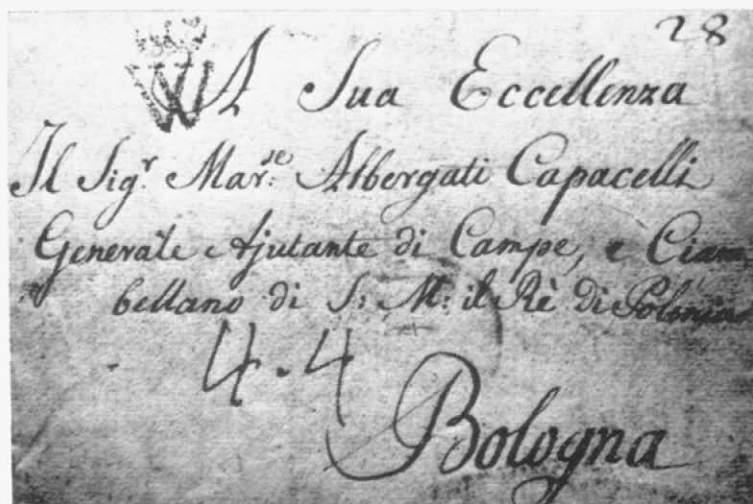
There is a reference to an August 31st letter from Marquis Albergatti.

LETTER DATED FEBRUARY 23rd, 1782:

This is a reply to Albergatti's letter of January 19th, which, when looked upon in conjunction with other letters, gives an indication of frequency of the correspondence. Using statistical projection, one can surmise that there was an exchange of more or less half-a-dozen letters per annum by each of the correspondents and



Letter dated September 19th, 1789.



Letter dated April 15th, 1795.

consequently, possibly something like 100 letters bearing Warsaw Crowned W postmarks! How many of these survive? Judging by the condition of those that I have seen, which is excellent, possibly all.

There are in this letter, interesting, though not very clear, references to Palladio (presumably the great architect of the Italian Renaissance). The author of the letter informs Albergatti that His Highness Prince Stanislaw (nephew of Stanislaw August Poniatowski) is overjoyed to hear of the news and will wait for Palladio (presumably for some drawings, paintings or writings of Palladio) as well as the information on Etruscan vases and "Carta" (map?) of Schmitau (???). He goes on to thank Albergatti for sending works of Goldoni and Chiari (Jesuit, playwright and professor of rhetoric).

Finally there is a reference to some difficulties with customs. "Ah, well, the more things change, the more they stay the same".

LETTER DATED SEPTEMBER 19th, 1789:

The reference to Albergetti's let-

ter to Prince Stanislaw dated August 18th, again confirms frequency of correspondence. There is a reference to Cardinal Boncampagni (whom I have not been able to identify) and some obscure business in Rome.

LETTER DATED APRIL 15th, 1795:

This is the last letter in this correspondence that I have seen but there is no indication in it's contents that the author expected it to be the last letter. It describes the author's and Albergatti's concern for the fate of King Stanislaw August and refers to the king's illness during the Easter holidays (also described in the diary of Count Bezborodko, the king's personal warden appointed by Repnin). In the same context it also refers to Prince Primate, the king's brother who committed suicide eight months earlier.

At the time this letter was written and mailed, Stanislaw August Poniatowski was in Grodno, effectively kept under house arrest by Repnin, Russian Governor General of the newly appropriated provinces of Estonia, Livonia and Lithuania. War-

saw, as indeed the whole of Poland, was occupied by the enemy armies and yet the Warsaw post office continued to function, using the postmarks featuring the symbol of sovereignty, the royal crown.

It also may be the latest letter bearing the Warsaw III postmark. Mr. Bojanowicz lists 1795 as the last year when this postmark was used but does not specify the exact date.

I have not been successful in resolving the mystery of the authorship of the letters. The initials with which all the letters are signed, do not seem to match the initials of any contemporary figures that could have written the letters and are known to me. One interesting suggestion that was made to me by a friend is that the initials do not stand for name alone but also for a formal or informal title of the author.

There is also another interesting connection with this correspondence. Recently I had an opportunity to examine a letter written in Italian, mailed in Warsaw in 1781 and bearing the Warsaw I postmark, which is not part of Albergatti's correspondence. The letter appears to be in the same handwriting as all the letters addressed to Albergatti. It is signed by Gaetano (Kajetan) Ghigiotti.

Ghigiotti was somewhat of an "eminence grise" in the court of Stanislaw August. An Italian Roman Catholic prelate, he was a confidant of the king and the powerful men around the throne, often entrusted with delicate diplomatic missions. It was Ghigiotti who on the king's behalf conducted final negotiations with Baron Asch, plenipotentiary of Catherine the Great, prior to the king's departure from Warsaw in January

of 1795. It was also said that he may have received gifts of money from the Russian ambassador in Warsaw. Finally, he was the king's secretary for Italian correspondence.

Was he the author of Albergatti's letters? Perhaps....

The circumstantial evidence supporting this view is fairly good. Ghigiotti was Italian, knew personally the king as well as all other personalities at the court mentioned in the letters (Prince Stanislaw, Prince Primate), and what is also significant, the handwriting on the letter signed by Ghigiotti seems to be the same as that in all of Albergatti's letters. Unfortunately there is a question of signatory initials on all of Albergatti's letters that simply do not match.

Until better evidence becomes available, we have to be content with the fact that the identity of the author of Albergatti's letters remains unresolved. The handwriting of both Albergatti's letters and a letter signed by Ghigiotti could be differently explained. For example they could have been all written by the same Italian clerk. And yet in spite of this I cannot help feeling that there is some other link between Ghigiotti and the author of Albergatti's letters.

It is my fervent hope that in consequence of this article, I will hear from the owners of the other 95 (?) Albergatti letters. Examining them jointly we will not only answer the few questions that I have raised but also hopefully advance general knowledge of postal history of 18th century Poland.

Finally I would like to thank Mr. J. Bieniecki, Mr. J. Clary, Mr. J. Dobrzeniecki, Mr. A. Kovacevic, Mr. D. Pupejko, the staff of the Instituto

Italiano di Cultura and the Polish Library in Montreal, without whose generous assistance this article could not have been written.

REFERENCES:

Encyclopedia Italiana

Ostatnie lata życia króla Stanisława Augusta by Maria Żywirska

Polska stanisławowska w oczach cudzoziemców edited by Wacław Zawadzki

Stanisław August by Stanisław Mackiewicz Cat

Wybór pism by Dr. Antoni J. (Rolle)

Z okien ambasady saskiej by Jan Jakub Pałz

THE 1925 WARSAW LOPP ISSUE WITHOUT VALUE

By JAMES MAZEPA

The Warsaw branch of the LOPP issued a set of stamps in February 1925 showing a bi-plane flying over Warsaw. Three stamps were made: 5 groszy in orange, 5 groszy in red, and 10 groszy in blue. There were issued both perforate and and imperforate. All were later surcharged with new values.

I have found several imperforate stamps, similar in design to the issued stamps but with three distinct differences: 1) there is no indication of value, 2) they are in a red-orange color, quite distinct from the red and orange of the issued 5 groszy stamp, and 3) the frame line is much thicker than on the issued stamp. I have seen two unused examples, both without gum, and four on flown covers. The flown covers all have dates between April and November 1926. All examples show evidence of a "+" in the margin, a mark that appears between the marginal copies of the issued stamps to indicate registry for the perforating machine. This stamp is not listed in RUCH or SANABRIA.

The question arises as to the nature of this issue. I believe there are two possibilities: 1) It is an essay of the issued stamp. But if so, why are the flown covers dated over a year after the issued appeared? 2) They



Fig. 1. Issued 5 groszy stamp and stamp without value.



Fig. 2. The "without value" stamp on a cover flown from Warsaw to Gdansk on November 17, 1926.

are some kind of reprint and reworking of the design over a year later.

Any other examples, especially blocks, as well as any other flown covers would be helpful in solving this mystery. Please contact the author if members have examples of this interesting stamp.

NEW ISSUES

Polish Workers Party 40th Anniv.

A 2.50 zl. value was issued January 1, 1982 on the anniversary of the founding of the PPF — the Party of the Polish proletariat. Rotogravure printed in multicolor with a tab in sheets of 50 on chalky paper by PWPW Warsaw. Quantity: 6 million. Designed by Andrzej Barecki.

Challenge 50th Anniversary

In April 1982 the Polish Post issued a souvenir sheet commemorating the contribution of the Polish pilots to the international Challenge races. The two stamps were also issued in sheets of 50. The 27 zl. and 31 zl. values were rotogravured in multicolor on chalky paper at PWPW Warsaw. Quantities issued of the

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Stanley Rusin, Treasurer
P.O. Box 56148, Chicago, IL 60656

souvenir sheets: 1,300,000; of the 27 zl. and 31 zl.: 3,000,000 each. Designed by Jacek Brodowski.

Nobel Prize Winners

A set of four values was issued in May of 1982 showing prominent Poles, laureates of the Nobel Prize.

- 3 zl.—Writer Henryk Sienkiewicz
6,000,000 issued
- 15 zl.—Writer Wladyslaw Rejmont
6,000,000 issued
- 25 zl.—Physicist Maria Sklodowska-Curie - 8,000,000 issued
- 31 zl.—Poet Czeslaw Milosz
2,000,000 issued

Offset printed in multicolor on chalky paper in sheets of 30 stamps by PWPW Warsaw. Designed by Wojciech Freudenreich.

600th Anniversary of Black Madonna at Czestochowa

A set of four values were to appear in August of 1982:

- 2½ zl.—Father Augustyn Kordecki,
6 million issued
- 25 zl.—Siege of Jasna Gora painting - 6 million issued
- 31 zl.—Pope John Paul II portrait
4 million issued
- 65 zl.—Ancient icon of the Black Madonna - 2 million issued

Rotogravure printed in multicolor in sheets of 35 on chalky paper by PWPW Warsaw. Designed by Ryszard Dudzinski.

—ARS Polona

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