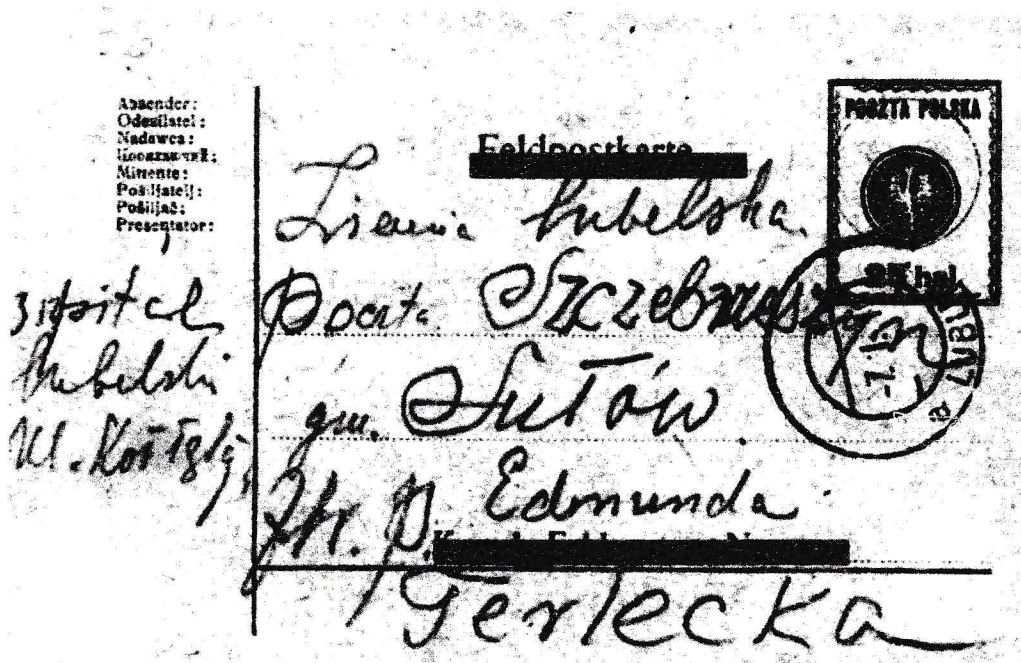




BULLETIN OF THE POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

529

Winter, 2007



Provisional "Lublin" Card – Ficher Cp5

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The Polonus Philatelic Society is a Not-for-Profit Organization which was incorporated in 1939 in the State of Illinois. Its objective is to promote Polish philately via the dissemination of Polish philatelic information in English. The opinions expressed by authors of articles appearing in the Polonus Bulletin do not necessarily reflect the views of the Polonus Philatelic Society.

Members receive the Polonus Philatelic Bulletin quarterly, have full access to www.polonus.org and participate in the events and activities of the society. Annual dues are payable in US funds before the end of March of each calendar year.

DUES - Dues are payable in US funds no later than the end of March of each calendar year.

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- Members name & address are NOT included in the limitation.
- Dealers are excluded from this service
-

DEALER ADS - Dealers wishing to advertise to our members may do so by providing information the size of a business card. Cost is \$50.00 per year (4 issues). Send ad and check made out to POLONUS to the editor. Half page ads - \$50.00 per insertion, full page ads - \$80.00 per insertion

Message from the President

When I joined Polonus back in 1984, it never dawned upon me that some day I would be its' president. However, since my retirement from the rigors of the corporate world, I have expanded my volunteer involvement in organizations that give me great personal satisfaction and here I am, addressing the Polonus membership with my first "Message from the President".

In keeping with my remarks during the Annual Meeting at CHICAGOPEX, I have three parts to my message.

First, I am thankful for the leadership that has preceded this term of office, namely, the former board members, officers, and committee members of Polonus. Their efforts have successfully transitioned the Society from a "local" to an "international" organization. We now have 34 members located in 10 countries (ex-USA) around the world. In fact, we had members attending the Annual Meeting from Canada, Poland and New Zealand.

Second, I want the membership to know that the Society is well and growing in strength. Our membership has grown thus far in 2007, accepting 24 new members. We are a financially viable organization with a positive cash balance and expenses running under budget. The featured benefits of membership, namely the bulletin, the website and forum, the expertizing program, the study groups, and the participation in philatelic shows are all enhanced and in-process of continuous improvement. In short, we are delivering on the priorities established by your survey responses and the commitments made at the previous Annual Meeting.

Third, I can assure you that the leadership of Polonus is committed to growth and continuous improvement. Growth as the leading philatelic organization dedicated to Polish Philately in the English language and continuous improvement of the benefits offered to our membership. Looking ahead, the bulletin, the website and forum, and the reference library will be on the "short-list" of priorities. Our objectives also include, increasing membership and affiliations, completing the filing and obtaining a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit status from the IRS, and developing a program to attract youth to Polish Philately. Our challenge is to expand the committee structure and to increase the number of members volunteering to serve. I will be working on the committee appointments over the next few weeks and look forward to a positive response to my request to serve.

My final comment is that I welcome your comments, questions, and suggestions. I can be reached by e-mail at rvo37@earthlink.net.

Sincerely,
Bob Ogrodnik

CHICAGOPEX Report

The 2007 Annual Polonus meeting ranks in my opinion as the best to date in terms of accomplishments, quality and quantity of Polish theme exhibits, and feedback from those attending.

Accomplishments are discussed by our new president-elect elsewhere in this issue, so I will discuss the event from my personal point of view and my interactions with other attendees. I saw many familiar faces, now good friends that have joined us at past events, some that I had only met once or twice and several whose faces were unfamiliar to me prior to this weekend. It was fantastic to see all of you, many who had traveled vast distances to be with us in Chicago. I only wish I was able to spend more time with all of you. Perhaps next year.

The quality of the ninety plus frames of Polish material entered in the exhibits was outstanding! The high number of gold medals certainly attests to that fact. I was told by numerous visitors that seeing this material was in itself worth the trip. A substantial number of items in the exhibits are seldom seen and among those, several were of a unique variety. My personal thanks to those that shared their collections with us, and congratulations on the awards earned. A full accounting of the exhibits and awards is to be found in the Society News section of this issue.

The Society table was the focal point and meeting place for many members. We attracted 4 new members and two lapsed members renewed their commitment to POLONUS. Over 50 packets of Polish stamps were distributed to youngsters attending the show. We were the only Society to do so and we received many positive comments on that little gesture.

A very important development was the creation of an Affiliate program, where clubs from other parts of the world can become affiliated with POLONUS. More information is found in the Society News section.

Cooperation with various societies was also very successful. We shared a hospitality suite with the Czech and Hungarian Societies, and were able to share the historical overlaps that bind us together. The room was put to good use to all during the entire duration of the show and was a place where members and their guests were able to engage in a social setting without the distractions of the show. Even the judges found their way to our hospitality suite.

We certainly hope to repeat these success at our next Annual Meeting in Denver.

Sincerely,
Roman Sobus, Secretary

A Newly Discovered Postal Rate for Lublin and Lwów (1918-1919)

Paper presented to the Polish Academy of Philately in Ciechocinek, May 2, 2005

By Prof. Julian Auleytner

M. Zbierski's monumental work on Polish postal rates during the inter-war period¹ inspired me to gather up covers from my collection and arrange them according to the rate schedules he described. I had hoped especially to clear up some mysteries in regard to apparent over-franking of covers from the Lublin-Lwów area in the period immediately after World War I. From Zbierski (p. 48, footnote 2), I discovered that the postal rates for formerly Austrian Galicia went into effect on December 12, 1918, six days after they were introduced in territory previously held by Germany. Comparing the two rates, it was clear that marks and kroner were regarded as equivalent.

As it turned out, however, I found no covers franked in accordance with the rate cited by Zbierski; most, in fact, bore no logical connection to it. My analysis of my collection yielded the following observations:

First, mail sent from the districts of Lublin and Lwów had the same postage whether sent from Poland or mailed from abroad.

Second, the amount of postage affixed to covers from this region was greater than that used in formerly German areas.

Third, arranging several dozen of these apparently overpaid letters by date of mailing allowed me to ascertain that these higher frankings all fell into the period between December 16, 1918 and January 7 or 8, 1919.

Fourth, throughout this period both issues of the Lublin overprints (Fischer 17-29; Scott 27-40) were still in use. As an early "national" issue (even though the overprints were on Austrian military stamps), these stamps had been warmly received by the public, as well as by philatelists. (I will return to this point later.)

This analysis raises a question that apparently hasn't been asked in the nearly ninety years since the December 12th rate supposedly went into effect, and certainly has never been explained in the philatelic literature on the topic: Why are these covers apparently overpaid? It has generally been assumed that much of the mail during this relatively brief period (about 23 days) was incorrectly franked as a result of

the sender's ignorance of, or indifference to, the amount of postage required.

An additional circumstance was the scale of the rate increase for postal service in formerly Austrian territory: a ten halerzy postcard, for example, now sold for 25 halerzy — a 250% increase. Thinking that such a rate increase might have been mentioned in the local press, I decided to check daily newspapers from the period. After little initial success, I finally found in the National Library issues of a journal called *Ziemia Lubelska* from 1918 and 1919. On page 2 of the issue for December 12, 1918 (no. 602), I found an announcement of a new and, until now, completely unknown postal rate that precisely explains these apparent discrepancies.

It is important to consider the economic necessity for distinguishing postal rates to be used in areas which still used Austrian kroner from those where the currency was based on the German mark. When the postal rate was set on December 6, 1918, the kroner and the mark were not on par in the exchange market. Therefore, Minister of Posts and Telegraphs T. Arciszewski set forth the postal rates for the whole of Poland in two separate documents, each with its own effective starting date. The official exchange rate was set at 1 mark equals 1.75 kroner. The postal rates for marks were to go into effect on December 10, 1918, as was formally announced in the *Journal of Laws of the Ministry of Internal Affairs* (no. 2, December 13, 1918). The postal rate in kroner, however, was delayed until six days later—December 16th—with no notice, so far as I can tell, beyond that found in *Ziemia Lubelska*. (The delay was most likely caused by difficulties in communication between postal offices and agencies.)

While the date on which the increased kroner rates for Lublin and Lwów began is not absolutely certain, for philatelists its termination point seems clear. From a recently discovered copy of the *Official Journal of Posts and Telegraphs*² in Lublin (no. 1, January 8, 1919, notice no. 5), it appears that the date of the new rate was established on December 29, 1918 in accord with Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs Decree 5255/I.

¹ Zbierski, M., *Polskie taryfy pocztowe 1918-1939* (Poznań: 2003). Page 264 contains relevant citations from the *Monitor Polski* (no. 226 of December 11, 1918 and no. 230 of December 16, 1918).

² The only known copy of this journal from 1919, and two issues from 1920, are found in the library of the Main Statistical Office in Warsaw.

What changed, apparently, was the official rate of exchange. With the mark-based and kroner-based currencies to be set at par after January 19th, the increased postal rates in Lublin-Lwów were eliminated, thus unifying postal rates through Poland. This reduction in rate was published in the *Official Post and Telegraph Journal*² on January 8, 1919, and was also announced in *Ziemia Lubelska* the following day, with an explicit reference to the decree of December 6, 1918.

This date corresponds exactly with what is found on covers from Lublin: Franking based on the higher kroner rates disappears. Moreover, there are letters dated January 7th and 8th that reflect confusion, some franked at the old rate, others at the new. We can therefore establish January 8, 1919 as the date on which the previously independent directorates in Lublin and Lwów were subsumed by the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs, and the higher postal rates in those areas rescinded.

The higher rate, which was in effect a little over three weeks, is closely reflected in the values of the Lublin-overprinted stamps and postcards, and do not correspond at all with the December 16th rates mentioned by T. Wincewicz³ in 1988 and described by Zbierski in 2004.

On December 16, 1918, a first-class letter actually cost 45 halercy, not the 25 cited by Zbierski. This rate is evidenced in four of the Lublin overprints: Fi. 19 and 24-26 (Sc. 29, 35-36 and 38). Of these, numbers Fi. 24/Sc. 38 and Fi. 26/Sc. 36 were issued only four days before the higher rate was officially rescinded.

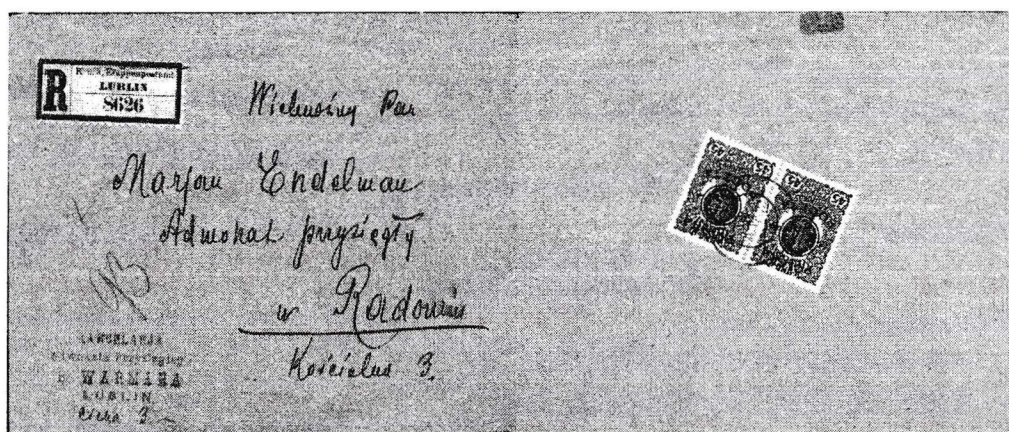


Figure 1

The rate for registered letters was 90 halercy, not 50, as shown in **Figs. 1, 2 and 3**, which illustrate the rate being paid with Austrian postage, and with both issues of the Lublin overprints. Fi. 29/Sc. 40 fills this need. The postcard rate was 25 halercy, not 15, for which postcard Fi. Cp5 and Fi. 23/Sc. 34 are suited (**Figs. 4 and 5**).



Figure 2

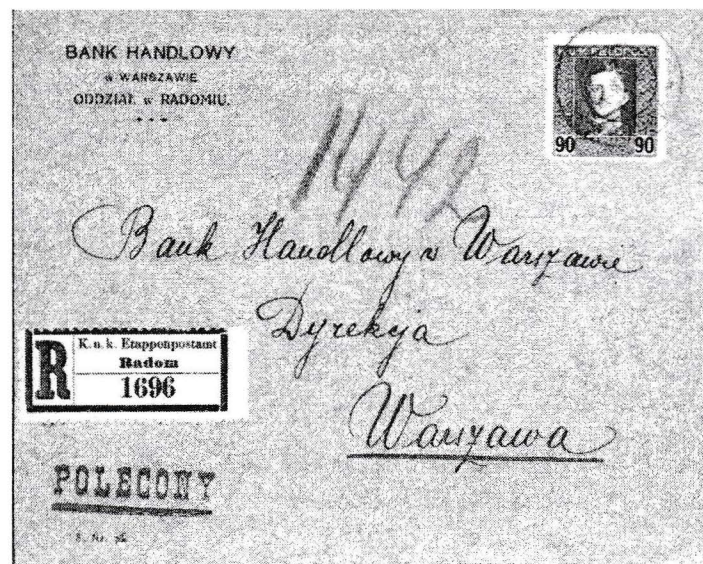


Figure 3

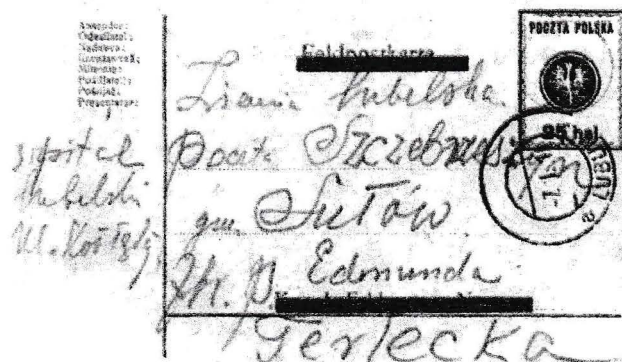


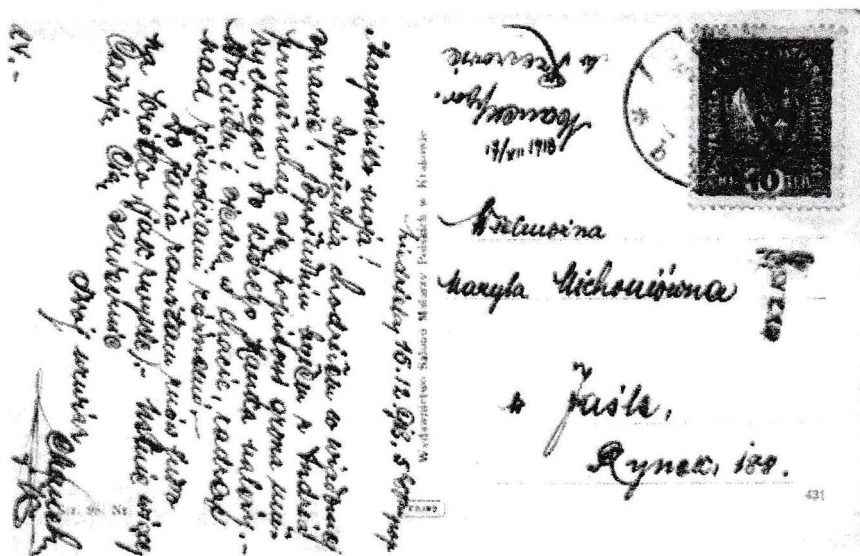
Figure 4

I have in my collection, in fact, a postcard sent from Rzeszów on December 16, 1918 franked at 10 halerzy and



Figure 5

marked with a "T" for the additional postage due—Fig.6



The 3 halerzy (Fi. 20-21; Sc. 30-31) were intended to pay the newspaper rate, while the 10 halerzy (Fi. 17 and 22; Sc. 27 and 32) were used for printed matter, as well as to make up the 1 krone rate for money orders (45h x 2 + 10h).

Figure 6

(That there is little philatelic evidence of this rate will be explained later.) The use intended for the remaining overprinted values is less clear. The 20

halerzy Karlfond's overprint (Fi.18; Sc.28) is found only once after December 16, 1918, and was used in conjunction with other Austrian stamps. Under the earlier Austrian postal rate, this stamp could have been used alone.

The two 50 halerzy stamps from the second issue (Fi. 27-28/Sc. 37 and 39) are harder to explain. Perhaps they were overprinted in anticipation of the new rates based on parity between marks and kroner, as they were only put into circulation a few days before the lower rate took effect. Their use on a first-class letter of the period would constitute overpayment, but they may have been combined with stamps from Austria or Bosnia and Herzegovina to pay the registration fee. There is no confirmation of this, however, in covers dated between January 4-8, 1919. Since most of the stamps from Lublin's second issue were issued in January, relatively few would likely have been used to pay the higher rate; such covers, then, must be of greater value than those dated earlier.

Stamps from the second Lublin edition in use after December 16th, 1918 (Fischer numbers)

Nr 20 – 3h/3 gray	4.1.19 – 7/8.1.19
Nr 21 – 3h/15 pink	31.12.18 – 7/8.1.19
Nr 22 – 10/30 gray-green	8.1.19 – 7/8.1.19
Nr 23 – 25/40 olive green	3.1.19 – 7/8.1.19
Nr 24 – 45/60 red – lilac	4.1.19 – 7/8.1.19
Nr 25 – 45/80 gray-blue	19.12.18 – 7/8.1.19
Nr 26 – 45/80 (with stars)	4.1.19 – 7/8.1.19 (This issue is not postally known)
Nr 27 – 50/60 red – lilac	7.1.19 – 7/8.1.19
Nr 28 – 50 green	4.1.19 – 7/8.1.19
Nr 29 – 90 lilac	21.12.18 – 7/8.1.19

This chart does not include the Karlsofnd overprints (Fi.17-19/Sc. 27-29) which were supposedly in use after December 5th.

The question now arises as to why so few covers reflecting the rates discussed in this article have been found. To begin with, from the end of January 1919 Sadzikowski's Currency Exchange Office in Lublin placed daily ads in *Ziemia Lubelska* soliciting used second-issue Lublin overprints [Fi. 20-29; Sc. 30-40], offering to pay face value for 45, 50 and 90 halercy stamps, and twice face value for the 3, 10 and 35 halercy values. He thus accumulated most of the stamps used during this period.

Second, as was noted twice in the *Official Journal of Posts and Telegraphs* of the Lublin Directorate (January, no. 2:15 and June, no. 8:115), complaints had been registered against certain postal carriers who were cutting out or tearing off the stamps on all forms of mail (letters, postcards, printed matter and newspapers) before delivery. The Lublin Directorate condemned this practice as theft, and ordered postal managers to conduct investigations. That the stamps removed were probably Lublin overprints seems quite understandable, as the stamps—the first “Polish” issue—were in great demand in the area.

Postal examples from this brief period can be found in various franking combinations, since stamps from Austria and Bosnia and Herzegovina still circulated alongside Polish overprints. Thus, we can find covers franked

1) with Austrian stamps alone (Figs 7 and 8);

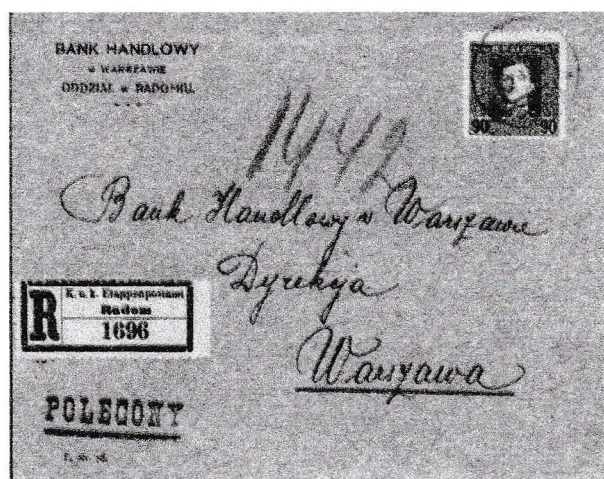


Figure 7



Figure 8

2) solely with stamps from Bosnia and Herzegovina (Figs. 9, 10 and 11);



Figure 9



Figure 10



Figure 11

3) with the first (Karlsfond) or second issues of Lublin overprints (**Figs. 1, 2, 12, 13, 14**); or

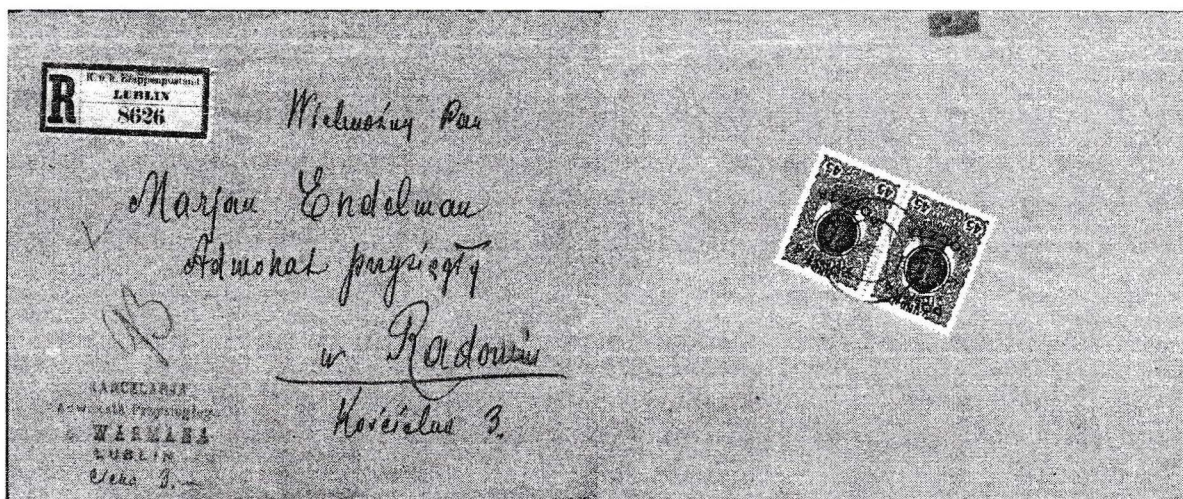


Figure 1



Figure 2

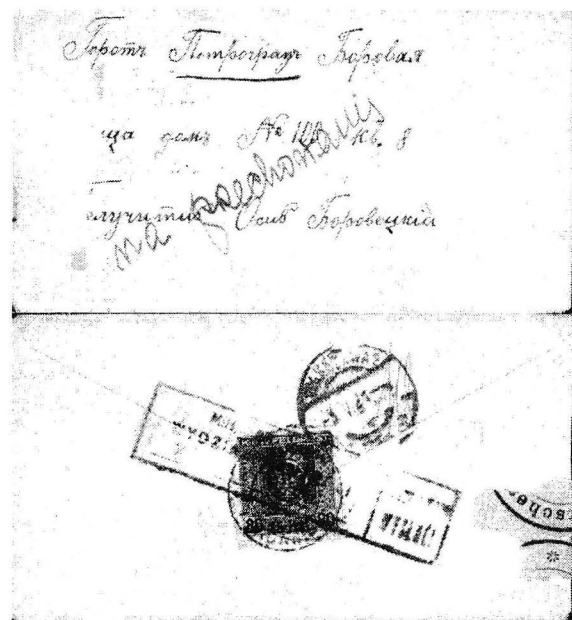


Figure 12

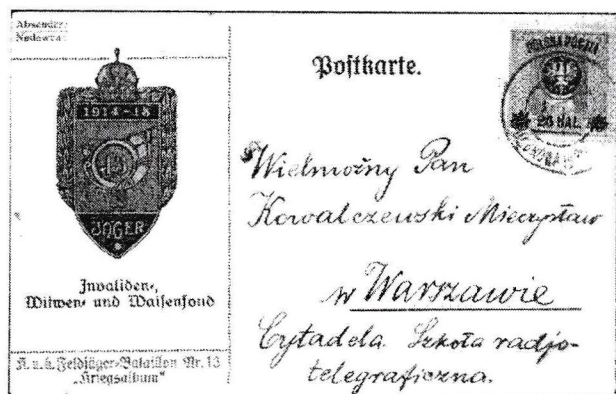


Figure 13



Figure 14

4) with various combinations of the above (**Figs. 15, 16 and 17**).



Figure 15



Figure 16

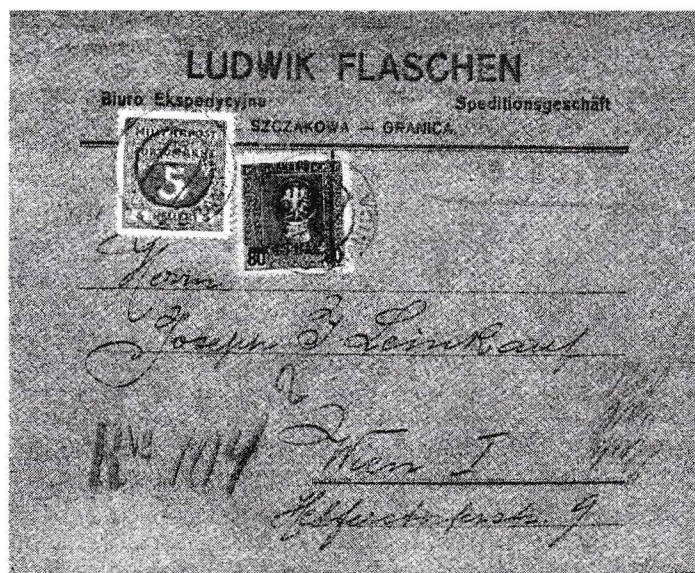
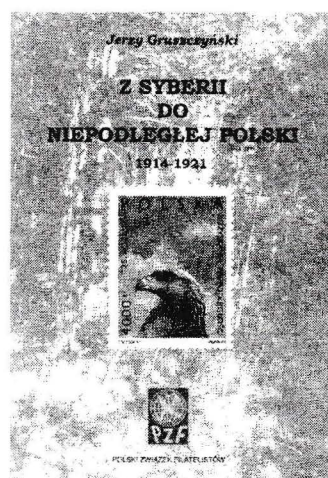


Figure 17

Obviously the most desirable are those franked with Polish stamps, used either singly or in a mixed franking, as in the illustrated examples.

As a final note, discovery of this short-lived postal rate should prompt a reevaluation of some certificated items heretofore deemed overfranked or philatelic in nature, as many of these could be genuine examples of this heretofore unknown rate. Similarly, due to the brief period in which these rates were in effect, covers reflecting their use should increase in value. Major catalogs should reevaluate this material, as well as document the abundance of mixed franking during the period.



From Siberia to Polish Independence - 1914/1921

By Jerszy Gruszczyński

Reviewed by Chris Kulpinski

The work was awarded a Vermeil Medal at CHICAGOPEX

It was 1914 and World War I just started. Austria and Germany declared war on Russia. Poland, which on three previous occasions had been partitioned by these three powers, once again became a battle ground.

The want for independence never left the Polish psyche and several military organizations came into being, but their ideas for Polish independence were not at all homogenous.

The most famous of these were the **Polish Legions**, formed in Galicia. Their goal was to struggle for independence against the Russians on the side Austria-Hungary. Simultaneously the **Pulawy Legion** was formed in the Kingdom of Poland. It was tolerated by the Russians because their goal was to fight against Germany. Germany on the other hand helped form the **Polnishe Wehrmacht** to fight the Russians. Poles were found on all fronts, and undoubtedly on occasion, shooting at each other.

This extensive book (237 pages) historically and philatelically documents the struggle for Polish independence by the various factions. It is lavishly illustrated with cancellations, censor markings, unit markings and it puts a face on many of the principal participants by illustrating modern stamps bearing the likeness of these individuals.

Though written in Polish, this work is of great benefit to English speaking collector of this area of Polish philately, not only for it's illustrations but for its series of 8 individual colored maps showing the areas of formation and activity. As a background to Polish participation in military activity, it even covers the time period in which Poles fought with the Russians against the Japanese in 1905.

This hard bound book may be purchased directly from the author for \$50.00. You can contact him via e-mail at agruszczyński@plusnet.pl or write to him at *ul. Starej Basni 12/28, 01-853, Warszawa, Poland*



From the Mail Bag –

An answer to the meaning of the question I raised in the previous issue of the Bulletin as to the meaning of this hand stamp.



The article was about two airmail covers to the USA, but they were franked with an international rate of 55 grosze. Local ground rate was 25 grosze. They were from different parts of Poland, but one arrived in Warsaw in 1 day and the other a month after being mailed. Both covers had blue "Air Mail" labels.

Jerzy Kupiec-Weglinski, an expert on aero philately, wrote to inform me that the handstamp indicated that the franking was insufficient for "local air mail" and therefore the letter was directed to be sent by rail and then, from Warsaw, by air.

An interesting question still remains. Why did one cover travel about 310 miles in one day, and the other 190 miles in about a month?



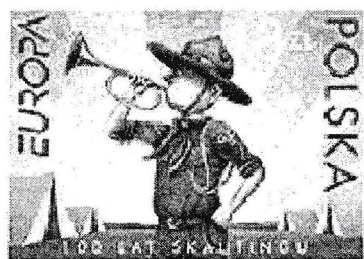
Railways in Poland

The history of rail travel in Polish territory

began during the second half of the 19th century when the Warsaw-Vienna railway line was opened. In the 1920's the production of locomotives was started in Chrzanów and Poznań. After the Second World War the wagons and

locomotives were produced in Wrocław. The first electric trains were introduced in the 1930's but the real growth came in the 1950's and 1960's. The Polish State Railway (PKP) celebrated its 80th anniversary in 2006. The railway at Wolszty is the only place in Europe where steam locomotives leave every day making regular connections to Poznań and Leszno. The depot houses more than 30 locomotives. The four stamps issued depict cars from the steam locomotives.

Date of Issue	April 28, 2007
Sheet Format	Sheet of 16
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	J. Skakun
Fischer #	4158-4161



Europa – 100 Years of Scouting

This year marks the 51st anniversary of the Europa stamp. Poland has

participated in this joint issue since 1991. The year's issue depicts a Boy Scout in uniform at camp with tents in the background. The Boy Scouts celebrate their 100th anniversary this year with an international jamboree in England. The Boy Scouts were founded

by British Army General Robert Baden-Powell after the Boer War in 1899. Andrzej Małkowski is credited with bringing scouting to Poland.

Date of Issue	May 5, 2007
Sheet Format	20 stamps
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	A. Pekalski
Fischer #	4162

Polish Artist - Stanisław Wyspiański

This issue commemorates the 100th anniversary of the death of Polish Artist Stanisław Wyspiański (1869-1907). He was a versatile artist

whose favorite painting technique was in Pastel. He chose pastel because he was allergic to oil paints! The new issue depicts one of

Date of Issue	May 18, 2007
Sheet Format	20 stamps
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	J. Wysocki
Fischer #	4163

his paintings - "Little Helen with a vase and flowers". He is also known for preparing a new polychromy for St. Mary's Church in Cracow in cooperation with Jan Matejko. Besides painting, Wyspiański was a poet, noted playwright, designer of furniture and interior designer. His most celebrated play is "The Wedding". He died at the young age of 38 and is buried in a crypt beneath Cracow's Church of the Rock.



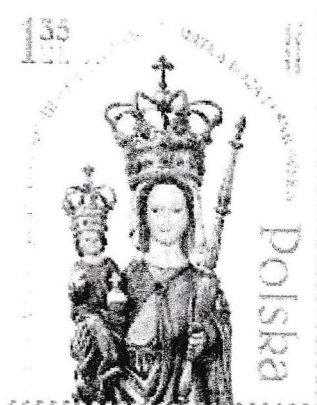
Polish Cities – Chorzów

The 16th stamp in this ongoing series celebrates the 750th Anniversary of the City of Chorzów. On the 24th of June, 1257, Ladysław Prince of Opole allowed the friars from the Order

Date of Issue	June 15, 2007
Sheet Format	100 Stamps
Printing Method	Rotogravure
Designer	M. Zyla - Kwiatkowska
Fischer #	4171

of Guardians of the Holy Sepulchre to set up a village originally named Chareu. The 3.55 PLN stamp depicts the Nicholas Copernicus Planetarium, situated at one of the highest points (320 m above sea level) in the area.

The city is situated on the Rawa River in the middle of the Upper Silesian Industrial Area. For a few centuries Chorzów remained a small village under the cloister's management. Rapid development in the area began around 1780, when the local parish, father Ludwik Bojarski discovered rich deposits of black coal. Within a short time, mining and steel mills were built. For a long time the mining and metallurgic industry dominated the area's economy. Chorzów has now become an important sport and cultural center boasting the largest sport stadium in Poland.



Leśniów Jubilee

This issue celebrates the 625th anniversary of the arrival of the carving of the Holy Virgin with Jesus to Leśniów.

Date of Issue	July 2, 2007
Sheet Format	20 Stamps
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	P. Orzechowska
Fischer #	4172

Legend has it that the prince Władysław of Opole, while traveling from Russia to the monastery at the Jasna Góra, ran out of water due to the hot summer of 1382. In desperation he prayed to the Holy Virgin for help and a source of water miraculously sprang up before him. The thankful prince moved on and left the figure of the Holy Virgin and Jesus at Leśniów. This

wooden medieval figure, made of Linden wood in the Gothic style, resides on the main altar of the Leśniów church.



Polish Arabian Horses

Poland has raised Arabian Horses since the early part of the 18th

century with the early studs coming from Turkey. They were used extensively by the Polish military during WWI and have since been bred for international shows and competitions. There are 3 major National stud farms in Poland today located in the cities of Janów Podlaski, Michałow, and Białka.

Date of Issue	August 31, 2007
Sheet Format	16 Stamps
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	W. Hyszeko
Fischer #	4173 - 4176



Polish Zoos

Four new stamps of the "Polish Zoos" series have been issued for the zoos in Plock, Łódź, Gdańsk and Kraków.

Date of Issue	September 11, 2007
Sheet Format	20 Stamps
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	M. Blazkow
Fischer #	4177 - 4180

The City Zoo at Plock was established in 1951 on the Vistula River steep slope covering an area of 10 hectare. This zoo is famous for its collection of rare reptiles and amphibians. On the 1.35 PLN stamp is the South American monkey, the "Emperor Tamarin".

Established in 1938, The City Zoo at Łódź has more than 3,000 animals inhabiting an area of 16.5 hectare. Its specialty is bird breeding. The 2.40 PLN stamp depicts an image of a black stork, which is bred in captivity.

The City Zoo Gdańsk-Oliwa is the largest zoo in Poland covering 120 hectare. This zoo was established in 1954 and specializes in exotic species in natural habitats and endangered animals. The 3 PLN stamp depicts an image of the African elephant.

The City Zoo in Kraków, established in 1929, is situated on a small prominence in the Wolski Forest on 20 hectare of land. One of its biggest attractions are habitats for the large cats. The 3.55 PLN stamp depicts the irbises (snow leopard).

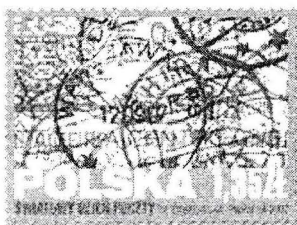


50th International Festival of Contemporary Music

In 1956, Tadeusz Baird and Kazimierz Serocki organized a festival in Warsaw to bring contemporary music to the Polish people.

This annual event is now known as the "Warsaw Autumn" festival. Participation in this festival helped establish the careers of such renowned Polish composers as Krzysztof Penderecki, Witold Lutosławski, Henryk Mikołaj Górecki and Wojciech Kilar. This huge event requires a large number of venues and is held in the Warsaw Philharmonic, the Academy of Music, the Great Theatre, the studios of Polish Radio, many Warsaw churches and sports halls, and even in such unexpected places as Ujazdów Castle (currently the Center of the Modern Art). The 3 PLN stamp depicts Moon rising over a Warsaw cityscape that represents a musical recording.

Date of Issue	September 21, 2007
Sheet Format	20 Stamps
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	M. Dabrowska
Fischer #	4181



World Post Day

World Post Day is celebrated each year on the 9th of October on the anniversary of establishing the Universal Postal Union.

The Universal Postal Union (UPU - Union Postale Universelle) was established on October 9, 1874, and since 1948, it belongs organizationally to the UN. It plays the role of chief supervisor of the organization, is responsible for developing and improving the quality of postal services, setting up the delivery standards and promoting co-operation between the member states. Poland joined the UPU in 1919. This year, the 1.35 PLN stamp depicts a letter that has traveled around the world.

Date of Issue	October 9, 2007
Sheet Format	20 Stamps
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	M. Dabrowska
Fischer #	4182

"Polish Prisoners of War in Lithuania, September 1939"

Edition Nr. 527 of the "Bulletin of the Polonus Philatelic Society"

By Stefan Czarniecki, Polonus life member

I took part in the 1939 campaign as a Reserve Cadet Officer in the Artillery. On the 17th of Sept. 1939, I was in Vilnius when a Red Army plane dropped thousands of leaflets informing the people about imminent help coming from the Soviets!!! **(Ed. Note – Vilnius at this time was called Wilno and was a part of Poland)**

The following morning the soldiers from the supply center located on 10 Potocka Street, stating that were on their way to help in the defense of Warsaw. I joined them. As we passed through a "shtetle" **(a Jewish settlement)** called Ostrynia, a group of youngsters wearing red armbands greeted us near a freshly decorated red gate. They were obviously not expecting the Polish Army to be marching through their area

The next day, as we were moving towards Warsaw, an artillery detachment informed us of the defense of Grodno against the Red Army. We were also told of the brutal shooting of General Jozef Kostanty Olszyna-Wilczynski **(1890-1939 one of the high-ranking commanders of the Polish Army. He was murdered by the Soviets during the Polish Defensive War of 1939).**

Throughout our journey we encountered army supply columns with carts filled with bread and bacon driven by peasants who were terrified and panicked by the constant shooting from Red Army tanks. After passing through Sopockinie, we crossed the Augustow Canal and reached the town of Sejny. Later, to avoid the advancing Russian tanks, we found ourselves in the Augustow Wilderness of the forest inspectorate Giby. On the night of the 22nd of September, while in the military guard under General Przezdziecki's staff, we received an order to cross the Lithuanian border in order to reach France.

After rendering our arms on September 23rd on the Polish border in Kopciowo, we spent the night in Alytus and later got to the resort town of Birsztonas. Here we were able to use the food found on Polish supply columns for about a week.

The Lithuanian authorities then began registering us all as they encircled us with a barbed-wire fence. All this data was sent on to the Red Cross in Geneva. Here I would like to add that I was able to send a postcard from this internment camp informing my parents, who were then in the occupied city of Krakow, that I was well.

Not wanting to remain in this camp named "Internal Stowykla Birsztonas", I escaped with another cadet and marched to the city of Kaunas. Because we were wearing sheepskin coats and looked like Displaced Persons, we went straight to the Kaunas custodial Red Cross office. Here we were able to obtain civilian clothes and, to my great surprise, I picked up a postcard from occupied Krakow with the address of my mother's relatives who were then living in Kaunas.

In the Lithuanian capital of Kaunas there was a Polish Consulate which issued us with Polish temporary passports. With such a document I went to register in person to the municipal police office. They, however, stamped my passport with a green annotation forbidding me to reside in the Lithuanian capital!

Meanwhile, the director of the Polish Bank in Lithuania, Mr. Butler, helped us out by renting a bus which was used to drive Polish Displaced persons to safety to various Polish homes in the area.

In order to follow instructions obtained from the Polish consulate I proceeded in applying for foreign visas. But to do that, I had to ask the local police each time I wanted to go to Kaunas for a one-day pass!

Because I was a Reserve Cadet Officer in the Artillery, the French Consulate issued me a one-way visa to France. In the British Consulate, Mr. Preston issued me a British transit visa. The most difficult visa to obtain was the Norwegian one for which I had to pay 14 litas. In the meantime we received orders to leave the city of Kaunas and to settle in the countryside.

I remember the date of the 20th of April, 1940. While in the manor of Barsuniszkas, and listening to a radio announcement informing us about Hitler's birthday, a fully armed "Szaulis" (similar to our National Guard) entered our house to place me under arrest. The following morning a Lithuanian "kalakutas" (a nick name for the local police) marched with me to Penkai Fortas in Kaunas. From there I was transported to Kalvariija.

Before the German invasion of Russia, the internment camp I had been in was evacuated to the railway stop of Molodeczno, from where we were sent far into Russia.

Two months later the Russians took over all of Lithuania and deported everyone to various parts of Russia.

The September, 1939 travels of Stefan Czarniecki. The map below is of the pre-WWII borders



Ed. Note - This would be a good place to thank Mr. Czarniecki for the gracious donation of his Polish philatelic literature to the Society. The literature is being forwarded to Anatoly Chelnov, our librarian, where it will be catalogued, along with the donation of the estate of Conrad Straub and will be made available to the membership.

Availability of this material and conditions regards usage will be set forth in an upcoming edition of the Bulletin and, of course, on our web-site www.polonus.org

Society News

Palmares –

The following awards were presented to Polish exhibits at CHICAGOPEX –

Jerzy Kupiec-Weglinski – *The Air Mail in Poland (1918-1939)*

Grand Award, Presidents Award, Best in Show, American Air Mail Society Award, American Philatelic Society Medal of Excellence – Material 1900-1940
Show Gold, Polonus Gold

Julian Auleytner – *Provisional Handstamps Used in Poland (1918-1921)*

Chicago Philatelic Society Novice Award (First Time Exhibitor), **American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors Novice Award, American Philatelic Society Research Award, Show Gold, Polonus Gold**

Roman Sobus – *Internal Camp Post 1942-1945 at Offizierlager IIC – Woldenberg*

Polonus Grand Award, Show Gold, Polonus Gold,

Jan Niebrzydowski – *One Polish Family WWII Ordeal*

Polonus One Frame Grand Award, Show Gold, Polonus Gold

Chris Kulpinski – *Soviet Occupation of Poland and the Baltic States (1939-1941)*

Rossica Society President's Award, Show Vermeil, Polonus Gold

Paul Phillips – *Gruss Aus Paradies: Life in German Occupied WWII Poland*

German Philatelic Society Gold, Show Gold, Polonus Gold

Andrzej Radomski – *Correspondence of Polish Soldiers Interned in Switzerland (1940-1945)*

Postal History Society – Best Postal History Exhibit, Show Vermeil, Polonus Gold

Gerald Menge – *General Government (1940-1944); Regularly Printed Definitives, Rejected Designs and Essays Prepared, but not Issued*

American Philatelic Society Medal of Excellence – Material 1940-1980, **German Philatelic Society Silver, Show Gold, Polonus Gold**

Roy Koczarski – *Camp Posts in Gross Born, Neubrandenburg and Murnau Oflags*

Show Gold, Polonus Gold

- **Mail in Partitioned Territories of Poland (1772-1918)**

Show Vermeil, Polonus Gold

Jerzy Kozlowski – *Warszawa 1778-1915; Historical Outline of Post in Warsaw*

Show Vermeil, Polonus Silver

Richard Mallow – *First Issue of the Polish People's Republic (1944)*

Show Gold, Polonus Gold

Andrew Urushima – *1944 POW Olympics – Gross Born and Woldenberg*

Show Gold, Polonus Gold

Frank Wiatr – *Cracow postal History from the Middle Ages to the Postage Stamp*

Show Gold, Polonus Gold

Literature Awards

Jerzy Gruszczyński – *A Syberii do Niepodległej Polski (1914-1921)*

Show **Vermeil** (there is review of this book in this issue)

Chris Kulpinski – *Soviet Occupation of Poland 1939/41; A Postal History*

Show **Silver** (there will be a review of this book in the next issue)

To put things in perspective, there were a total of 42 philatelic exhibits. Polish exhibits won 14 awards - 9 Golds, 4 Vermeils and 1 Silver – **33%**. Of the 31 Special Awards, Polish exhibitors won 13 – **42%**. Polish philately and exhibiting is alive and well. We would encourage you to consider exhibiting at ROMPEX, May 2008.

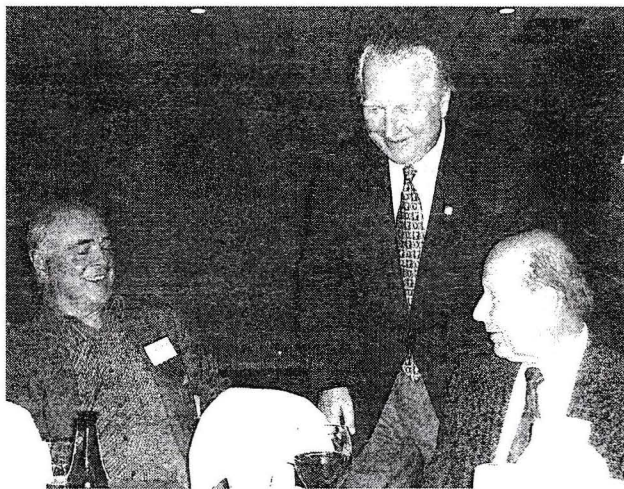
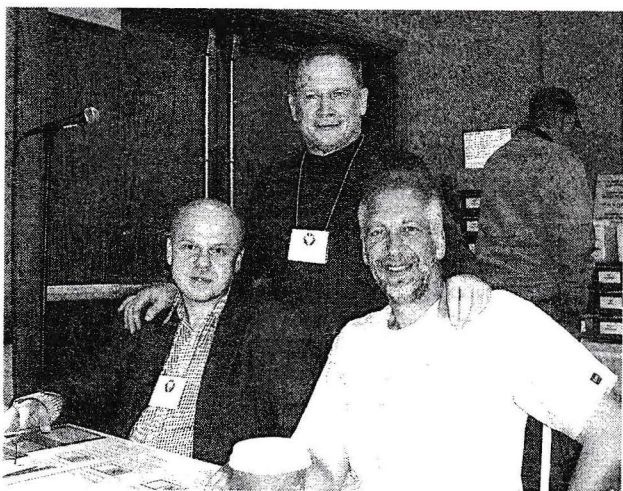
Also, exhibits of Julian Auleytner, Jerzy Kozłowski and Andrzej Radomski were brought from Poland by Antoni Kurczynski. Jacek Kosmala, an international judge from Poland was one of the judges.



Ignacy Szynabski of Canada, Jerzy Stahl, Andrezy Szymanski of Canada, Adrian Wortman of New Zealand, Polonus expertizer Zbigniew Korczen of Poland with host Roman Sobus at the exhibits.



Past President Chris Kulpinski, Incoming President Bob Ogrodnik with Roy Koczarski sharing a laugh at the CHICAGOPEX Banquet



Zbigniew Korczen, Incoming vice-President Hank Bieniecki with new member Adrian Wortman of New Zealand at the dealers bourse.



New Members –

Below is a list of new members since our last publication. Welcome. We look forward to your participation and contributions.

Randolph R. Fisher - 1647
P.O. Box 125
Kawkawlin, Michigan 48631

Czeslaw Olechno-Huszcza - 1648
1841 St. John Road, Apt. 39A
Seal Beach, California 90740

James R. Wirzman - 1649
650 E. Vista Ridge Mall Drive
Lewisville, Texas 75067

John Pavlik - 1650
713 Underwood Road
Vestal, New York, 13850-6041

Names of new members who applied in Chicago will be presented in the next issue.

Zbigniew Chojczak's THE RECONSTRUCTION OF POLAND (1918-1921) AND ITS IMPACT ON POLISH PHILATELY, Part II, will be published in the Spring issue of the Bulletin.

POLPEX 2008

POLPEX 2008 Stamp and Coin Show will be held Friday and Saturday, February 23rd and 24rd, 2008, at the White Eagle Hall, 6839 Milwaukee Ave. in Chicago., IL. Participating will be the Polish American Numismatic Association and will be hosted by the Chicago Chapter of POLONUS.

The theme of the show will be honoring the 400th Anniversary of founding of Jamestown, where Polish glass blowers were the first to organize an industry. The Club will have appropriate cachet covers with US cancels.

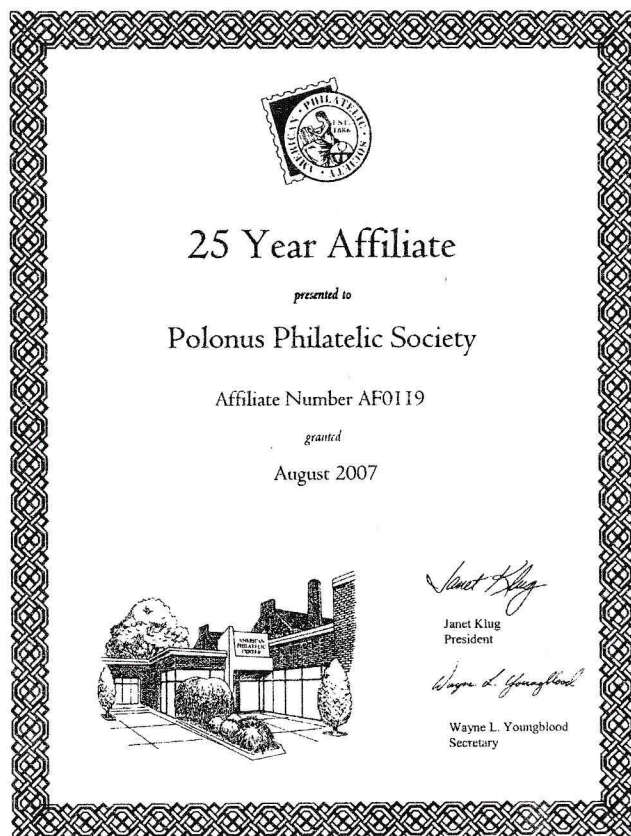
To participate in the show by exhibiting, or to purchase a cachet, please get in touch with Fred Szebel, 1615 E. Central Rd., Unit 4200, Arlington Heights, IL. 60005. 1-847-437-1601

Polonus Recognized -

On August 10, 2007, the APS Affiliate Support Committee hosted a luncheon at STAMPSHOW in Portland OR. At this luncheon POLONUS, along with 7 other Societies, was recognized for its twenty- five year affiliation with American Philatelic Association.

We were represented by **Roy Koczarski**, who was exhibiting at the show. Roy received GOLD for his "Camp Post in the Gross Born, Neubrandenburg and Murnau Oflags"

The certificate will be held by our secretary, **Roman Sobus**.



ROMPEX 2008 -

Although CHICAGOPEX has just ended, we are preparing for our next annual show in Denver – The Rocky Mountain Stamp Show - ROMPEX 2008 in May 16/18th. We realized the closeness of the dates between Chicago and Denver shows, however, it is the intention of the Board to schedule meetings in various parts of the country in order to allow as many members as possible to participate.

In addition to Polonus, the following societies will be participating -
Civil Censorship Study Group
Military Postal History Society (War Cover Club)
Society of Australasian specialists/Oceania

Show will be held at the Denver International Airport Holiday Inn
15500 E 40th Av
Denver, Colorado 80239

Request Special Room Code **ROM**

phone - 303-371-9494 ~ 800-423-0908

24 Hour Complimentary Airport Shuttle

<http://www.rockymountainstampshow.com/>

New Affiliate Program announced at CHICAGOPEX

In our continuing efforts to promote POLONUS as the leading organization for English speaking collectors of Polish philatelic material, and with the desire to promote Polish philately worldwide, the Board of Directors has established an affiliate program which will allow Polish philatelic societies outside of Poland to become affiliated with POLONUS. The overall purpose is to strengthen and support all aspects of Polish philately through education and mutual support.

The program will work in the same vein as the Affiliate Program of the American Philatelic Society. POLONUS is an affiliate #119 of the APS, but we retain our identity as a Society specializing in Polish philately.

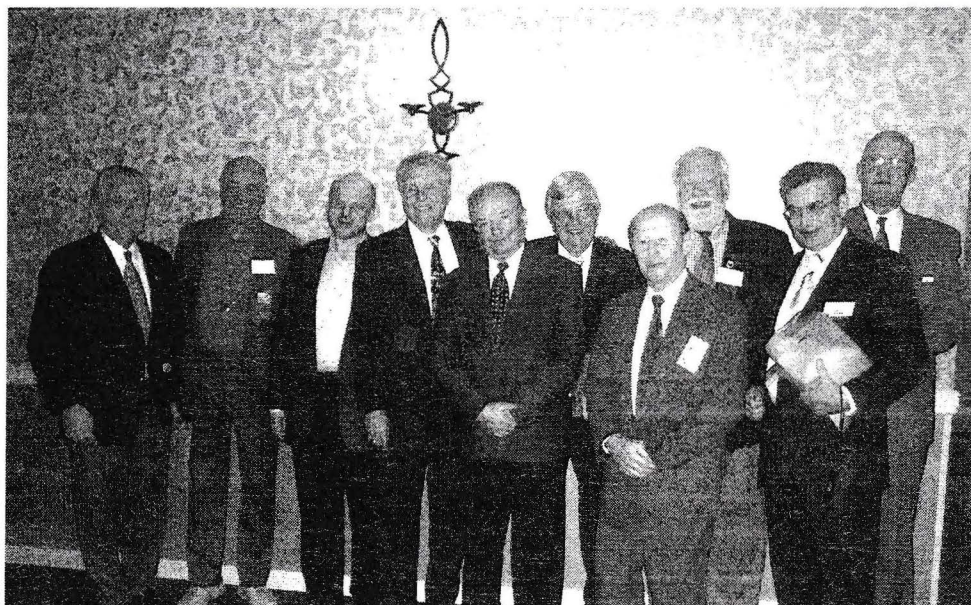
Any Club wishing to become affiliated with us will retain its own identify, but will have access to the same web-site programs that will be available to POLONUS members. And just like APS, we will be able to solicit members among their group. The web-sites of the various groups will be linked for easy access to all and we will exchange Bulletins.

The first group to take advance of this new program are our friends to the north in Canada. The Polish/Canadian Coin and Stamp Club "TROYAK", of the greater Toronto area and located in Mississauga, Ontario is our first affiliate. For more information write to info@troyakclub.com or visit their web-site. The link is found at our web-site – www.polonus.org.

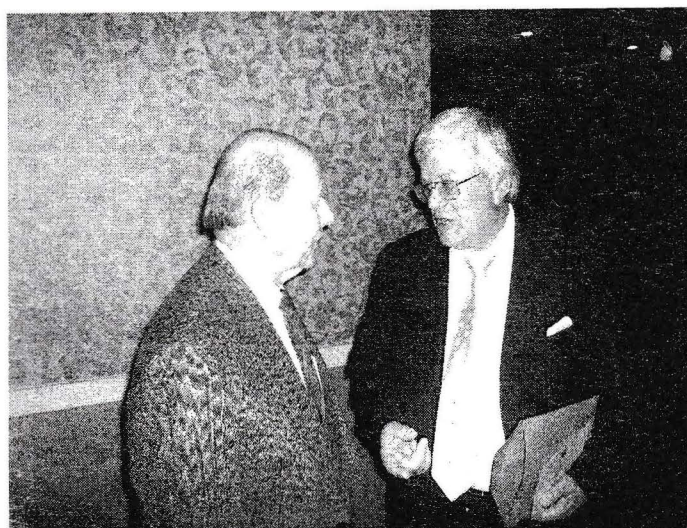
We also want to support and strengthen local pockets of Polish collectors that exist throughout the United State by promoting loose chapters that can meet on an informal basis at various National shows in their area, as was done last year at WESTPEX, where a number of California Polonus members were able to gather. Chicago is of course, our first chapter, followed by Central California. We spoke to collectors from Detroit and Buffalo about helping them organize.

If it going to be a long and tough road, but we will keep you posted. If you can in any way help to promote this idea, contact any of the officers listed on the first page.

More Pictures from CHICAGOPEX

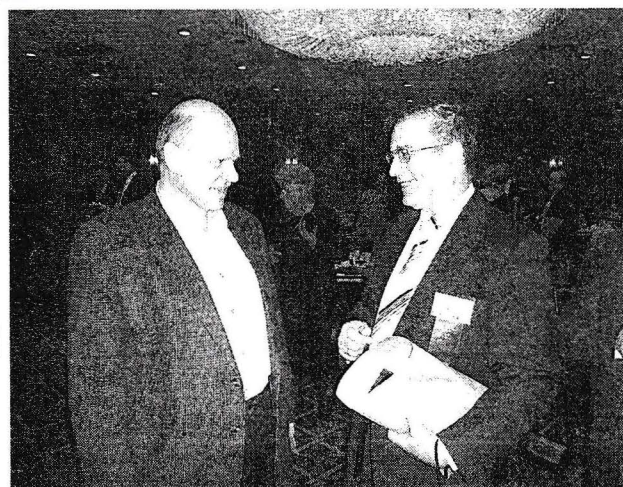


Bob Ogrodnik, Chris Kulpinski, Zbigniew Korzen, Richard Mallow, Antoni Kurczynski, Jacek Kosmala, Roy Koczarski, Jim Mazepa, Julian Auleytner and J.J. Danielski



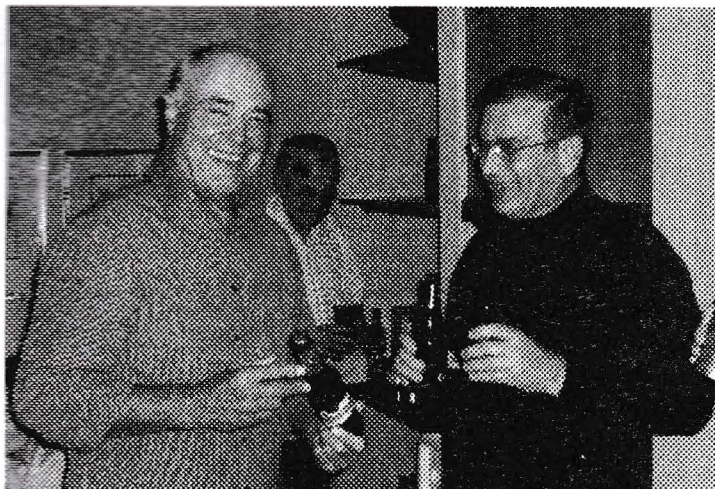
Zbigniew Korzen congratulating Julian Auleytner on his many awards.

Roy Koczarski discussing his exhibit with Judge Jacek Kosmala at the hospitality suite.



Antoni Kurczynski, Commissioner from Poland, Chris Kulpinski and Bob Ogrodnik show off medals at the Banquet





Chris Kulpinski and Julian Aulytner comparing beers at the hospitality suite. Jacek Kosmala is in the background, probably getting some wine.



Photos courtesy of Roman Sobus

Guidelines for Submitting Articles

Every publication depends on articles and the Polonus Bulletin is not different. We would be very happy to accept your articles, comments, criticisms, addendums or clarifications to previous articles. Articles would be published as such, and the other as Letters to the Editor.

Submissions will be edited to correct grammar or syntax, and the editor, at his discretion will revise text or captions to add clarity or enhance the readability of the article. Such changes will be coordinated with the author.

Submissions can be sent in any format or font, but I ask that you use WORD. Also, any scans should be 300 DPI.

USEFUL WEBSITES

Following is a list of web-sites relating to Polish philately that you may find useful. I know there are others and if you know of any, please let me know so that I can include them in future listings. This list will be published on an ongoing basis so that you do not have to look through old copies of the Bulletin to find the information you are seeking.

American Association of Exhibitors– www.aape.org/index

American Philatelic Society– www.stamps.org

Cherrystone Auctions– www.cherrystoneauctions.com

E-bay – www.ebay.com

Fischer Catalogue – www.fischer.pl

History of Poland on Stamps– www.gopoland.com/history

Polish Collecting – www.polishstamps@yahoo.com

Polish Post Office – www.poczta-polska.pl

Polish Philatelic Literature in English– www.kulpinski.net/philately

Polish Philatelic Society– www.polonus.org

Polish Stamp Auction– www.stamps-pl.com

Polish Stamp Encyclopedia– www.home.zonnet.nl/ben_nieborg

Stamp Domain – www.stampdomain.com

Translation site – www.poltran.com/pl.php4

Worldwide Experts and Forgeries– www.filatelia.fi

Polish F.P.O. Cancellations of Foreign Stamps

Chris Kulpinski

You wouldn't expect to find a Polish censor marking or a Polish Field Post cancel on a United States stamp. They do however exist and are a legitimate area of search and collection for both U.S. and Polish collectors. Only two different U.S. issues are found with these cancellations – Scott C25 and UC 4; both 6 cent airmail stamps that paid the international airmail rate.

These covers are never found registered and therefore there aren't any transits or receiving cancellations found on these covers, unless the cover was forward. There are no indications where the mail originated and very few clues as to how it traveled, other than the fact that military transports carried the mail to various destinations from where the letters were transferred to the civilian post office.

Some background information is in order. When Poland was attacked by Germany on September 1st, 1939 and invaded by Russia on September 20th, 1939 Poles found themselves squeezed between two enemies. The Soviets deported to Russia and Siberia thousands of individuals and families; people who were considered the "intelligentsia"; educated people who might become leaders in an opposition movement.

In June, 1941, Germany attacked Russia and in order not to fight on 2 fronts, i.e. the Germans from the West and a potential Polish uprising in the East, Stalin agreed through difficult negotiations to free the Poles who wished to leave Russia and he permitted the formation of a Polish Army on Russian soil under the command of Gen. Wladyslaw Anders. It was stipulated that the army would be fed, cloth and armed by the British and ostensibly used to fight the Germans.

U.S. stamp cancelled by Polish Field Post #113 and dated Feb. 28, 1945. Rare censor by the British in Naples.

The oval "572" is a Polish censor's mark.

The cover was mailed from Forli, Italy, where the unit was stationed.



The Army, and the remaining civilians – children, women and old men, were then transported via the Caspian Sea, into Iran. From here, the civilians migrated to refugee camps in various parts of the British Empire.

The army joined Polish soldiers who had escaped Poland through other routes. These soldiers formed the Carpathian Brigade and both groups were attached to the British 8th Army, station in the Middle East.

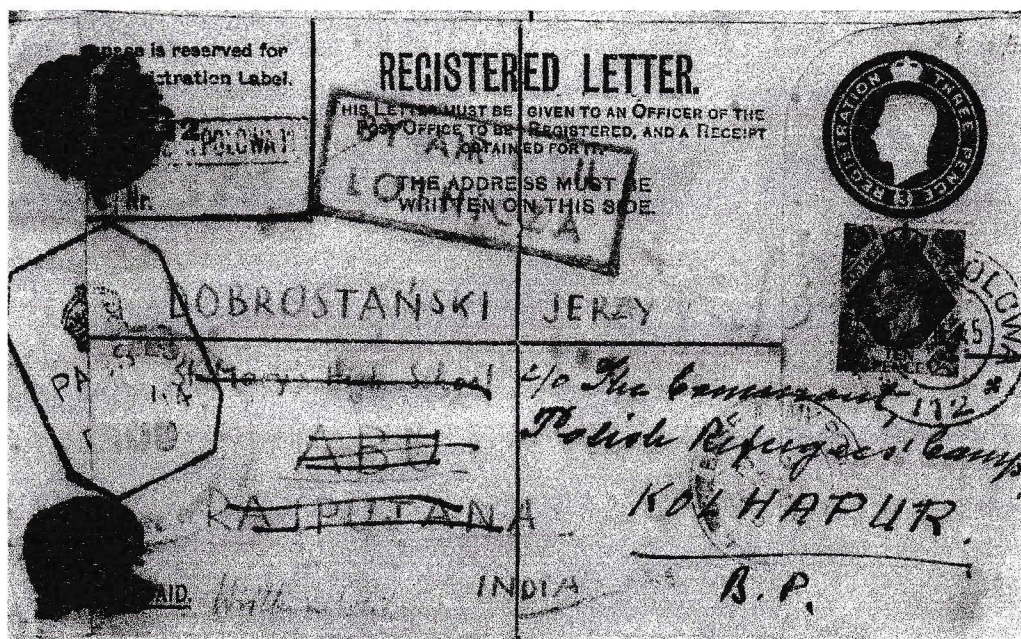
This Polish Army, known as the Polish 2nd Corp fought with the Allies at Tobruk and advanced through Italy with the British. They were instrumental in the fall and capture of Monte Cassino.

The Poles, under General Wladyslaw Anders landed in Italy in December of 1943. The first Polish Field Post in Italy was #121, which began service on the 23rd of December in

Taranto. Immediately thereafter, #111 and #122 began service.

As the troops advanced, new FPO's were added and by the end of the war, there were 30 fully functioning Polish FPO's in Italy.

It is from this area of Italy that the covers in question originate. Mail, of course, was free to soldiers. This did not include Air Mail. Air Mail required a stamp from any Allied country; or if mailed to the United States or Mexico, a U.S. air mail stamp was required. Therefore any appropriate stamp was acceptable for mail anywhere except to the United States or Mexico. Mail to these two countries had to be franked with a U.S. stamp. Stamps issued by Great Britain, India, Egypt, Italy, Palestine, Iraq and the United States can be found cancelled with Polish Filed Post cancellations.



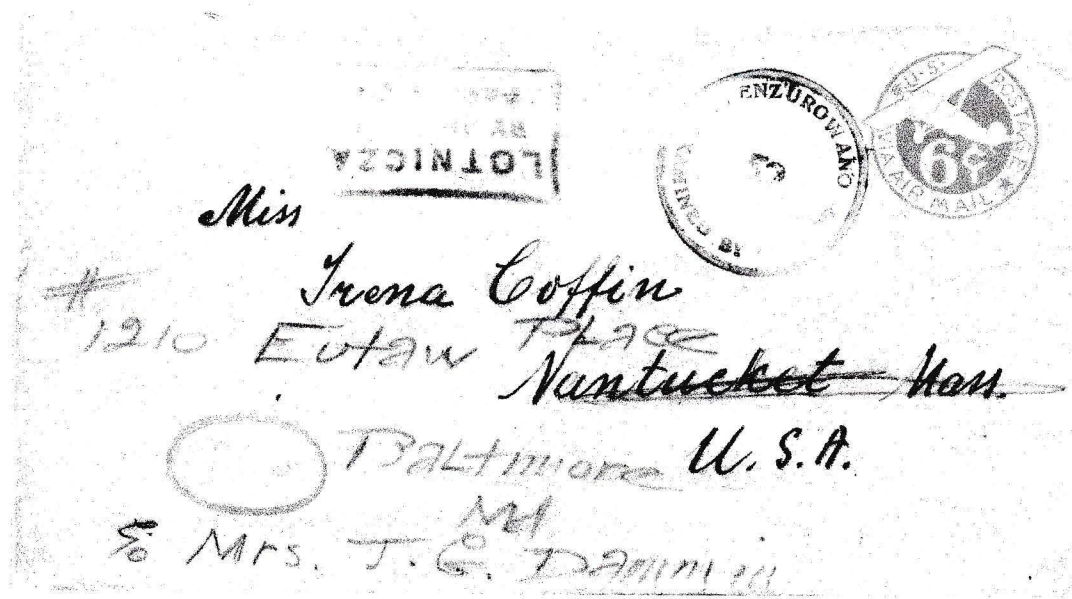
Registered British envelope with Polish FPO 112 cancelling a British stamp
Letter sent to Polish Refugee Camp in Kolhapur in India

The Polish Forces were complete units with their own postal system and censors. Smaller units may have had their own field Post Cancel, but the mail was funneled to a Base Censor for censorship. The mail was then sorted and forward to the British or American Military Post

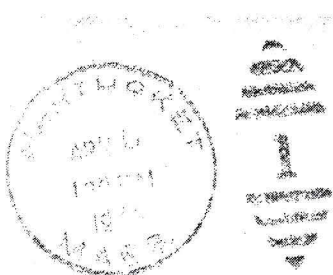
Offices for forwarding to the overseas destination. On occasion, though rarely, British censor marks may be found on the covers to the U.S. No American censor marks are found on covers to the United States. Censorship was discontinued on October 12, 1945.



Registered airmail cover with Polish FPO 116 cancelling 2 Indian stamps
Sent to Nairobi, but forwarded to the Polish Settlement in Tengeru, Tanganyika



U.S. Postal Stationery used by Polish soldier to send mail to the U.S. There are no markings on this cover other than the Polish "52" Base Censor; and the oval Polish individual censor mark "593" and the tri-lingual "LOTNICZA" (Polish), BY AIRMAIL (English) and PAR AVION (French)



This cover could have been sent from any number of smaller Field Posts units which funneled their mail through Base Censor "52".

The only proof that this unregistered cover went through the mails is the forwarding mark from Nantucket, MA. (April 6, 1945), when the letter was forwarded to Baltimore.