



BULLETIN OF THE POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



Rare postcard from General Maczek's Brigade cancelled by Field Post Office Nr. 104b on 23 August 1939, eight days before the outbreak of WWII – see Pg 16

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The Polonus Philatelic 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 authors of articles appearing in the Polonus 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** or **Electronic Bulletin (via website)** are: **North America - \$25 / Outside N.A. - \$25**. Annual dues for **Junior Members** (under age 16 and electronic bulletin only) are: \$10. Annual dues are payable in US funds no later than the end of March of each calendar year. Dues for new members are pro-rated for the time of the year application is submitted, i.e., for period **Jan – Mar 100%** of annual dues; **Apr – Jun 75%**; **Jul – Sep 50%**; and **Oct – Dec 125%** (to cover full payment for following year).

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Membership queries to be sent to: Membership Chairman.

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Bulletin Advertising:

Member to Member Ads – Members have the opportunity to post ads to fellow members **free of charge**. Limit of 500 characters, defined as a letter, space, number or punctuation mark. Member's name and address is not included in this limitation.

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Business Card Ad: \$50.00 annual fee for insertion in four issues.

Send ad copy to: Chairman of Publication Committee and make check payable to: Polonus Philatelic Society

Other Ads: Full page or insert ads for single copy available. Send e-mail with ad copy to: info@polonus.org for pricing.

Message From The President

By: Bob Ogrodnik

At the risk of being accused that we are “kicking the can down the road”, I must inform you that the Board of Directors have decided to extend the term of office for the Directors and Officers for another year, to postpone the election until 2014, and to “buy some time” for the recruiting of candidates for the Board of Directors and leadership positions. Be sure to read my article on page 4 in which I discuss the reasons for this decision.

With the election priority out of the way for this year, our attention shifts to our upcoming Annual Meeting and Exhibition at NAPEX 2013 in McLean, Virginia (just outside Washington, DC). My article in the Society News section of this issue updates the planning progress and sets the schedule for meetings. With a little more than 60 days before the opening of NAPEX 2013, I am concerned about two issues: (1) the slow response by exhibitors in sending in their entry forms, and (2) the slow response by members in notifying me of their plan to attend.

As a “convening society” we have an obligation for a minimum number of frames and NAPEX has already registered their concern when they recently reported a small number of frames entered. With the 15 April deadline rapidly approaching, the time to act is now. This is too important to leave to chance and I will be calling exhibitors to follow-up on the entry process. We have a number of activities planned for members at NAPEX 2013 but you need to let me know if you wish to be included. Thus far, 14 members have indicated to me that they are planning to attend. This year’s show is reasonably located for approximately 70 members. Do not hesitate to notify me, even if you are not 100% sure of your attendance. There is no penalty for a no-show. You can notify me by e-mail: krpsl@earthlink.net or by telephone: (314) 821-6130.

This issue contains a number of interesting articles including the first of a three-part history of the post in Central Europe, titled “Before Lemberg: The Development of the Mail System in Central Europe and the Beginnings of the Postal Service in Lwów (Lviv)” by Dr. Inger Kuzych from the Ukrainian Philatelic and Numismatic Society. This will be a great opportunity to develop a foundation for collecting Poland from the very beginning. POW Camp Mail study group leader Roman Sobus

expands on the discovery of a camp mail project to reflect on an important part of Polish history in “Roman Dmowski and the Little Treaty of Versailles”.

Using his collection of letters addressed to Stefania Bardziłowska, Jan Niebrzydowski provides us with his tenth in a series of articles, “General Maczek’s Armoured Units in World War II”. This series of articles has been an incredible insight into the role played by the Polish military during the war and the evidence, provided by the covers of correspondence from Polish military, highlights the value of postal history.

If you use auction sites in acquiring your philatelic materials, you need to read Dr. Mazepa’s article, “Buyer Beware!”. I would like to know whether you feel we should regularly monitor the auction sites and maintain an “Auction Alert” column in the Bulletin. This may be a service that could represent a benefit to many of our members. Just send me an e-mail at krpsl@earthlink.net with your comments.

If you collect “GROSZY” overprints, be sure to read my article covering George Zelwinder’s website, www.Groszy.pl, a very comprehensive and complete treatment of these provisional issues. Be sure to visit George’s website.

Another interesting development in philately is the introduction of “personalized” postage stamps. Wiesław Kostka and Roman Sobus have collaborated on the subject in this issue and they have updated us on Poczta Polska’s program. Have you ever considered having your photo on a postage stamp? Be sure to read this article and be surprised when you see Figure 2.

I want to encourage you to use the Bulletin if you have something to sell or wish to buy. This is a free service offered to members. You will find a couple of great books “for sale” in this issue. Requests for “classified ads” are to be sent to my attention.

Finally, I want to encourage you to send in your comments on this issue or any facet of our Society. Frankly, too few members are giving their feedback. Hopefully, we will have a great turnout at NAPEX 2013 and member feedback will flow at the Annual Meeting.

Term of Office Extended

By: Bob Ogrodnik

The term of the current Board of Directors and Officers has been extended by one year and, as a result of this action, the election of a Board of Directors to serve the next 3-year term has been postponed until 2014. This decision taken by the Board of Directors is in keeping with the Society By-laws and is in the best interest of the Society.

There are three reasons for this decision:

1. Lack of candidates for the Board

The Nominating Committee has been unable to identify sufficient number of candidates willing to serve as Directors. As a member of several philatelic organizations, I can personally attest to the difficulty in finding volunteers willing to serve, especially when the organization is geographically dispersed and meets at lightly attended annual membership meetings. Nevertheless, we must adopt approaches to the nominating process that will give us satisfactory results. We must and we will do more than make appeals via the Bulletin and a few telephone calls. In effect, we are “buying time” (17 months) to get this done. This will be on the agenda for the Annual Membership Meeting at NAPEX 2013 in June.

2. Polonus 75th Anniversary in 2014

CHICAGOPEX 2014 is scheduled for 22-24 November 2014, an exhibition at which Polonus will be a “Convening Society” and celebrate its 75th anniversary. Planning has already begun and we aim to make this a “best ever” and most memorable event. The amount of work that is required for a successful participation as a “Convening Society”, not to mention celebrating a special anniversary, will require experience and continuity of volunteers and leadership. Therefore, this became the second major reason to keep the existing Board and Officers in place for another year.

3. Failure to provide for an orderly succession of leadership

The incumbent leadership of an organization,

especially a non-profit 100% dependent upon volunteers, is responsible for an orderly succession. Although we have made some recent progress in expanding our volunteer corps, we still have too few of our members willing to get involved. I believe we need to develop a much larger base of volunteers, who will have an opportunity to learn about the inner-working of Polonus. Such a base has the best potential for providing us with future leaders. I do not give us (existing leadership) a good grade on the results attained thus far.

The incumbent Directors and Officers have all agreed to serve another year, thereby supporting this decision. Needless to say, ballots will not be mailed this month to the membership, as had been reported in the last two Bulletin issues.

NAPEX 2013 Update

By: Bob Ogrodnik

In approximately two months (31 May – 2 June) we will be convening our 11th Annual Meeting and Exhibition at NAPEX 2013 to be held at the Hilton McLean Tysons Corner Hotel in McLean, Virginia. Details on this event have already been communicated in the previous Bulletin (#549) and on our Website. The purpose for this article is to “fill-in” the blanks and in general, refresh the details.

1. Response to “call for exhibitors” has been poor
As of 8 March, NAPEX reported receipt of four (4) entries for a total of eight (8) frames. With a deadline of 15 April rapidly approaching, I urge you to complete your entries immediately. In December I sent a letter to 26 members who normally exhibit and requested a reply, using the enclosed SASE, as to their intentions to exhibit and/or attend. To-date I have received replies from 12. If you have not received my “call for exhibitors” letter and plan to exhibit, please let me know by e-mail: krpsl@earthlink.net. Keep in mind our obligation as a Convening Society, i.e., to have a minimum of 60 frames of Polish material. If you need a “Prospectus & Entry Form”, you can obtain a copy from the NAPEX website, www.napex.org. Most

important is to mail your completed entry form so that it is received by NAPEX on or before 15 April.

2. Schedule of Polonus Meeting is set

- **Saturday, 1 June, 8 – 10 am**
Polonus Board Meeting

Attendance is limited to Directors, Officers and Invited Committee Chairs.

The Istanbul room (upper level) has been reserved for this event.

- **Saturday, 1 June, 10:30 – 12 noon**
Polonus Annual Membership Meeting

Attendance is open to Polonus members and show attendees interested in Polish philately and/or membership in the Polonus Philatelic Society.

The Stevens B room (lower level) has been reserved for this event.

- **Saturday, 1 June, 1 – 2 pm**
Polonus Presentation

Regis Hoffman will present “Polish Refugees in Africa, WWII”

Attendance is open to Polonus members and show attendees

The Stevens B room (lower level) has been reserved for this event.

Please note that the above room assignments might change. Our recommendation is to check your “Welcome Packet” or Show Program for the latest information regarding the room assignments and location at the hotel.

3. Member feedback on show attendance is lagging

If you are planning to attend NAPEX 2013, please notify me by e-mail or by calling as soon as possible. My e-mail address is: krpsl@earthlink.net and my telephone number is: (314) 821-6130. Members who notify me will receive the following when checking-in at the Polonus Society Table:

- “Welcome Packet”
- Invitation to the Polonus hospitality suite
- Invitation to the Polonus members’ dinner (Friday night)
- Invitation to the Show Awards Banquet (Saturday night)

4. Volunteers needed for Society Table

To-date, two members have volunteered to spend some time staffing the Society Table. We need at least another four members to volunteer and share the load. Instructions will be provided for our well-organized Society Table. Notify me if you are willing to sign-up for this assignment.

Since this is the last Bulletin that you will receive prior to NAPEX 2013, refer to the websites for any further updates – Polonus: www.polonus.org and NAPEX: www.napex.org. I look forward to renewing acquaintances and meeting some members for the first time. See you in McLean, Virginia!

Polonus Exhibitor Awards

In the previous issue (#549) we introduced a new award (Polonus Novice Award) that is awarded to a first-time exhibitor of Polish material judged to be the best among first-time exhibitors of either a one-frame or multi-frame exhibit. This article covers the three remaining categories of awards.



Figure 1 - Grand Award (multi-frame)

The Polonus Grand Award (named the Bieniecki Award) is for the best multi-frame exhibit of Polish material, providing there are at least three multi-frame exhibits of Polish material in the competition. This award may be given for an exhibit only once in any three year period. (See **Figure 1**)

The Polonus One-Frame Grand Award (named the President's Award) is for the best one-frame exhibit of Polish material, providing there are at least three one-frame exhibits of Polish material in the competition. (see **Figure 2**)



Figure 2 – President's Award

Polonus Gold, Silver and Bronze medals are awarded for exhibits of Polish material as follows: Polonus Gold for Show Gold and Vermeil; Polonus Silver for

Show Silver and Silver-Bronze; and Polonus Bronze for Show Bronze. (see **Figure 3**)



Figure 3 – Polonus Gold Medal

Polonus Award Certificates as illustrated in Bulletin #548 are to be given to all exhibitors who are awarded

Polonus medals.

We are proud of our awards program as it represents one of the finest in philatelic exhibiting.

Poczta Polska's New Image

If you have recently visited the Poczta Polska website, www.poczta-polska.pl, you would have noticed a completely "new look", not only with the layout of the home page but with the logo and services. **Figure 1** is now the new logo for Poczta Polska, complete with styling and color changes. This is a significant change from the previous logo (see **Figure 2**) and represents a fresh and contemporary look.

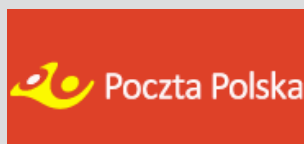


Figure 1 - New Logo



Figure 2 - Old Logo

In addition to the logo change, the services and facilities are experiencing a renovation. For those of you who can read Polish, a visit to the above mentioned website and navigating from the menu on the homepage will give you a glimpse of the new post office and a review of the offered services. From the homepage, you can also access the philatelic store for a review and possible purchase of philatelic and numismatic items. Click on "Dla Ciebie" for a drop-down menu from which you locate "Filatelistyka" and then click on "Oferta filatelistyczna". This will get you to a menu titled "Polskie znaczki pocztowe". Click on the last item on this menu, "English Version" and you will now be able to navigate in English over a number of menu items.



Figure 3 – Fi 4349, 1.55 Zł, znaczek do personalizacji (stamp for personalization) with label ad for English availability on Poczta Polska website

Another way to quickly find the English section of Poczta Polska is to visit directly website www.filatelistyka.poczta-polska.pl and click on the British flag for English. You will then have access to the Philately and Numismatics menu items. As a promotional tool, Poczta Polska issued a personalized "A" stamp with the adjoining label advertising the availability of English on their website.

If you have any comments, questions or requests regarding the "new look" Poczta Polska, please send them to my attention at kpsl@earthlink.net.

Buyer Beware!

By: Dr. James Mazepa

Like many collectors, I watch various mail auction sites online. In my search of Polish material I watch eBay U.S., as well as eBay Poland and Germany, and in Poland, Allegro, Stamps-PL.com, and Phila-World. Usually it takes just a few minutes to run through these sites, as I know what I'm looking for. I have seen very few problems with the auctions in Poland. However with eBay, I have often seen Polish material that is either misdescribed, suspicious, or outright faked. In large part I believe this is because they come from dealers or individuals who are not knowledgeable and break down collections they purchased in an attempt to sell these items. In the past I have written to the sellers and advised them when a description is wrong, and at times they have removed the lot, other times they simply ignored my comment, and sometimes they withdrew the lot only to offer it another time. I no longer do this because if I or anyone did, it would approach being a full time job.

In order to avoid returns, sellers are getting smarter and adding statement like "sold on its own merits" and "sold as per the scan". Some are now even stating "sold as a falsification."

I see four areas of problems. The first is Poland #1. I received word last year that a block of 10 of Poland #1 was discovered in a desk drawer in the Ukraine. What a find! It was a fake. Since then, eBay has been flooded with fake #1s, both unused and with fake numeric cancels. They are usually offered at \$49.95 with the statement they are "facsimiles". Most of these are coming from one seller in Poland, but they do look nice!

The second area is genuine Poland #1s, but misdescribed. In particular they have been reperforated or regumed. I have seen some that are damaged stamps that have been "improved" by adding perfs, corners, or having thin spots filled. These are hard to spot for the casual collector.

The third area is Polish stamps with overprints. Lately there have been many stamps of the Second Warsaw provisional issue, the PP/GGW issue, with double or inverted overprints. I have never seen a genuine one on eBay. The Kraków and the Gniezno issues, however, are at the top of the list of fakes. Some sellers say they have "expert marks" or "guarantee marks" on the back. Of course they

do not show them. Anyone can put a mark on the reverse of a stamp. I know some collectors who put their name or initials on the back of stamps or letters. That does not make them guarantees of anything.

The last area is stamps that are pure fantasies. Many of these are being made currently in Poland and Germany. Of late I have seen Ukrainian stamps overprinted in Polish "Poczta Miejska." Recently on German eBay there were no less than 20 lots, each with a complete set of General Gouvernment stamps with different "local overprints". Really??

I do not mean to imply that the above list is complete. I just want give an alert to what I am seeing today. So, what can we do to avoid being a victim of a fake stamp?

First, if the price is too good to be true, IT IS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE. Don't be a sucker. No one can get a 10 kr Kraków for \$29.95 or a genuine Poland #1 for \$49.95. I have had collectors tell me, "maybe this is one that is genuine, after all, it comes from an old collection". I would answer that 99% of genuine Kraków and Gniezno stamps have been expertized. I would not bet on a horse that had a 1% chance of winning.

Second, any stamp valued at \$100 or more should have a certificate. If it does not have a certificate, buy it only on the condition of THE SELLER obtain a certificate. Once an item is purchased and then returned as a fake, it can be difficult to get the price refunded. Read the "conditions of sale" carefully.

Third, buy from reputable dealers or auctions. And please, do not fall into the trap of "I have to fill that space in my collection, even if it's with a doubtful stamp". Very few can afford everything. I don't have the four high value Kraków postage dues and doubt if I will ever get them, but I will not buy fakes so I can say "I have the Krakóws complete." If you don't do this for yourself, do it for your heirs. I am often asked by families to give advice on the sale of their loved one's collection. They have even been told the collection is worth this or that. They fail to tell their heirs that, for instance, the Krakóws are fakes. This is often followed by disbelief and disappointment. This is no legacy to leave our loved ones. The joy of knowing we have a beautiful, genuine stamp will always outweigh knowing that every time we look at a particular stamp, it is a fake.

The Olympic “Boxer” Invert

By: Dr. James Mazepa

Collectors often think that rare, expensive material has to come from the classic period of stamps. What comes to mind in the case of Poland is Poland #1, or the classic stamps of Russia, Austria, and Prussia used in Poland, or the twentieth century provisional. However, there is a growing popularity for postwar errors, especially starting with the 1950s. Sloppy printing created missing or shifted colors, imperforate or partially perforated stamps, and less



Figure 1 – Boxer Invert, 20 gr, Fi 844o and Sc 751a

significant errors stamps which are called in the U.S. “freaks and oddities” because they simply do not fit in any other category. These have been steadily increasing in price.

Of all the modern errors the most important is from the Olympic issue of 1956 (commemorating the XVI Summer Olympics in Melbourne, Australia). The 20 groszy Boxer stamp (**Figure 1**) was found with an inverted center, and to date 14 examples are recorded.

The 2012 Fisher lists this stamp for 60,000 zł, and the last one seen on auction sold for \$24,000.

“GROSZY” Provisional Issues – Revisited

By: Bob Ogrodnik

One of the unique collecting challenges with Polish philately is the “GROSZY” provisional issues, i.e., completing a collection representing all 48 types of overprints. I was reminded recently that we have a member who has one of the most complete, if not the most complete, collections of “GROSZY” in the world.

I am referring to Polonus member George Zelwinder, who I recently contacted to see if he was planning to exhibit at NAPEX 2013. As some of you know, George has an outstanding exhibit of “GROSZY”, scans of which are available on the Polonus website, and I was hopeful that he would be willing to participate in the NAPEX 2013 exhibition. Unfortunately, George will not participate this year but he definitely is planning to exhibit his 5-frame “GROSZY” at CHICAGOPEX 2014, Polonus’ 12th Annual Meeting and Exhibition and Polonus’ 75th anniversary.

In my conversation with George, I was learned that he launched a website, www.Groszy.pl, on which one can find and study all 48 types of overprints. Whereas the district overprints are more readily available and known to collectors, the local overprints are more difficult to find and not widely known to collectors. This website (in Polish and English) is well organized and is an excellent resource for the study

of the complete range of “GROSZY” overprints.

The “GROSZY” overprints were used for only 18 months, November 1950 – April 1952, in order to quickly adjust for a 100:1 currency devaluation. In the process, the demand for rubber stamps for the overprinting became so great that the supply of rubber stamps was expanded among several sources and the implementation of overprinting was delegated to many postal workers. The result was an incredible amount of variation in font, size, color, etc. This explains why collecting all types of overprints become such a challenging task.

In addition to the resources mentioned above, there have been several “GROSZY” overprint articles written for the Polonus Bulletin, the most recent of which was a three-part article by Dr. James DeLine (542, 543 & 544). In 1952, Polonus member Władysław Kolakowski produced a 54-page booklet titled, “GROSZY” Overprints. The Stamp Encyclopedia Poland on website www.stampspoland.nl also includes a description and illustration of “GROSZY” overprints.

If there is a message in this article it is this - If you ever considered specializing in a unique segment of Poland’s stamp issues, the “GROSZY” overprints may be it.

We have excellent resources on the subject in the English language, as well as, members who have considerable experience in this segment. Good hunting!

Roman Dmowski and the Little Treaty of Versailles

Rejected Stamp Projects from Woldenberg

By: Roman Sobus

Although fighting had ceased with the signing of the Armistice between the Allies and Germany on 11 November 1918, the First World War formally came to an end with the signing of a peace treaty called the Versailles Treaty in the Galerie des Glaces (Hall of Mirrors) of the Versailles Palace, located outside of Paris, on 28 June 1919. Representatives from the League of Nations signed this peace treaty in an effort to provide the European continent with lasting peace. The hastily-prepared document was doomed to fail from the very start, but that is a story unto itself.

The treaty was to set the pattern for creating a new Europe. Treaties between the League of Nations and the “Minor Powers” completed the treaty, which were signed separately, establishing new nations on the continent. The Polish Minority Treaty, or the “Little Versailles Treaty” as it is often called, granted Poland formal recognition as a sovereign and independent state in the international area. This was the first of the Minority Treaties and served as a template for subsequent treaties. Polish delegates did not sign at Versailles, but on the same date in Warszawa. Chosen to represent Poland were Ignacy Paderewski (1860-1941) and Roman Dmowski (1864-1939). (Figures 1a & 1b)

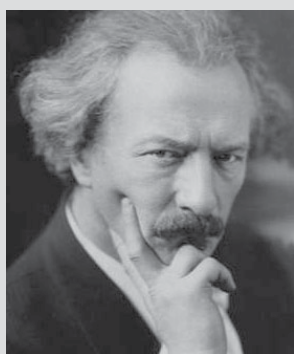


Figure 1a – Ignacy Jan Paderewski - Poland's Prime Minister, statesman, pianist and signer of the “Little Versailles Treaty” for Poland.



Figure 1b – Roman Dmowski – Minister of Foreign Affairs (1923), co-founder of the National Democratic Party, and signer of the “Little Versailles Treaty” for Poland.

While Paderewski is well known to most as a statesman, Prime Minister, and pianist, Dmowski's name is somewhat more obscure. He was the co-founder

of the National Democracy Party (*Narodowa Demokracja*, also known from its abbreviation ND as *Endecja*), and was a tactful politician whose views were respected not only at home but by Poland's American and British supporters who did not totally trust Józef Piłsudski, the 2nd Republic of Poland's Chief of State. Dmowski's ideology clashed with that of Piłsudski, primarily because Piłsudski favored a multi-national Poland, inclusive and tolerant of all. Dmowski's view was that of a homogenous nation, both ethnically and religiously. His anti-German and anti-Semitic views placed him and his followers at odds with Piłsudski's camp and the more tolerant segments of the population.

New stamp emissions at the camp post of the POW camp at Woldenberg were planned to commemorate various prominent people and anniversaries in the history of Poland. Several years ago I purchased an item (see **Figure 2**) for my collection which I found very interesting and unusual. It was a proposed and rejected project for a postage stamp depicting the likeness of Roman Dmowski. By “rejected” I mean that in the strongest sense of the word. As the impression from the die clearly shows, the image of the subject is scored by several heavy grooves squarely across the face. My first impression was that this



Figure 2 – Original “discovery” of stamp project commemorating Roman Dmowski.

was rather harsh treatment, if not for the subject matter, then for author of this project!

Several months ago, an acquaintance sent me images of an item (see **Figure 3**) very similar to the aforementioned item that resides in my collection. It was an impression from the Dmowski die, with the word “Poczta” also obscured but before the grooves were cut across the subject's face, printed on paper

Roman Dmowski and the Little Treaty of Versailles (cont.)

approximately three times larger than the image.



Figure 3 – Newly discovered earlier impression of project in Figure 2.

The design itself features a portrait of Roman Dmowski with stylized letters “R” and “D” superimposed on the lapels. Below, there are “flowerlike” ornaments in the lower left and lower right corners, with the inscription Poczt / OB-OF- IIC, although obliterated by crosshatching, still readable. The design does not have a denomination, it is not dated to mark any specific anniversary, and it bears no artist’s signature. I could speculate as to what the stamp was to commemorate, but not with any degree of certainty. Dimensions of the design itself are 29 mm x 48 mm, printed on yellowish gray translucent paper.

More interesting, the item shown in **Figure 3** has two partial impressions of another design on the reverse



Figure 4 – Two partial impressions of previously unknown project on reverse of item shown in Figure 3.

of the translucent paper. (**Figure 4**)

These appear to be test impressions made on a larger piece of paper to show progress of the engraving process. Computer image manipulation permitted me to splice the two partial images together to create

a complete design. (**Figure 5**)



Figure 5 – Digital reconstruction of previously unknown project on reverse of item shown as partial impressions.

This second design, perhaps, gives us more insight into the reasons behind the stamp. It consists of large capital letters RD at the top with the date “9.VIII.1864 / + / 2.1.1939”, being the dates of birth and death of Roman Dmowski. Below that is the date

“28.VI.1919”, the date of the signing of the “Little Versailles Treaty”. This date does not appear to be part of the original design but appears to be added almost as an afterthought. The numbers are placed outside what may be considered boundaries of the original frame. Perhaps, after submitting the previous design and being rejected, the artist chose to commemorate the signing of the treaty instead of the anniversary of Dmowski’s birth/death? This, as with the other project, has no denomination and no artist’s signature. The dimensions of this unfinished design are approximately 22mm by 35mm.

We have no way of determining whether the author ever submitted this design for consideration to the camp Postal Commission for consideration or even whether the project was completed. It will be interesting to see if impressions of earlier or later stages of the engraving process turn up in the future.

Bibliography:

- [1] Davies, Norman; *God’s Playground – A History of Poland*; Vol. II, Columbia University Press, NY, 1982
- [2] Ascherson, Neal; *The Struggles for Poland*, Random House, NY, 1987

Before Lemberg: (Part 1)

The Development of the Mail System in Central Europe and the Beginnings of the Postal Service in Lwów (Lviv)

By: Dr. Ingerit Kuzych

*Editor's Note: This is the first of three parts of a most interesting article on the history of the post in Central Europe, including the city of Lwów for the Polish, Lviv for the Ukrainians, Lvov under the Soviets, and Lemberg for the Austrians and Germans, all of whom laid claim to this city over the span of the past six centuries. Part I will cover **Early European Mails and Getting Organized in the Habsburg Dominions**; Part II will cover **Early Post in Poland**; and Part III will cover **Starting up the Particular Post in Lwów (Lviv, Lemberg), Postal Intrigues, and Earliest Postal Insignias from Lwów and Lemberg**. We are grateful to Ingerit Kuzych for contributing this article to *Polonus*. A brief background of Dr. Kuzych is included at the end of this article.*

Early European Mails

Life without the mails seems almost inconceivable to us today, but postal services took a long time to evolve. In ancient times, ties between people and countries were kept up by couriers, who would transmit messages either orally or in written form. In the Middle Ages, royalty, the ecclesiastic hierarchy, larger monastic orders, and lay orders of knights all set up their own messenger services. In the 12th and 13th centuries universities established a separate communication network with punctual, dependable, and speedy couriers operating between the Italian universities in Bologna, Salerno, and Naples, and the French universities of Toulouse and the Sorbonne.

With the growth of towns and cities, urban courier services were set up, especially in the larger cities of Italy and Germany. The couriers, who were run by the town councils, delivered correspondence for the councils and for city inhabitants and received payments according to a fixed price.

The word “post” comes from the Italian “posta” and is a shortened form of the Latin “statio posita,” which means a place for the changing of horses. The first such specially organized equestrian postal stations were set up in Germany and would, for a fixed price,

would carry not only correspondence, but occasionally passengers.

Sometimes, with the concurrence of town magistrates and merchants, a separate post was set up through a tradesman’s syndicate (guild), for example the butcher’s guild in Germany. This so-called Metzger Post began in the 12th century and continued until 1637, when the Thurn and Taxis monopoly took over (see below). The Metzger Post functioned as follows. As butchers journeyed to farms, livestock fairs, and markets throughout Europe (usually traveling on horseback), they would carry the letters from friends and loved ones. Upon arrival at a town, they

used a horn to announce the arrival of the mail and thus created a commonly recognized emblem for postal services.

Getting Organized in the Habsburg Dominions

A system of posts was established in northern Italy by the family of Thurn and Taxis (Torre e Tassis), from the district of Bergamo, in the mid-15th century. In 1490, the Habsburg Holy Roman Emperor Maximilian I (r. 1486-1519) took things a step further and set up the first extended European postal linkages (**Figure 1**).

Surviving records of three things that occurred in that pivotal year make it an appropriate starting point for European postal services:

1. a communication dated 11 July 1490 from Emperor Maximilian to the town of Speyer ordering it to found both a mounted and a foot post for the Imperial Service,
2. an entry in the Raitbuch of the Tirol Exchequer Chamber of 11 December 1490 concerning the payment of 300 Rheinischen gulden to a Johannetn Daxen, Chief Postmaster, and



Figure 1 – A portrait of Emperor Maximilian I completed not long before his death in 1519.

Before Lemberg: (Part 1) (cont.)

- an entry in the Memminger Chronik of 1490 that states that in that year the postal service came into existence.

The following year the emperor named Franz von Taxis (**Figure 2**) as Postmaster and tasked him and his brother John Baptist to set up posts connecting the Imperial Dominions in Lombardy with those in Austria.

In 1500, Franz was named Hauptpostmeister (Chief Postmaster) by Philip I, Duke of Burgundy and son of Maximilian. In 1504, Philip concluded an agreement with Franz to provide a postal connection with his court in the Netherlands and those of Maximilian in Austria and Germany, and to link these with the courts of France and Spain (**Figure 3**).



Figure 2 – A painting of Franz von Taxis that served as the inspiration for the 1967 West German stamp.



Figure 3 – 1990 maximum card from Germany illustrates the postal route linking Mechelen (just north of Brussels) with Innsbruck. The card bears two of the five joint-issue stamps (from West Germany on the left and Berlin on the right) commemorating the 500th Anniversary of European Postal Relationships, a special cancellation, and illustrates two of the cities along the route (Speyer and Memmingen). The same stamp design – based upon an engraving by Albrecht Dürer entitled “The Courier” – was used by all five of the collaborating European postal agencies.

In 1512, Maximilian raised the family of Thurn and Taxis to the ranks of the imperial nobility.

In setting up these arrangements, Taxis created a network linking Habsburg possessions throughout Europe: in the Holy Roman Empire (today Germany, Austria, Italy), Hungary, the Low Countries (now the Netherlands, Belgium, and Luxembourg), and Spain (**Figure 4**). Initially it was the royal families and nobility that took advantage of the postal system, which often involved the transport of valuable jewels and treasures (since bandits were a persistent threat). Nevertheless, the Thurn and Taxis standards were very high and the mail generally went through safely and quickly.

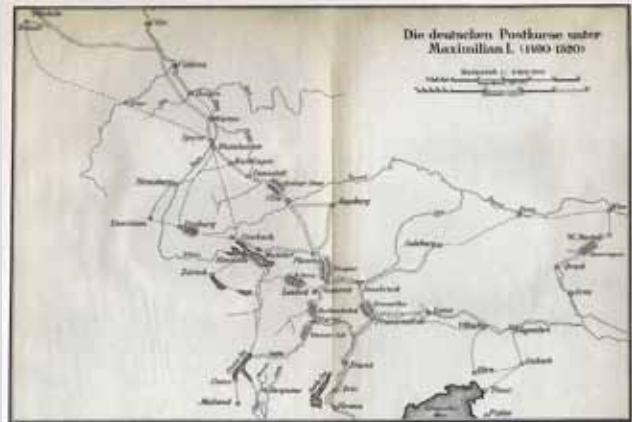


Figure 4 – A more detailed map of the post routes established under Emperor Maximilian I between 1490 and 1520 shows the main axis of delivery between Brussels and Innsbruck – connecting the emperor’s two main centers of power in Burgundy and Tyrol.

The mail delivery men were known as coursers, a name given to professional couriers dating back to Roman times. The horse relay system that was created not only shortened the transit time for mail but made its arrival predictable. Taxis coursers – wearing the imperial yellow and black livery – were able to travel from Brussels to Paris in 44 hours in the summer and in 54 hours during the winter. Travel time for a letter between Innsbruck and Brussels was 5 ½ days (6 ½ days in winter). Other delivery times in 1505 were: Brussels-Blois 2 ½ days (winter 3 days), Brussels-Lyon 4 days (winter 5 days), Brussels-Toledo 12 days (winter 14 days), Brussels-Granada 15 days (winter 18 days).

Before Lemberg: (Part 1) (cont.)

A decade later (1516) saw a new agreement negotiated with delivery times reduced and some of the cities in the network changed. Brussels to Paris now took 36 hours (winter 40 hours), while the Brussels-Innsbruck route became a 5-day journey (winter 6 days). The Brussels-Toledo and Brussels-Granada routes were dropped in favor of a Brussels-Burgos connection of 7 days (winter 8 days). Two new Italian cities were added: a Brussels-Rome link of 10 ½ days (winter 12 days) and a Brussels-Naples route that required 14-days in winter.

Taxis hired many relatives to operate his vast network. Over time, more and more mails were accepted from anyone who could pay the fees. In essence, what the family accomplished was to lay the foundation for the development of an international postal system (**Figure 5**). In 1615, Emperor Mathias rewarded the services of the family by making the position of imperial postmaster general a hereditary right in the male line of succession.



Figure 5 – Map illustrating the extent of the postal routes developed by the Thurn and Taxis family by 1563.



Figure 6 – A German “Postage Stamp Day” 80-pfennig stamp from 1984 shows a 17th century Posthaus in Augsburg set up by the Taxis postal service. Postal riders approach the postal station, one of whom blows a horn.

At its peak in the 17th and 18th centuries, Thurn and Taxis had upwards of 20,000 employees and monopolized postal transport from the Baltic Sea southward to the Straits of Gibraltar (**Figure 6**).

While the family competed with (and frequently out-competed) other courier services, it was not averse to occasionally working in conjunction with other delivery tradesmen. With the rise of national mails in Europe in the second half of the 19th century, the Thurn and Taxis monopoly was steadily reduced and the family sold its postal rights in 1867.

In addition to mounted couriers, Thurn and Taxis employed the first horse-drawn mail coaches in Europe since Roman times. They began using this new conveyance in about 1650 from the town of Kocs (in present-day northern Hungary) and thus gave rise to the term “coach.” With the expansion of mail coach use in the 17th and 18th centuries, passengers also began to be carried in addition to the mails (**Figure 7**). With the passing of time, loud blasts of the post horn became more familiar sounds and would signal passage through a city, town, or village, or the approach of a rider or coach at a postal station. Post horn soundings also served another purpose by allowing locals to warn a courier or postilion of bad roads or dangerous passages. The post horn remains today a symbol for a number of European postal administrations.



Figure 7 – Austrian souvenir sheet released in 2008 as a joint issue with the Czech Republic shows a mail coach – carrying both posts and passengers – that travelled between Vienna and Prague in the 18th century.

While the above text has focused on the more celebrated mounted postal delivery system, the more mundane foot post continued to be used extensively from the 15th into the 18th century for less urgent and for private delivery of mails. Postal deliverymen would venture forth on their rounds bearing a leather pouch with a large flap that protected the letters, and wearing a hat, cloak, or cape to fend off the

Before Lemberg: (Part 1) (cont.)

elements. Frequently they went lightly armed with a sword and/or a spear. The latter could serve not only as a weapon should the messenger be attacked, but also as a walking staff. Austria Post has presented postal foot couriers a number of times on its stamps (Figures 8 to 10).



Figure 8 – A 3.5 schilling + 80 groschen Austrian “Postage Stamp Day” semi-postal stamp from 1967 depicting a 15th century postal messenger.



Figure 9 – A 3 schilling + 70 groschen Austrian “Postage Stamp Day” semi-postal stamp from 1966 depicting a Postal messenger in 1500.



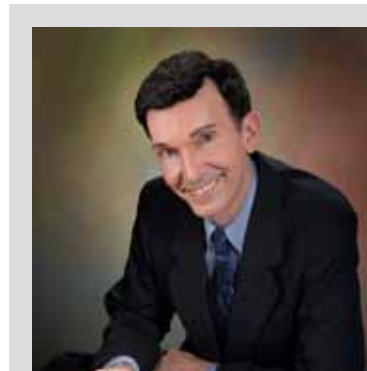
Figure 10 – A 6 schilling + 3 schilling Austrian “Postage Stamp Day” semi-postal stamp from 1986 depicting a 16th century postal messenger.

Footnotes:

¹In 1990, the Austrian postal service celebrated the 500th anniversary of European postal connections by issuing a 5-schilling multicolored stamp showing an engraving entitled “The Courier” by Albrecht Dürer. It was part of a joint issue with the three German entities of that time: the Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany), the Democratic Republic of Germany (East Germany), and Berlin, as well as with Belgium. All these entities recognized 1490 as the foundational year for their postal systems.

²The imperial Habsburg colors of yellow and black were incorporated into the uniforms that the couriers wore: a yellow jacket with black lapels. The distinctive colors not only aided in identifying the couriers, but also lent them an air of imperial prestige. Yellow remains the color of the Austrian Post (Österreichische Post), the German Post (Deutsche Post), and the Italian Post (Poste Italiane).

Biographical Sketch of our Author:



Dr. Inger Kuzych-Berezovsky is of Austrian and Ukrainian extraction and has made a profound impact on the philately of both countries. He has written close to 400 articles for dozens of philatelic publications, written

or edited several books dealing with Ukrainian philately, and served as editor of the Ukrainian Philatelist Journal.

Dr. Kuzych is a member of the American Philatelic Congress, Past-President of the Ukrainian Philatelic and Numismatic Society, and currently its Vice President. He was formerly the Vice President of the Austrian Philatelic Society. One of his collecting specialties is the postal history of Lemberg-Lviv-Lwów, and he has assembled a popular Habsburg-era exhibit: “Lemberg: Cosmopolitan Crownland Capital of the Austrian Empire” (awarded numerous Gold and Special Awards). Dr. Kuzych plans to release a book in the near future featuring all of his Lemberg exhibit pages, as well as additional material. Leading off the volume will be an introductory chapter that will be an expansion of this article.



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General Maczek's Armoured Units in World War II

By: Jan Niebrzydowski

Editor's Note: This article is the tenth in a series by the author and it highlights the critical role played by General Maczek and his Armoured Unit during WWII. The historical insight is reinforced through postal history represented by correspondence (covers) from members of the armoured unit. This is the first of a two-part article on the subject.

General Stanisław Maczek (31 March 1892 – 11 December 1994) was born in Szczercz near Lwów in Polish Galicia. He is best known as a Polish tank commander of World War II, whose division was instrumental in the Allied liberation of France, closing the "Falaise pocket", resulting in the destruction of 14 German Wehrmacht and SS divisions. He was also a veteran of World War I, the Polish-Ukrainian and Polish-Bolshevik wars. In 1924 he graduated from the Higher Military School in Warsaw, and in 1938 he was put in charge of the Polish 10th Motorized Cavalry Brigade, the first fully motorized unit in the Polish Army, which numbered 175 officers and 4,000 soldiers. He held out against the German invaders for two weeks. However, further resistance became futile when the Soviets attacked Poland



Figure 1 – General Stanisław Maczek

were re-grouping. The Polish armoured division was reconstructed and renamed the 10th Armoured Cavalry Brigade and took part in the Franco-German war in June 1940. After the fall of France and capitulation of its army, the Polish government moved to Britain. Most of the Polish soldiers also made their way to

from the East on 17 September 1939.

With a part of his force, General Maczek crossed the border into Hungary and thence made his way to France, where Poland's government-in-exile and Poland's armed forces

Britain by various routes and means. Maczek's route was through Algeria, Morocco, Portugal and finally Scotland, his destination. There he set about forming an army from Polish refugees, volunteers from the USA, Canada and Brazil, and a small group of soldiers who had been evacuated with General Władysław Anders from the Soviet Union. This subsequently became the 1st Corps of the Polish Army. It had two objectives: to provide modern training for future combat and to ensure a defense capacity along a 200 mile stretch of Scottish coast in the event of a German invasion.

The 1st Polish Armoured Division was established on the basis of the 1st Corps. On 25 February 1942 and by order of the Polish Prime Minister and Commander-in-Chief, General Władysław Sikorski, Maczek was put in command of the Division. It numbered 885 officers and 15,210 soldiers. It was equipped with modern tanks, armoured vehicles and guns. Towards the end of July 1944, the Division was sent to Normandy. It went into action on 8 August as part of the 1st Canadian Army.

The Poles fought the 7th German Army alongside the 4th Canadian Armoured Division between Caen and Falaise. Together with their allies (American, British, Canadian and French) they covered themselves in glory at Falaise, crossing the Dives river and helping to take the strategically important railway junction at Chambois and the Mont Ormel ridges (Hill 262), nicknamed by the Poles as Maczuga (Polish for "mace" or "the club").¹ The Poles inflicted the heaviest losses on the Germans and General Montgomery singled them out for praise.

After this battle, the defeated German Army was forced to retreat as far as the Scheldt river. The independent Polish advance column covered 400 kilometers over 9 days, engaging the enemy in heavy combat. By 6 September, the Poles had taken Ypres, Tiel and, joining with the Belgian resistance movement, also took Ghent. Breda in Holland fell on 29 October 1944. On 3 November, after 6 days of fighting alongside the 1st Canadian Army, the Poles took Moerdijk. Afterwards they took up defensive positions on the Meuse river. On 8 April 1945, the allied offensive began on the western front and the Polish Division entered Germany at Goch. On 18 April, they

General Maczek's Armoured Units in World War II (cont.)

liberated a camp holding 1,745 Polish female prisoners of war, who had fought in the Warsaw Uprising of 1944, and 9 infants.

The next target was the biggest German naval base in the port city of Wilhelmshaven, Germany. The terrain was crisscrossed with rivers and canals, and the ground was waterlogged, making the battle particularly difficult. Nevertheless, this proved to be the Division's "finest hour" as its forces captured the port and accepted the surrender of the entire garrison on 5 May 1945. Maczek's deputy, Colonel Antoni Grudziński, accepted the capitulation from the commanding officers of the German Naval fort and base, the *Ostfriedland* fleet, 9 infantry divisions, and 8 infantry-artillery regiments. Prisoners of war included two German admirals and one general, as well as 1,900 officers and 32,000 soldiers. The Poles also captured 3 cruisers, 18 submarines, 205 assorted vessels, and hundreds of guns and cannons.

On 6 May, the Division began to occupy the port and the city of Wilhelmshaven. During 1945-48, a veritable Polish mini-state came into existence in a 6,500 square kilometer area near the Dutch border within the British occupation zone. The town of Haren was temporarily renamed "Maczków" in honor of General Maczek. Some 5,000 Poles, who had been liberated from German concentration, labor and POW camps, found refuge there. "Maczków" had its own primary and secondary schools, churches, newspapers, libraries, and bookshops. Numerous social and community activities were organized. Following the capitulation of Germany, General Maczek went on to command the Polish 1st Corps and then became commanding officer of all Polish forces in the United Kingdom until their demobilization in 1947. General Maczek never returned to Poland after the Communist takeover. Returning to civilian life, he earned his living as a laborer. He died in 1994 at the age of 102 and was buried in Breda, Netherlands alongside his old comrades-in-arms.

There is little correspondence to or from General Maczek's armoured units in circulation among collectors and it is not found for sale at auctions. Shown below,

however, are six covers from my collection that are seldom seen examples of postal history from General Maczek's armoured units in WW II.

From August to September 1939, during the war with Germany, General Maczek's brigade was serviced by Field Post Office Nr. 104. The first cover (Figure 2) shows a special Field Post Office card sent to Lwów and cancelled with date stamp FPO 104b on 23 August 1939, when the Polish army was mobilizing. The card was censored and bears the CENZUROWANE cachet. This is arguably the loveliest and rarest piece of correspondence from that period.



Figure 2 – Special Field Post Office card censored and cancelled one week before the start of WW II. This piece is considered to be one of the rarest from that period.

The next cover (**Figure 3**) originated during the Franco-German war of June 1940. It was sent on 8 June 1940, cancelled by a civilian post office in



Figure 3 – Letter sent from Orsay to Polish Government-in-exile in Paris with "F.M." designation for free mail.

Orsay, and addressed to the Polish Government-in-Exile in Paris. This cover bears the initials F.M., used on military correspondence, and was sent free of charge. It has the bilingual Polish-French censorship cachet "Chief of Supplies 10th Armoured Cavalry Brigade" with the Polish eagle.

General Maczek's Armoured Units in World War II (cont.)

Several units of the 1st Armoured Division that had been set up in Scotland used GPO London EC1 as a return address. Correspondence was usually addressed PO Box 260/ followed by the appropriate unit number. Letters were opened, censored and resealed. In order to conceal the location from where they were sent, part of the cancellation was covered with an ink ring made out of cork. Original registered labels were partially cut out and replaced with substitute labels simply stating "London".

Figure 4 shows a registered airmail cover, prepaid to the value of 3d and franked with three extra stamps to the value of 1s, 3d and ½d (with enclosed letter dated 10 December 1942). It was sent to Philadelphia, camouflaged with a circular cork seal. Since this letter was not registered in London, the original location was cut out and replaced with a London registration label. The letter bears Censor's label:



Figure 4 – Registered airmail letter sent to Philadelphia from a location camouflaged with a circular cork seal.

OPENED BY EXAMINER 1761. Return address listed as: PO Box 260/90 (The main HQ) The next cover was sent from London to Mrs. Stefania Bardziłowska in Boston, Massachusetts, paid for with one stamp to the value of 2½d, and dated 18 December 1943. The Censor's cachet is: PASSED P. 117. **Figure 5** shows the return address on this cover as: PO Box 260/111 GPO London EC1. This was the code for the 1st Mountain Rifle Battalion, 1st Armoured Division.



Figure 5 – Letter sent to Mrs. Bardziłowska with a coded return address.

The final cover in this article shown in **Figure 6** (with a letter dated 6 November 1943) is addressed to Mrs. Bardziłowska, paid for with two stamps to the value of 7d and 8d, and with date and place of dispatch camouflaged with a circular cork seal. The Censor's label has: OPENED BY EXAMINER 2950, resealed. Return address is listed as: PO Box 260/20, which was the code for the 9th Rifle Battalion, 1st Division.



Figure 6 – Airmail letter sent to Mrs. Bardziłowska censored and cancellation camouflaged.

Footnotes:

¹ Upon viewing an allied map of the two ridges of Mont Ormel (Hill 262), that were positioned on either side of a pass within which the hamlet of Mont Ormel is situated, Maczek commented that it resembled a caveman's club with two bulbous heads. Hearing this comment, the Poles nicknamed it the "Maczuga" Polish for "mace" or "the club". The ridge, known to the Allies as Hill 262, formed a crucial blocking position for sealing the "Falaise Pocket" and preventing any outside attempts to relieve the German 7th Army.

Personalized Postage Stamps

By: Wiesław Kostka and Roman Sobus

Since the earliest days, people have looked for ways to make their correspondence stand out from all others. Perfumed stationery or a catchy advertisement printed on the envelope was intended to try to make the recipient open that letter first. Mechanical postage meters often carried and still do carry messages promoting specific businesses and events. In recent years, with the ability to print postage at home using a computer and printer, the option of adding a personal note on the postage stamp itself became possible.

While the process is somewhat different than adding images to digital stamp on the home computer, the Polish Post issued on 1 February 2005, the first stamps specifically prepared to be personalized. This was one of the “Kocham Cię” or “I Love You” series first issued in February 2004, and very popular in sending Valentine’s Day greetings and correspondence of romantic nature. The issue bore a denomi-

nation of 1.30 Złoty and was printed in sheets laid out as 20 stamps, each with a blank label adjacent to it. These blank labels became the canvas specifically designed for personalization by the purchaser and the process was a paid service provided by the Polish Post at the request of individuals or private companies, and was promoted in the media.

(Figure 1)

The personalized postage stamp was dependent on an order being placed along with the necessary artwork desired by the customer for the label. This graphic design could consist of a photograph, drawing, advertisement or some other text. Minimum order was one sheet of the same design and requests for multiple sheets could be ordered at the same time. These personalized stamps, along with the label, could then be applied to letters and used as postage, as shown in Figure 2.



Figure 1 – Polish Post advertisement for the personalized stamps c. March 2006 with campaign entitled “Moje znaczki” (My stamps).



Figure 2 – Postcard bearing personalized stamp (Fi 4120) created by Polonus President Ogródnik and mailed to the author from Kraków 17.X.2009.

The Polish Post changed the mini-sheet format for the personalized issues in February 2006 from the 20 stamps and 20 labels to 8 stamps and 8 labels, as featured on a “Kocham Cię” stamp issue, Fi 4078. On 8 February 2007, a new “Kocham Cię” stamp was issued in the 8 x 8 stamp/label format (Figure 3), the last of the personalized “Kocham Cię” series.

A detached label (sans the postage stamp) did not meet the postage requirement as the label had no postal validity. During the period of 2005 to 2010, the

Personalized Postage Stamps (cont.)



Figure 3 – Full sheet of 8 stamps + 8 personalized labels (Fi 4150).

Polish Post issued six stamps with labels designated for personalization. These stamps were generally not sold with the label left unprinted. Those sheets purchased without utilizing the personalization service had the labels printed with a Polish Post advertisement. (**Figure 4**)



Figure 4 – Stamp (Fi 4120) and labels from sheet sold without additional personalization service. Labels printed with Polish Post advertisement.

These stamps were not the first to be personalized in this fashion by individuals. One of the earliest pre-

cursors of the personalization process was the utilization of the empty fields in a sheet of the 1950 Bolesław Bierut definitive issue. The sheet itself was printed in a format of 14x10 stamps. It was, however, perforated 15x10 stamps leaving a blank perforated label adjacent to all the stamps in the left column. These labels were opportunistically personalized by stamp dealer L. Plewka to promote his business.

(**Figures 5a & 5b**)



Figure 5a – Bierut definitive issue from 1950 (Fi 536) with adjacent empty field.



Figure 5b – Bierut definitive issue (Fi 536) with example of personalization by stamp dealer L. Plewka.

Another issue to be similarly used was the unofficial personalization printed on the inter-sector fields from sheets of the 1954 issue commemorating the 10th anniversary of the Polish People's Republic. These were issued by the Regional Organizational Committee of Philatelic Exhibits in Lublin during the years 1955 to 1973. (**Figure 6**)

Determining quantity and themes of personalized stamps, even though they were all issued in recent years, is at this moment virtually impossible. Personal interests vary and sharing one's

interests with friends and colleagues is as simple as sticking a stamp on a letter. (**Figure 7**)

Personalized Postage Stamps (cont.)



Figure 6 – Blank (top) and unofficial personalization printed on the intersector fields from sheets of the 1954 issue (Fi 753) commemorating the 10th anniversary of the Polish Peoples' Republic.



Figure 7 – Privately designed personalization of label adjacent 2007 issue (Fi 4150) depicting the "600th Anniversary of the Battle of Grunwald".

Additionally, we may never truly be able to determine the quantity and type of each stamp printed. The Polish Post, which processes individual orders and maintains their records, will not release the information citing privacy concerns. The only definite information might be obtained from individuals or companies who placed orders for printing of such stamps, if they were so inclined to provide such information. Other sources of information could possibly be found

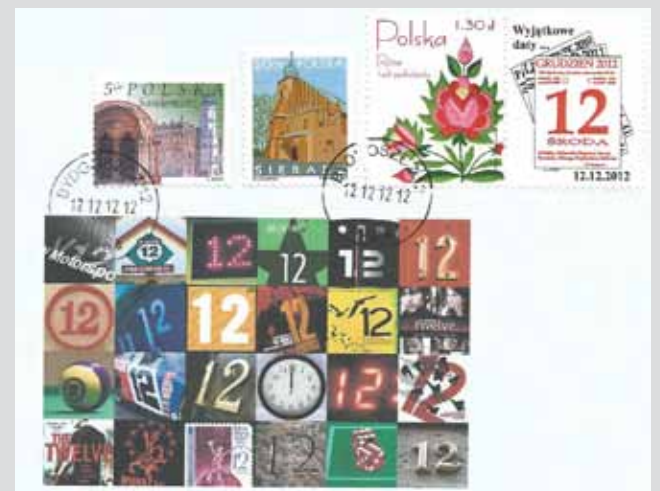
in philatelic periodicals, on the Internet and through items offered for sale at philatelic auctions. Special thanks to Chester Majewski and Adrian Wortman for providing the images used with this article.

For Sale

A unique and limited edition¹ cover with a "Personalized"² stamp and label commemorating the exceptional date of 12.12.2012 with a cancellation in Bydgoszcz on "12.12.12.12".

The unaddressed cacheted envelope (6.4" x 4.5") includes the following stamps:

- 1.3 zł Roses in Polish Embroidery with label (Fi 4045)
- 20 gr All Saints College Church in Sieradz (Fi 4049)
- 5 gr Polish Town Series Sandomierz (Fi 3941)



Price: \$6.00 (includes shipping and handling in USA)

To Order: via PayPal – e-mail: zyby@optonline.net
via personal check – mail to:
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323 Starke Avenue
East Meadow, NY 11554

Footnotes:

¹ Krawczyk reports that he only has eight of the covers left

Happy Easter

Easter (Wielkanoc) in Poland, as in many countries around the globe, is a very special time indeed. The holiday is the most important day for Roman Catholics, the predominant religion of Poland. Whereas the primary image connected with Easter is the Resurrection, other symbols associated with the holiday, such as beautifully decorated Easter eggs (pisanki wielkanocne), the blessing of food on the Saturday before Easter, and Easter brunch (święconka), are part of the Polish tradition. In addition to having religious significance, some of these symbols celebrate the coming of Spring and the long-awaited rebirth and renewal of nature after the long, dark months of winter. Less traditional items such as fluffy yellow

chicks and bunnies are also a part of the imagery associated with the holiday.

Besides being a religious holiday, the days leading up to Easter are also some of the busiest in terms of mail volume. Sending Easter greetings is a tradition deeply ingrained in Polish culture, a fact not lost on the Polish post. Virtually every year since 1995, the Polish Post has issued Easter themed postage stamps for the holiday, something not done under the Communist government of 1944 -1991. We share with you some of the past issues and extend our wishes for a Happy Easter to all our members and their loved ones.

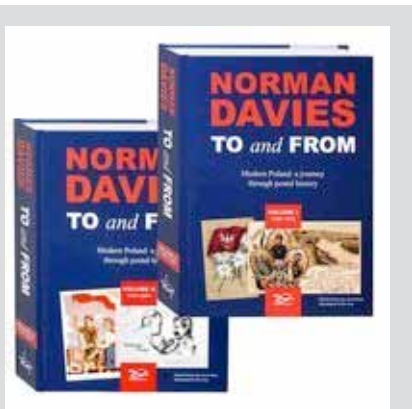


Member Ron Wolosewicz has prepared the following descriptions of books that he has for sale. Interested parties can contact Ron at 5410 Country Club Drive, La Grange, IL 60525 or via e-mail at ronwolosewicz@cs.com or via telephone at (708) 354-1172.

TO and FROM Modern Poland: a journey through postal history

By: Norman Davies

This two volume work by Professor Norman Davies, one of the greatest contemporary historians of Polish history, is an enormous contribution towards Polish philately. This work is chronologically organized with volume one spanning the years 1850-1939 and volume two spanning the years 1939-2005. It is modern Poland since 1850 as seen through postal history. This work has been published in English (TO and FROM) and in Polish (OD i DO). The set for sale is the English version. The two volumes are hard bound, approximately 8½ x 11¼ in., contain 712 pages and 2000+ illustrations of post cards, letters and stamps.



Norman Davies, of Welch descent, obtained his Ph.D. from the Jagiellonian University in Kraków. His first published book, "White Eagle, Red Star: The Polish-Soviet war, 1919-20", was based upon his dissertation. He began his interest in Polish postal history some 25 years ago while waiting for a bus on London's famous stamp mile, "The Strand".

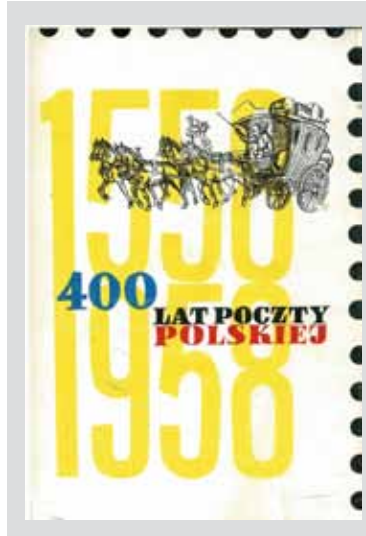
This chance encounter with Polish correspondence fascinated him and gave him the idea to use postal history as a means to gain a better understanding of Polish history.

This two volume set is in excellent condition and is available for the price of \$60.00, which includes shipment within the continental USA.

400 Lat Poczty Polskiej (400 Years of Polish Post)

By: Ministry of Communications

This is a 400 year history of the Polish Post (1558-1958). Book was published by Wydawnictwa Komunikacyjne (Communication Publishing) in Warsaw in 1958 and has 398 pages with text in Polish. In addition to numerous illustrations there are postal cancellations, mint stamps and souvenir sheets mounted in the book.



This book is in excellent condition with the exception of bent cover edges. Dust jacket is worn but intact. Book is available for the price of \$70.00, which includes shipment within the continental USA.

APS Features Poland: At a Glance

Take a "tour" of Poland with the American Philatelic Society. The APS Reference Collection, created and sustained through the generosity of APS members, may be viewed



Figure 1

by visiting <http://stamps.org/Reference-Collection-Tour>. Updated album pages have been posted on 13 March. Upon visiting the website, click on the Poland stamp (**Figure 1**) and you will access 39 album pages nearly filled with a combination of mint and cancelled stamps. These pages cover Poland stamps from #1 up to the early 1950's. Enjoy your tour!



Date of Issue	October 31, 2012
Sheet Format	Single in SS
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Marzanna Dąbrowska

City-Gardens in Poland

This 4.15 zł stamp recognizes the scenic suburban gardens of three Polish cities (Polish: Podwarszawskie Trójmiasto Ogrodów) located near Warsaw: Brwinów, Milanówek, and Podkowa Leśna. Oblique aerial photos of the three different gardens are shown in cachets on three official first day covers, each having a distinctive cancellation.



Date of Issue	November 30, 2012
Sheet Format	100 Stamps (10 x 10)
Printing Method	Rotogravure
Designer	Agnieszka Sobczyńska

Christmas (Boże Narodzenie)

Two different holiday stamps were issued. The "A" denominated stamp (1.60 zł) depicts two young angels with a shooting star, while the 2.40 zł stamp shows the two angels with boxes of holiday gifts. Poland's year-end holiday traditions vary regionally. In the regions of Lesser Poland (Małopolska with Kraków as key city) and Silesia (Wrocław as key city), the Baby Jesus or his messengers (small angels) bring gifts at Christmas. Since the angels are invisible, their presence is signaled by the ringing of a bell. Children often remain silent at Christmas Eve dinner (Wigilia) so as not to scare off the gift givers. The stamps appear to portray this tradition. Alternatively, in the region of Greater Poland (Wielkopolska with Poznań as key city) the Star man (a man with a star or "gwiazdor") gives gifts to children at Christmas. The Star man is not initially jovial and kind (like St. Nicholas elsewhere) -- he first threatens the children with a beating from a wooden birch, but then relents and opens a sack full of presents to be shared. The tradition of the Star man is speculated to have entered Poland from Germany. We further note that in Poland St. Nicholas day is actually commemorated earlier on December 6 during Advent when the saint visits children in the evening (from Barbara Rolek, "Polish Christmas Traditions", on the website About.com). Each of the two official first day covers has a colorful cachet, one showing an angel among the stars, and the other portraying an angel over a decorated Christmas tree.



Date of Issue	December 10, 2012
Sheet Format	6 + 6 (Tête-Bêche)
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Maciej Ufnalewski

Birth Anniversary of Jerzy Turowicz

This 1.55 zł stamp honors the 100 birth anniversary of Jerzy (George) Turowicz (1912-99), the leading Polish Catholic journalist, editor, and friend of the late Pope John Paul II. During most of the years 1945 to 1999 he edited the Catholic weekly “Tygodnik Powszechny” (“General Weekly”), the only independent Catholic newspaper to survive the entire Communist regime. The newspaper is credited with launching the writing career of Karol Wojtyła, the future Pope John Paul II. In 1994 Turowicz was awarded the Order of the White Eagle, the highest state award of Poland. The following is a quotation from him (in loose translation): “Keep an open attitude in dialogue and speak the language of your opponents so that they will understand you. To accomplish this you will need to investigate and compromise. What is needed is pragmatism and realism in accomplishing your objectives while simultaneously defending your Christian values” (from the Facebook website for the Jerzy Turowicz Foundation).



Date of Issue	January 13, 2013
Sheet Format	6 Stamps
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Magdalena Jabłońska, Katarzyna Sasin & Jerzy Owsiak

21st Finale of the Great Orchestra of Christmas Charity

A sheetlet of 6 circular “A” denominated stamps (1.60 zł) was issued to recognize Poland’s “Great Orchestra of Christmas Charity” (“Wielka Orkiestra Świątecznej Pomocy”). This annual charitable event was founded in 1993 by Jerzy Owsiak, Lidia Niedzwiedzka-Owsiak, Bohdan Maruszewski, and Piotr Burczyński in order to “protect health and save children’s lives by providing medical equipment to public hospitals” (from the foundation’s deed). At the Grand Finale in early January each year, volunteers throughout Poland collect money in special cans and give donors a red-heart sticker in return; large fund-raising parties are also held throughout the country. The official first day cover has a heart-shaped cancellation and a cachet depicting a “muscle car” moving fast (“vroom”), no doubt signifying the intensity of effort in the huge charitable event.