



BULLETIN OF THE POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



Perforated proof of the Grunwald stamp that was never issued.

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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 receive a quarterly Polonus Bulletin, have complete access to the Society website (www.polonus.org), and participate in the services and activities offered by the Society. The two membership categories are: **Regular Member – North America - \$25.00 / Outside N.A. \$30.00 and Junior Member (under the age of 16) - \$10.00**. Dues are payable in US funds no later than the end of March of each calendar year. New members will receive all the Bulletins for the year in which they join. Memberships are based upon a calendar year.

Dues and Changes of Address to be sent to: Polonus Philatelic Society, P.O. Box 489, Maryville, IL 62062.

Articles for publication to be sent to: Chairman of Publication Committee.

Membership queries to be sent to: Membership Chairman.

General Society matters and complaints to be sent to: President.

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 names and addresses are not included in this limitation.

Dealer Ads – Dealers wishing to advertise to members have the following options:

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

As I settle into my second term of office as your President, I want to thank the Board of Directors for their vote of confidence in re-electing the slate of Officers, the Committee leadership and volunteers for sharing the work load, and to you, the membership, for your participation in and support of our Society.

Starting with this bulletin issue, we have plenty to talk about. As a result of Chris Kulpinski's resignation as Editor, we have re-organized and appointed a Publication Committee to handle the bulletin. At this time, I will serve as its Chairman and coordinate all activities among several committee members, including a Publisher who is responsible for the layout of this and future bulletins. If you look at page 2 you will find a listing of the members of the new Publication Committee. Important to note, contributors to the bulletin should send their articles or news items directly to the Chairman of the Publication Committee. I also want to encourage members to send me your comments regarding this and future bulletins, including what you would like to see more of or less of. Finally, I want to express my thanks and that of the entire Society to Chris Kulpinski for his service as Editor over the past 13 issues, during which time he has improved our publication and attained favorable recognition, including a Vermeil medal at the APS StampShow in Pittsburgh this past year.

Along with the mailing of this bulletin, you will find a copy of the Membership Directory 2010, something I have been promising for the past year. Eventually, we will post the Membership Directory on our website (for Members Only access) so that the listings will be kept fairly current. This tool will allow you to find members who live in your proximity and to find members with common collecting interests. We are hopeful that this tool serves to expand the benefit of membership and to facilitate the expansion of study groups, as well as the participation in committees of the Society. Please note, we have honored the wishes of those members who have opted not to disclose contact information in the bulletin or membership directory. For all members, this would be a good time to check your listing in our data base for accuracy. Any corrections should be sent directly to: info@polonus.org.

The big news is that WESTPEX 2010 is now history. This bulletin covers an overview of Polonus' par-

ticipation at this event. At the risk of repetition, this was, from all accounts, the best show ever. If you did not attend this show, be sure to read the article to find out what you missed.

One of the highlights from WESTPEX was the introduction of website enhancements, such as, the Polish-English Philatelic Dictionary and the Searchable Index for Polonus bulletin articles. Be sure to read Hank Bieniecki's article covering these website developments and then be sure to test drive the enhanced Polonus website.

At the Board of Directors and Annual Membership meetings in San Francisco, the results of the election were announced, the details of which are covered in my article on WESTPEX 2010. However, at this time, I do want to extend our thanks and best wishes to Dr. Jerzy Kupiec-Weglinski, who retired from the Board after many years of service, most notably through the recognition he has brought Polonus with Grand Award winning exhibits and his contribution of many articles on Polish Aero-Philately. I also want to welcome our newest member of the Board, Richard Jaraczewski, who will serve as Membership Chairman and have other Committee positions.

For those of you who have in the past enjoyed participating in POLPEX, I am pleased to inform you that Chet Schafer from our Chicago Chapter and John Variakojis, President of the Lithuanian Philatelic Society, have completed plans to schedule a LITHPEX-POLPEX 2010 at the Balzakas Museum in Chicago on October 15-17, 2010. This event will commemorate the 600th Anniversary of the Battle of Grunwald. Refer to the announcement letter included with this bulletin for more details, especially for entry in the competition for philatelic exhibits. With Grunwald on my mind, we thank Jan Niebrzydowski for his timely article on "The Grunwald Stamp That Was Never Issued" and for sharing the image of this rarity.

In this bulletin you will find information on a limited edition show cover from WESTPEX 2010 with an official Chopin 200th Anniversary logo as cachet. This, together with the new Polonus photostamp, is available for purchase on a first come – first served basis.

Polonus Experiences A Best Ever At WESTPEX 2010

By Bob Ogrodnik

If you were not able to join us in San Francisco, this article will provide you with highlights of the three day show. If you were at the show, this article will remind you of the grand time had by all. I want to take this opportunity to thank all who had a hand in making this venue a success, especially Andrew Urushima, who served as Polonus liaison on the WESTPEX Committee, Jim Mazepa who arranged for Prof. Auleytner's presentation and who prepared a virtual single-frame exhibit on Polonus for use on the WESTPEX website (check it out on www.westpex.com), and Hank Bieniecki for his tireless effort in bringing many loose ends together in time for this show. This article will begin with a summary of the highlights, followed by the election results; reports at the Board and Annual Membership meetings; exhibiting results (Palmares); and plenty of photos.



Opening ceremony at WESTPEX 2010 – (l-r) WESTPEX Chairman Edward Jarvis, former Miss WESTPEX 1975 Tara Pope Nemeth, Honorary Consul of the Republic of Poland, Robert V. Ogrodnik, and Consul General of Norway Sten Arne Rosnes

First, the highlights:

Member attendance at the show was better than expected. A total of 30 members checked in at the Society Table, coming from several countries (New Zealand, Australia, Poland) and several states. Polonus members exhibited 88 frames, exceeding our commitment of 60 frames. This represented 19 exhibits by 17 exhibitors.

Dr. Jerzy Kupiec-Weglinski was awarded the WESTPEX Grand Award – Single Frame Exhibit and the Polonus President's Award for the best single-frame exhibit.

Dr. Ross Marshall was awarded the Polonus Grand

Award (The Joseph Bieniecki Memorial Award) for the best multi-frame exhibit.



Bob Ogrodnik presenting Dr. Ross Marshall with The Joseph Bieniecki Memorial Award, the Polonus Grand Award for the best multi-frame exhibit

Polonus exhibitors were awarded one Grand; 19 WESTPEX medals (8-gold; 8-vermeil; 2-silver; and 1-silver bronze); and 32 out of the 57 sponsored awards (includes 21 Polonus medals); for a total of 52 out of the 112 awards granted.

Our Society Table was ideally situated and attracted many visitors, eight of whom signed on as new members.

The reception and hospitality room were well attended, providing adequate time for member interaction and socializing.

Prof. Julian Auleytner managed to overcome the volcanic ash and fly in from Poland in time for his



Members socializing in the hospitality suite – (l-r) Richard Jaraczewski, Andrew Urushima and Chris Kulpinski

well-attended presentation, "Provisional and Local Issues of the Polish Second Republic: 1918 – 1920". His new book, "Philatelic Gems in the Crown of the II Republic of Poland 1918 – 1920" was a big hit and the limited supply available at the show quickly sold out.

The election results were announced and the Board of Directors re-elected the same slate of Officers to a new three (3) year term.

An enhanced website was demonstrated at the Board and Annual Membership meetings with very favorable response.

A Membership Directory and new tri-fold Membership Pamphlet were also presented at the meetings and well received.

Dr. James Mazepa conducted a docent tour of the Polish exhibits.

Election Results



Chairman Jim Mazepa conducting a docent tour of the Polish exhibits

The seven (7) candidates nominated for the Board of Directors by the Nominating Committee have been elected by the membership to serve a three year term. They are:

Hank Bieniecki
Richard Jaraczewski
Dan Lubelski
Jim Mazepa
Bob Ogrodnik
Paul Phillips
Roman Sobus

The five (5) candidates nominated for Officers by the Nominating Committee have been elected by the Board of Directors to serve a three year term. They are:

Chairman - Jim Mazepa
President - Bob Ogrodnik
Vice President - Hank Bieniecki
Treasurer - Dan Lubelski
Secretary - Roman Sobus

Treasurer's Report:



Daryl Reiber of WESTPEX presenting Julian Auleyter with his award.

Cash balance from all accounts
January 1, 2009\$4,573.84

Income

Membership dues	4,700.00
Donations	3,230.00
All other	133.50
	8,063.50

Expense

Bulletin print & prep	3,407.74
Website & database	2,097.97
Exhibition	967.26
Outside service	600.00
All other	583.04
	7,656.01

Net Income 407.49

Cash balance from all accounts:
January 1, 2010\$4,981.33

President's Report

The following is the exact report presented at the Board of Directors and Annual Membership meetings in San Francisco.

*Polonus Annual Meeting – April 24, 2010
WESTPEX 2010 – San Francisco, California*

As my three-year term as President ends, I am pleased to report that the state of Polonus remains strong. While we can feel good about the many accomplishments and improvements made since CHICAGOPEX 2007, there still remain several unanswered challenges that represent significant opportunities for growth.

1. Our financial position continues to be favorable with cash flow sufficient to meet our obligations. Membership dues is still the major source of income, representing 58% of the total, however, a strong contributions response by generous members has provided 40% of our total income, \$2000 of which was specifically earmarked for the website enhancements. Overall for 2009, our income exceeded our expenses by \$407, increasing our cash balance to \$4981. Looking into the future and as we expand the activities of our Committees, we need to increase our income from member dues; actively promote the sale of POLPEX and Polonus collectibles; and to continue encouraging tax-deductible contributions in support of special projects.

2. Our membership continues to be one of our major challenges with new members (20) slightly exceeding attrition (15) for a net gain of 5. We currently have 206 members, 43 of which are located in 9 countries outside the USA and 163 located in 29 states within the USA. I am pleased to announce that Richard Jaraczewski has accepted Chairmanship of the Membership Committee and we look forward to his leadership in this vital area of our Society.

3. The Polonus Bulletin is one of the Society's key benefits to its membership and we are grateful to Chris Kulpinski for his service as Editor over the past 13 issues. Chris has raised the level of the bulletin and gained favorable recognition for Polonus, receiving a Vermeil medal at the APS StampShow in Pittsburgh. Chris has resigned as Editor this past March and a Publication Committee, has taken over the responsibility. The Committee consists of: Chairman (Ogrodnik), Senior Contributing Editors (Mazepa and Bieniecki), Senior Editors & Translators (Jaraczewski, Puchala, Konopka and Sobus), Associate Editors (Nowicki, Phillips and Ginsburg), New Issue Editors (Karwoski and Lubelski), Publisher (Solstice Design) and Printer (LaPorta). Our goal is to continue improving our bulletin quality and maintaining quarterly distribution in a timely manner.

4. The Polonus website continues to be a work-in-progress, however, I am pleased to introduce you to some enhancements, which should help us attract new members, as well as, improve value to existing members. The first addition to the website is a Polish-English philatelic dictionary, which will be available to members only. Another addition is a searchable bulletin index which will be available to anyone accessing our website. We are also working on loading the Expertizing and Library programs onto our website.

5. The Polonus Expertizing program is operational, with printed description and forms available. Hank Bieniecki, Chairman of the Expertizing Committee presented an article in bulletin #534 explaining the program and including a sample of the forms.

6. The Polonus library has been expanding its resource materials as members and non-members have continued to make donations of material. The challenge is to promote this resource with our membership and expand the use of the reference material. A description of our Library program is available at this meeting and at our Society Table.

7. I am pleased to finally introduce our Member Directory, something I have been promising for the past year. A copy of the directory is being circulated as testimony to its availability and a copy will be included with the mailing of bulletin #539 in June to all members. This can be a useful tool in locating members who have shared or common collecting interests or live in the same geographical area. Hopefully, this will facilitate member to member networking and collaboration.

8. We have upgraded our tri-fold promotional bulletin, which is available at this show. Our challenge is to use this tool in selling the value of a Polonus membership. We encourage members to request a supply of the tri-folds together with Membership Application forms for use at local club meetings and local shows in promoting Polonus membership.

9. Our Society Table, with banner and table covering with the Polonus logo, is highly visible, well organized and attractive to incoming show visitors. Remember, the purpose for the table is to promote Polish philately and to solicit Polonus membership.

10. The response by members to exhibit at this show has been outstanding. We have exceeded our commitment to the WESTPEX organizers (60 frames) with a showing by 17 exhibitors and 88 frames. I encourage all to attend the Awards Banquet and the docent tour that will be given by Dr. Mazepa on Sunday at 11:00 am.

11. There will be a POLPEX in Chicago this October. The Chicago Chapter of Polonus has collaborated with the Lithuanian Philatelic Society in LITHPEX-POLPEX 2010, a philatelic and numismatic event to be held at the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture to commemorate the 600th Anniversary of the Battle of Grunwald. More information is available in the hand-out.

Finally, I want to acknowledge and thank the Board of Directors and Committee Chairs for their contribution towards the accomplishments reported and look forward to working with all towards continued success and plenty of philatelic enjoyment.

Palmares

The following awards were presented for Polish exhibits at WESTPEX 2010:

Dr. Jerzy Kupiec-Weglinski - Directional Labels in Polish Aerophilately (1926-1928)

- WESTPEX Grand Award – Single Frame Exhibit
- Polonus Grand Award – Single Frame (President's Award)
- WESTPEX Gold and Polonus Gold medals

Dr. Jerzy Kupiec-Weglinski - The Air and Gas Defense League (LOPP) in Polish Aerophilately (1923-1939)

- American Air Mail Society – Best Air Mail
- WESTPEX Vermeil and Polonus Gold medals

Dr. Ross Marshall - Poland – Foreign Postal Rates 1919-1925

- Polonus Grand Award – Multi-Frame (The Joseph Bieniecki Memorial Award)
- San Francisco Pacific Philatelic Society – Margaret Munda Memorial Award of Merit
- WESTPEX Gold and Polonus Gold medals

Prof. Julian Auleytner - Beginnings of Post in Independent Poland: 1918-1920

- American Philatelic Society Award of Excellence: 1900-1940
- WESTPEX Gold and Polonus Gold medals

Frank Wiatr - Fortress Krakau 1914-1918

- SESCAL Award of Merit
- WESTPEX Gold and Polonus Gold medals

Dr. Paul J. Phillips - Gruss aus Paradies Greetings from Paradise: Life in WW2 German Occupied Poland

- American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors: Creativity Award
- WESTPEX Gold and Polonus Gold medals

Robert Puchala - Cracow Issue 1919

- California Collectors Club Award for Best 20th Century
- American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors: Novice Award
- WESTPEX Gold and Polonus Gold

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

- WESTPEX Gold and Polonus Gold

Gerard Menge – Generalgouvernement Protectorate

- German Philatelic Society – Silver Award
- WESTPEX Gold and Polonus Gold medals

Richard Mallow - The First Issue of the People's Republic

- WESTPEX Vermeil and Polonus Gold Medals

Chris Kulpinski – Polish Displaced Persons in Postwar Germany

- German Philatelic Society – Bronze Award
- WESTPEX Vermeil and Polonus Gold medals

Chris Kulpinski - Soviet Occupation of Poland 1939-1941

- American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors: Award of Honor
- ROSSICA Best Russian Exhibit
- WESTPEX Vermeil and Polonus Gold Medals

Roman Sobus - Lwów 1917-1941 – City of the Lion as Part of the 2nd Polish Republic

- WESTPEX Vermeil and Polonus Gold medals

Jan Niebrzydowski - One Polish Family WWII Ordeal (Single Frame)

- WESTPEX Vermeil and Polonus Gold Medals

Andrew Urushima – The 1944 POW Olympics: Gross Born and Woldenberg (SF)

- WESTPEX Vermeil and Polonus Gold Medals

Robert V. Ogrodnik - First Polish Air Post Issue After WWII (SF)

- WESTPEX Silver and Polonus Silver Medals

Regis Hoffman - Polish Refugees in Africa, World War II (SF)

- WESTPEX Silver and Polonus Silver Medals

Frank Karwoski - Astronomy Before and After Copernicus – Where are we in the Universe? (SF)

- WESTPEX Silver Bronze and Polonus Silver Medals

Dzintars Grinfelds - The Republic of Central Lithuania (Youth Multi-Frame)

- WESTPEX Vermeil and Polonus Gold Medals

Summary: Polonus' 19 exhibits received 52 awards (46% of the total granted)

Overall, Polonus' performance at WESTPEX 2010 demonstrated that Polish philately is alive and thriving. Next year we will be in Philadelphia for the PNSE on April 8-10, 2011. You will be hearing more about this in the next bulletins and on our website.



Member John Larson donating his \$100 winning certificate to Polonus. (l-r) Natalia Nowicka, Bob Ogrodnik, John Larson, and Hank Bieniecki

POLONUS PURLS (Polonus Philatelic URLs)

By: Sam Ginsburg

At members' request, this column is being resumed after a break of several years. I'll try to produce the column more regularly from now on, and you may also see columns written by different authors in varying styles. Its roots are in the columns by Erv Mrotek in issues 514 and 515. As Erv noted, Polonus doesn't endorse or vouch for these sites, some of which may even have moved when you try them.

To get back into the swing of things, this column focuses on stamps, since most of us are stamp collectors.

Poczta Polska, the Polish Postal Service, shows new issues in English at <http://www.poczta-polska.pl/znaczki/en/index.php>. This page has links to this year's new issues, both of stamps and postal cards, as well as directions to the philatelic center, and a brief history of postage stamps and the postal service in Poland, all in English.

The site also has a Polish-language section, which I accidentally got into. But I had somehow installed the Google Toolbar, which has a translate button. Translate automatically detected that the website was in Polish, and offered to translate it into English, producing what appears to be a pretty decent translation.

At this writing, there is Google Toolbar for Internet Explorer, and another one for Firefox. They should make it much easier for us monolingual people to use Polish or other foreign websites. Type Google Toolbar into your internet search engine, and you should find it right away. The toolbar even seems to work on the www.allegro.pl auction site!

Stamp Encyclopedia Poland, Ben Nieborg's excellent web site at <http://www.stampspoland.nl/index.html> has scans of virtually all Polish stamps

(not always genuine) and includes a sample of labels as well. Of particular interest on my most recent exploration are the scans of cancels on Poland #1. The variety is greater than I had realized.

Catalog Poland (or Polonica), by Leo van den Heuvel, is also very interesting. Another Netherlands-based site, it's in four languages (Dutch, German, Polish and English) and lists stamps with Polish themes from more than 150 stamp-issuing entities, excluding Poland itself. <http://www.polonica.info>. You can browse by country or by topic – places, organizations, events, and about 60 people.

Worldwide Experts and Forgeries: www.filatelia.fi. Forgeries and Polish Philately go together, unfortunately. At this writing, our own www.polonus.org website has links for two areas of frequently-forged stamps: The Kraków Review shows you how to analyze Kraków overprints, and Poland Przedbórz Issues tells you how to analyze the local delivery stamps of Przedbórz. But www.filatelia.fi has a wealth of world-wide information – listings of forged stamps, listings of experts, listings of forged expertising marks, a bibliography of books about forgeries, etc. Many of my friends consider it to be THE place to start exploring forged stamps or expertising marks. Make a point of becoming familiar with it.

Note: I plan to accumulate suggestions for web pages deserving of listing here. Eventually, we hope to provide links to them from the Polonus Website. So please send your favorites to me: samgins@esquared.net. I'd also appreciate your feedback on any of the sites listed here.

Thanks

The Polonus Philatelic Society expresses its condolences to the people of Poland and to the families of the victims, for their loss suffered in the tragic airplane crash in Smolensk, Russia. Ironically, the delegation lost in the crash was headed for Katyn forest to honor the 22,000 Polish prisoners of war killed 70 years ago by the Soviet Union's NKVD, forerunner of the KGB. On April 7th, the Polish Post issued a commemorative souvenir sheet "Remembering the Katyn Massacre".

The Grunwald Stamp That Was Never Issued

By Jan Niebrzydowski

On 15 July 1410 Polish and Lithuanian knights, under the command of King Władysław Jagiełło, won an important battle against the knights of the Teutonic Order. Under the guise of converting pagans to Christianity, this militaristic order was bent on establishing a stronghold on neighboring lands through murder, pillage and intimidation. The battle was fought in Grunwald in northeast Poland. The victory secured the long-term future of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, which prospered in the middle ages. To this day, Poles and Lithuanians celebrate the anniversary of this battle, this year being a milestone 600th anniversary year.

In November 1938 and upon the 20th anniversary of Polish independence, the Polish Post Office issued a series of 13 stamps commemorating the most important events of Poland's millennium. A stamp with the nominal value of 15 groszy featured the battle of Grunwald. It depicted a Polish knight in military armor on horseback aiming his lance at a fallen Teutonic knight. (**Figure 1**)

This depiction was viewed as insulting to Nazi Germany and resulted in a diplomatic protest. The



Figure 1 - Grunwald Proof



Figure 2



Figure 3

German ambassador in Warsaw intervened with the Polish government in order to avoid a political confrontation, and with a view towards establishing more amicable relations with their German neighbor, Polish officials decided not to issue the stamp, despite the fact that proofs had already been prepared. **Figure 1** is a photograph of one of only two such perforated proofs known to exist, certainly a unique rarity.

The stamp was replaced by one portraying the royal couple, Jadwiga and Władysław, with a Prussian helmet and two battle swords at their feet. (**Figure 2**) The Germans also objected to this stamp, which was issued as part of the 13 stamp commemorative series. However, after three months, this stamp was withdrawn from circulation. In subsequent printing runs, the helmet and swords were covered with ornamentation. (**Figure 3**)

Not content to have forced such concessions on the Poles, the Nazis issued stamps of their own which sparked a veritable philatelic war between the two countries, a precursor to World War II. The German Post Office in Free City of Gdańsk (Danzig) issued a series of 4 stamps showing the defeat of the Polish King Stefan Batory in 1577 when he failed to take Gdańsk. This was of minor strategic importance but the issue of such stamps in February 1939, at a time when the Germans were demanding an extraterritorial corridor between Gdańsk and the Reich, was a symptom of growing hostility.

Website Updates and Tutorials

By Hank Bieniecki

This is the first in a series of regularly occurring articles about the Polonus Website (PWS) which will address new and updated menu items. A key factor that members should understand is that the PWS is an infinitely expandable website that will over time become the key resource for members. One of our objectives is to attract collectors of Poland from all over the world to our website and to persuade

them to become members of our global society. The PWS is our primary method of finding new members.

A new feature coming to the PWS will be the posting of electronic copies of Polonus Bulletins starting with 539. This will give registered members the option to access, read and or print all future Bulletins.

Figure 1 illustrates the current menu of the Polonus Website. Each menu item represents a

separate function. The intent of this article is to familiarize members with the use of the PWS by providing a brief overview of what they will find when they select (click on) each of these items. A number of these menu items have been added this year and several are still in being populated with additional data. Inputting data into applications represents the most time-consuming part of the process. Members who would like to assist are welcome to contact me at hank@biistamp.com

Following is the name and a short description of each function currently listed on the website along with a short status report:

Members Forum: Allows members to sign in and gain access to read or post to the Polonus Forum. Currently use of this feature is not well understood by most members. This function is being revised and a tutorial on registration and usage of this function will appear in Bulletin 540.

Home: This menu selection provides visitors with the benefits of membership, contact information, and facilitates support for Polonus via donations through PayPal. Dues alone are insufficient to allow Polonus to continue expanding its benefits to the membership.

History: This menu selection provides visitors with a short history of Polonus.

Visitors' Forum: This menu item allows visitors to access Forum posts and is primarily intended to attract new members to our society.

Memoriam: Self explanatory. Key point is that without these contributions of time and money, PWS could not have been created.

Current Polonus Activities: A new feature where members may go to see what events are scheduled for Polonus in the near term and those events that are scheduled in the future so that members may make plans in advance to attend.

Membership Info & Applications: Provides non-members with the costs of membership and allows them to download Membership Applications and Website registration forms directly from PWS. More than 50% of new members join Polonus based on finding our Society on the internet.

Index to Bulletins: Provides both members and non-members with information about the fantastic English language library of philatelic material published by Polonus since 1940 and how they may be purchased. A new feature introduced during our meetings in San Francisco and currently under construction is the Searchable Electronic Bulletin Index which will allow all visitors to the site to find every published article by topic or catalog number.

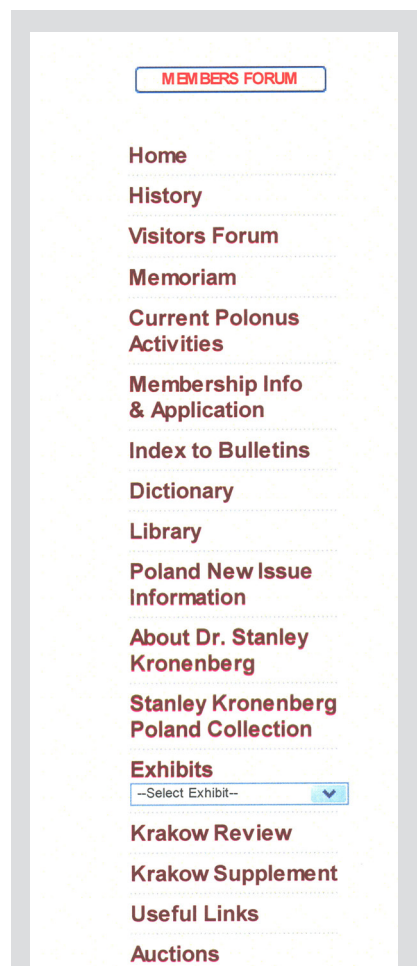


Figure 1

To create this feature requires that all article titles, authors, topics and catalog numbers be input into the database. It is expected that this project will be completed by the fall of this year. A separate article will be written on the use of this database in a future Bulletin.

Dictionary: One of our website objectives is to create an extensive Searchable Electronic Polish-English Philatelic Dictionary for the use by its membership. This new feature was introduced during our meetings in San Francisco. The database currently has 500 terms and is currently open to all visitors. As the entries expand, this database will be restricted to members. For the average non-Polish speaking member who uses Fischer and other Polish-language catalogs this feature will be an invaluable resource.

Library: Polonus is building its own Polish philatelic lending library. By selecting this menu item you may learn about this library and also download forms to borrow items from the library. Ultimately all the items in the library will be listed in a database on the website.

Poland New Issues Information: As information becomes available, all new issues of Poland are listed in this section with descriptions, Fischer catalog numbers and illustrations.

About Dr. Stanley Kronenberg: A short biography about Dr. K, a leading collector of Polish philately and world famous expert, will be added. It will also explain the unique nature of his extensive collection that will all be exhibited on the Polonus website.

Stanley Kronenberg Poland Collection: This menu item will take you to the scans of the material housed in each of Dr. K's Albums. Currently two albums are available. One new album will be added each month. Many items in this collection are unique.

Exhibits: For those members who can not attend the National Exhibitions, Polonus will be posting award-winning exhibits by various collectors under this menu item. Ultimately members can use these exhibits to learn about every area of Polish philately with excellent descriptions in English. The size of the resource is only limited by the amount of material that exhibitors are willing to share and it will, with the Dr. K collection, become an encyclopedia of information about various areas of Polish philately. The Roman Sobus P.O.W. Woldenberg Exhibit and the Dr. Julian Auleytner 1918-1920 Polish Post in Poland Exhibits are available now.

Kraków Review and Kraków Supplement: Before his death Dr. M. Melnichak was kind enough to create these sections on the famous Kraków provisional issues of Poland which are without question the most frequently forged issues of Poland. The wealth of information contained in these sections should educate potential buyers of these issues to sufficiently protect themselves from potentially buying the multitude of forgeries available on the market.

Useful Links: A slowly expanding list of links related to Polish philately that visitors and Polonus members can use in their searches. This area will be modified to classify links into groups and provide the user with more information about what they may expect to find at that link.

Auctions: Information about important upcoming auctions of Polish material in the USA and the world will be found at this menu item.

Any member who has questions about the PWS and its use or who wishes to volunteer to help with maintaining what will ultimately become a key resource of the Polonus Philatelic Society is welcome to write me at hank@biistamp.com.



Bob Ogrodnik displaying the "President's Award"



Members pose with their awards – (l-r) Bob Ogrodnik, Mary Ann Frost, Richard Mallow, Robert Puchala, Roy Koczarski, Frank Karwowski, Julian Auleytner, Paul Phillips, and Roman Sobus

Lwów Coat of Arms from Oflag Gross Born - One Card Study

By Piotr Pelczar

Translated by Roman Sobus from *Przegląd Filatelistyczny*, No. 12 (87), 2009

Editor's Note: The lion in the Polish and Ukrainian Lwów Coat of Arms (Figures 1 and 2) was the inspiration for the Semper Fidelis stamp design.

Over the past months, articles by W. Alexiewicz, J.P.Gawlik, A. Głowacz, and M.Z. Ways on the topic of Lwów have appeared on the pages of PF. Since the author's roots are also in that area, this article is about a postal stationery item from the Oflag at Gross Born. More specifically, this article is about one postcard, as a study of a single postal stationery item.

The chronicler Nester wrote that in 981, Rus Prince Włodzimierz set out to Lachów and claimed Przemyśl, Czerwień, and other places along the way. Contemporary studies indicate that former Czerwień was located around Hrubiszowa, and research indicates this to be in the area of the former Polish-Russian borderlands.

Poles also battled for control of this territory. King Kazimierz undertook successful expeditions in 1349, and took control not only of Lwów, but also

the Halicz area - Breść, Bełz, and Włodzimierz.

Lwów was considered a Royal city during the middle ages, a status similar to that held by Kraków and Gdańsk. Later, it was regarded as the capital of Galicia, and today it lies within the borders of independent Ukraine. The Latin designation "Semper Fidelis" (Always Faithful) was given the city by Pope Alexander VII in 1658.

Responsible for adding to the history of Lwów are the officials of the camp post of Oflag IID, Gross Born, located in Grossborn-Westfallenhof (Wielkie Bory-Kłomino). Card Cp 31 [2][3] commemorating Ziemie Czerwieski Week was issued on January 9, 1945, two days prior to the issuing of a stamp bearing the same design. The total quantity printed is unknown.

The author of the Semper Fidelis stamp design was Lt. Jan Kempinski, while the engraving die in wood was the work of 2nd Lt. Waclaw Bulzacki. The stamp image has dimensions of 21.5 x 39.5 mm (not 22 x 44 mm as erroneously stated in [2]) depicting a roaring lion on a paper scroll background. At the top of the design is "20 + Poczta + Gr", while at the bottom is "Gr + Of.Ob.IID +20", and underneath the



Figure 1 - Polish Lwów Coat of Arms



Figure 2 - Ukrainian Lwów Coat of Arms



Figure 3 - Impression from die for blue color



Figure 4 - Impression from die for brown color

lion "Semper / Fidelis".

Due to the fact that the stamp was printed in two colors, two separate dies were created: one for the blue impression (**Figure 3**) and one for the brown impression (**Figure 4**).

The blue shade varies in intensity to a great degree, due to the amount of ink applied. The variations of the brown color are less pronounced (**Figure 5**). Printers ink was used to produce the stamps. Shifts of impressions are found sporadically.

A very small number of cards from Gross Born exist in two versions: with the printed designation "Pocztówka" and without it. Even scarcer are those with printing errors – cards with the occasional printing omission. The "Pocztówka" designation was a planned omission on all examples of card Cp 31.

On the front of the card, printed in blue ink using a wooden die, was a decorative imprint having dimensions of 55 x 31 mm (**Figure 6**), depicting the Coat of Arms of Tarnów, Lwów and Pilawa with the text "Ziemia Czerwieńska". Color intensity is dependent on the amount of applied ink. Occasional examples of this ornamental design in black are known to exist on other Gross Born postal stationery cards.

According to [2], examples of this card without the ornamental design on the front exist, but the author has not seen such examples (**Figure 7**).

The unprinted reverse is designated for correspondence. Examples exist with stamped text invitations (**Figure 8**) for social gatherings and a date written in by hand.



Figure 5 - Color variations and registration

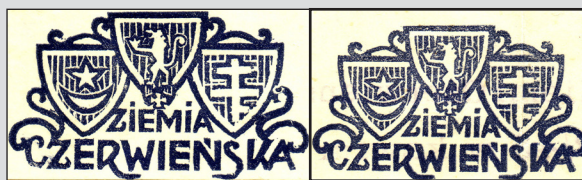


Figure 6 - Ornamental element and shade variations

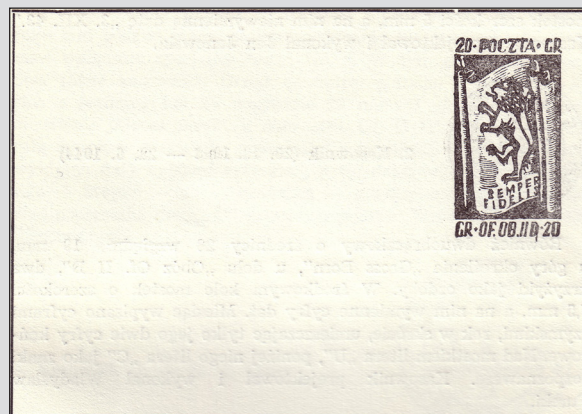


Figure 7 - Card without ornamental impression

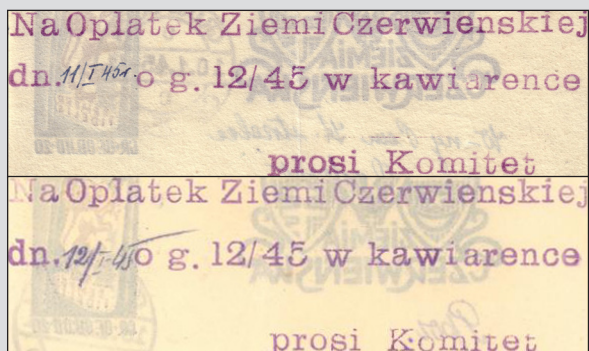


Figure 8 - Invitation with hand written dates, Jan 11 & 12

Lwów Coat of Arms



Figure 9
Paper color variations



Figures 10 & 11
Detail of stamp with printing error & normal stamp

All the cards were printed on uniform packing paper (S. Zółkiewski also referred to it as packing paper), white, stiff and smooth on one side. The cards were printed only on the smooth side. Paper color variations also exist: white and yellowish (**Figure 9**). While in literature it is referred to as thick, its thickness is only 0.08-0.09 mm.

The official format of this card is documented as 120 x 80 mm while actual length can range 120-122 mm and width 80-85 mm.

A printing error also exists, which probably occurred when some foreign material came between the die and paper. This error has the shape of a winter boot "kozaczek" (**Figure 10**). Please compare enlarged portion of the design with this error to that without error (**Figure 11**).

Printers waste (referred to as "makulatura") is very scarce for this card. The most interesting example is shown in **Figure 12**. Dimensions are 118-119 x 98 mm.

On 11 January, 1945, two days after the card entered circulation, a postage stamp of the same "Semper Fidelis" design was produced. The stamp was printed in sheets of 5 X 2 stamps (**Figure 13**); using the same two dies for each of the two colors



Figure 12
Printer's waste (makulatura) of Cp 31



Figure 13
Part of 10 stamp sheet



Figure 14
Impression from defaced die



Figure 15
- Forged card in reduced format



Figures 16 & 18
Stamps from forged cards, reduced (left) and larger formats

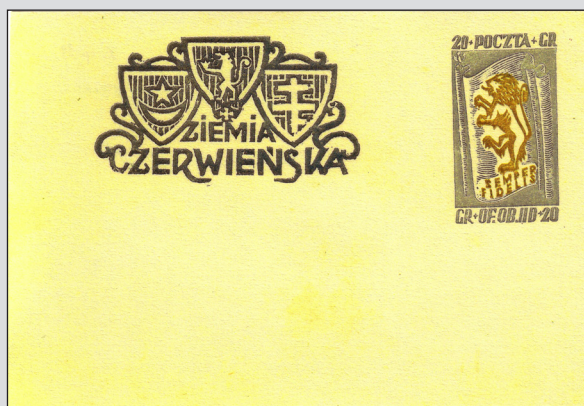


Figure 17 - Normal size forgery of Cp 31



Figure 19 - Card Cp 31 with special cancellation

used to print the postal stationery card. The quantity printed is also unknown and the area of postage stamps is outside the author's area of study.

Following the printing of the cards and stamps, the die for the blue impression was defaced by cutting two diagonal grooves, from the upper left to the lower right across the design face (**Figure 14**) [4].

Modern forgeries of this card exist. The first of these

(**Figure 15**) created with the aid of a laser printer is frequently found on internet auctions. Identification of this item does not require any expertise, since at first glance we can notice the incorrect format of this card, 103 x 61 mm along with a reduced size of the postage stamp (**Figure 16**) and a similarly reduced ornamental design with the three coats of arms. This forgery is printed on yellowish-cream paper stock having a thickness of 0.20 mm.

Another forgery is printed in dimensions similar to the genuine item, this again with a laser printer. The card (**Figure 17**) has dimensions of 119 x 83 mm. The printed stamp (**Figure 18**) may deceive a novice collector. The paper is a light cream color, thickness of 0.11 mm, slightly more yellow on the front.

Both forgeries differ from the originals through printing technique, shade of paper, and sometimes format. Known forgeries appear only as unused items, and no effort has been made to forge items used by the camp post.

A special canceller was released for the occasion of the Ziemie Czerwieńskie Week, observed January 8-14, 1945 and used during that time frame. It depicts a knight, holding a shield with the three coats of arms and the text "Tydzień Ziemi / Czerwieńskiej" (**Figure 19**). This canceller appears only on Cp 31.

Do our readers know anything else about this "Semper Fidelis" card? Piotr Pelczar (Piotr.Pelczar@wp.pl) awaits any information about this and other postal stationery cards and envelopes.

Bibliography:

[1] Collected Works, Published by Rosiński, J., "Filatelista" nr.1 Klub Filatelistów Wielkie Bory, 1944

[2] Machowski, "Pocztą Polska Obozu IID Gross Born" PZF Kraków, 1963, str. 21, 53

[3] Collected Works, Fischer Katalog Polskich Znaczków Pocztowych" tom II, Bytom-Kraków 2006, str. 177

[4] Management of the Post at Gross Born, Informator Pocztowy, nr.1, 16.I.1945, str.113

Grody Czerwieńskie: <http://www.cracovia-lepolis.pl/index.php?pokaz=art&id=700> and http://wikipedia.org/wiki/Grody_Czerwie%C5%84skie

Lwów: <http://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lw%C3%B3w> i <http://lwow.info/?menu=2&pod=13>

Herb Lwowa: http://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Herb_Lwowa

Fractionals of the Second Lublin Issue of Poland: 1918-1919

By Dr. James Mazepa

During the times of great historical or political upheaval, post offices in many countries resorted to the use of fractionals. This means cutting a stamp in half, quarters, or even eighths, to make a postal rate due to the shortage of required values. Certainly the best example is Mexico during the 1860s when fractional usages abound. But many countries utilized this method to ensure proper postal rates, but on a much more restrictive basis than Mexico.

The Second Polish Republic was proclaimed in November 11, 1918. There were two major postal administrations at this time, that of Warsaw and Lublin. Prior to independence, the Lublin district was occupied by Austria and the Warsaw district was occupied by Germany. Between the Warsaw and Lublin administrations the new Republic struggled with two different postal rates and currencies.

In the Lublin administration the stamps of Austria (and stamps of Bosnia-Herzegovina) were in use. On December 5, 1918, three Austrian Field Post stamps were overprinted into Polish stamps to meet the current rates. These are referred to as the First Lublin Issue. The rates soon changed and ten values of a second issue of Austrian Field Post stamps, the Prince Karl issue, were overprinted into Polish stamps. These are known as the Second Lublin Issue. The printing was done somewhat randomly in December 1918 and January 1919 depending on what stamps were available. However, non-overprinted Austrian stamps and stamps

of Bosnia-Herzegovina continued to be used until supplies ran out.

Unfortunately, the values of the new stamps did not always correspond to values needed to make the required rates. In some rare instances the available stamps were cut into fractionals to make up these rates. At times this resulted in a slight over or under payment of the rate. To date there has not been a detailed study of the fractionals of the Second Lublin Issue and the catalogs do not make mention of them.

In the Lublin postal administration the fractionals fall into four distinct groups: 1) Austrian stamps cut into fractionals for philatelic purposes, 2) Austrian stamps cut into fractionals for legitimate postal use, 3) the Second Lublin Issue cut into fractionals for philatelic purposes, and, 4) the Second Lublin Issue cut into fractionals for legitimate postal use. Most of the fractionals recorded are bisects, however, a few very rare examples are quadrisects.

Figure 1 is a philatelically inspired registered letter from Ostrowiec to Belchatów, February 17, 1919. The Austrian 90 heller is bisected and the letter is 3 hellers over franked. **Figure 2** is a commercial letter from Sandomierz to Lwów, February 10, 1919. The Austrian 40 heller bisect helps pay the correct 50 heller registry fee.

Figure 3 is a local philatelic letter from Busk with a bisect of the 10/30 heller Second Lublin Issue which



Figure 1



Figure 2

pays the correct 25 heller fee. **Figure 4** is a rarity of this issue, a bisect of the 45/60 heller Second Lublin Issue underpaying the fee by 2½ hellers, sent February 11, 1919, from Ozarów to Kraków. This is the only fractional recorded from this town. Another rarity, **Figure 5**, is from Konin, February 10, 1919. A quadrisect of the 45/80 heller is tied on the reverse of a postal receipt. Recipients were required to pay a 10 heller fee for delivery. Here, a slight overpayment. Several quadrisects are recorded from Konin, some cut into vertical strips of four.

These usages are just one example of the rich postal history of this time in Poland.

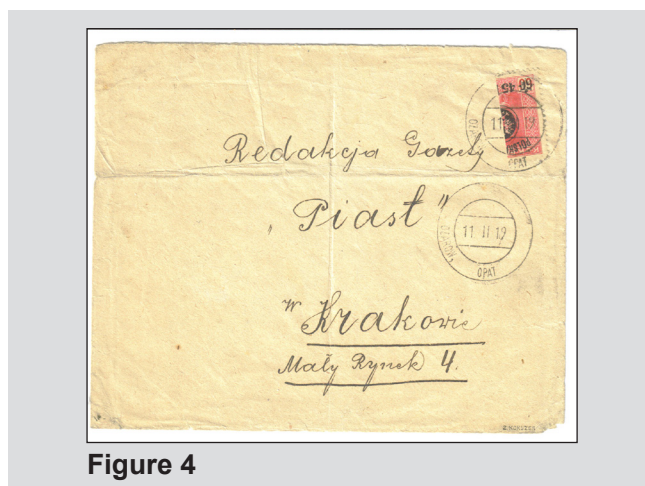


Figure 4

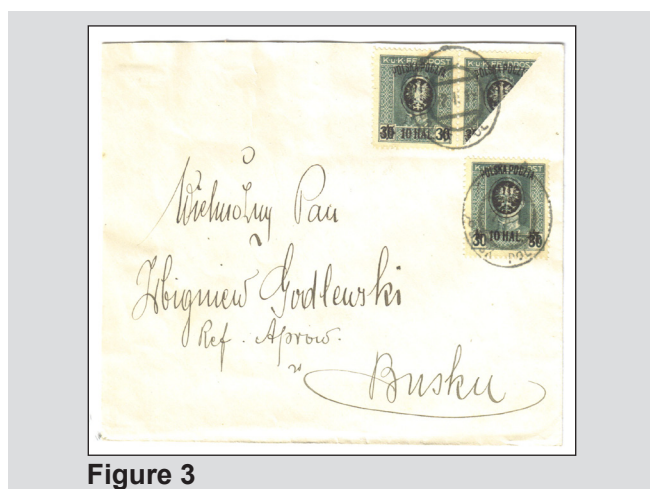


Figure 3

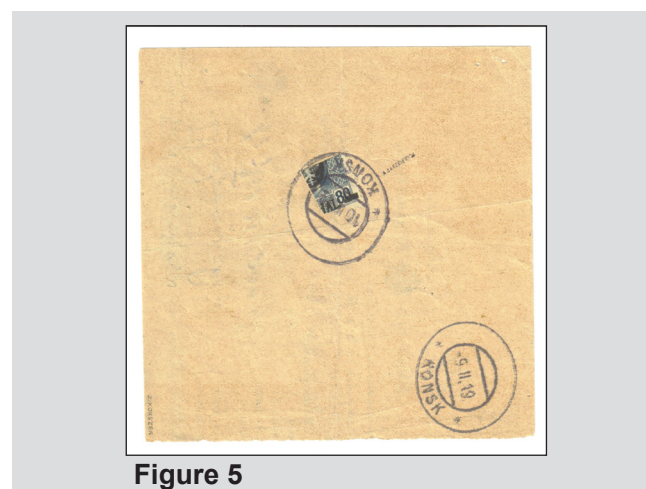


Figure 5

New Members

We welcome the following new members who recently joined our Society:

Richard Macaulay-Manning - #1685
200 S. 8th Street
Deming, NM 88030

Stephen M. Kajka, Jr. - #1686

Dzintars Grinfelds - #1687
3800 21st Street
San Francisco, CA 94114

Pamela J. Atherstone - #1688
828 Grimes Avenue
Modesto, CA 95358-2002

Ronald F. Bergstrom - #1689
5150 Fair Oaks Blvd., Ste
101/187
Carmichael, CA 95608

Christopher Wzacny - #1690
295 N. Glengarry Road
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48301-2713

Ronald V. Dobrowolski - #1691
1435 S. Clinton Avenue
Trenton, NJ 08610-6209

Trevor J. Ambridge - #1692
42 Scarsdale Villas
London, W8 6PP, United Kingdom

Thomas J. Griesbach - #1693

Richard Ogar - #1694

John Campbell - #1695
16 Haumoana Road
Hawke's Bay, 4102, New Zealand

William C. Tatham - #1696
5734 Pickering Avenue
Whittier, CA 90601

Wallace A. Craig - #1697
P.O. Box 3391
Fullerton, CA 92834

Jacek Napiorkowski - #1698
12 Wilam Court
Cranbourne, Victoria 3977
Australia

Fryderyk Chopin (1810 – 1849)

By Jan Niebrzydowski

This year the world celebrates the 200th anniversary of Fryderyk Chopin's birth. He is known as a great Pole, a brilliant Romantic composer and an unsurpassed piano virtuoso. In honor of this anniversary, UNESCO has proclaimed 2010 International Chopin Year. Under UNESCO auspices a ceremonial Chopin concert will be performed at UNESCO Hall in Paris on June 18th. Special concerts, festivals, competitions, symposia, exhibitions and other Chopin-related events are being held across Europe and around the globe. Postal authorities are also marking this anniversary with commemorative stamps, FDC's, and special cancellations.

I would like to take this opportunity to present a proof of the 40 groszy stamp featuring Fryderyk Chopin issued by the Polish Post on 28 February 1927 (Figure 1).

The proof is blue printed on cardboard measuring 8.3 by 6.0 centimeters. A note on the reverse reads, "approved for printing", which means that the postal commission approved this particular blue color for the print run. I have seen several proofs of this stamp in various colors, but they had all been cut from an imperforated sheet.



Figure 1 - 40 gr Chopin Proof (Fi225)

Commemorative Show Covers and Polonus Photo Stamps

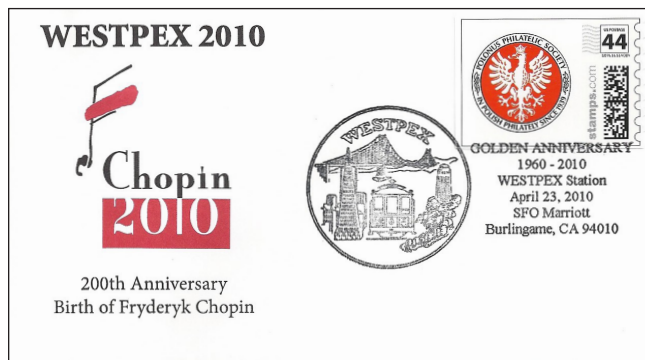
A limited supply of WESTPEX / Chopin covers franked with a "Polonus" photo stamp is available for purchase at a price of \$5.00. (limited to 100)

A small supply of the "Polonus" photo stamps is also available for a purchase price of \$2.00 for a single stamp (as shown) or \$7.50 for a strip of five or \$25.00 for a sheet of twenty.

25% of the proceeds from this sale will be donated to Polonus

Send your orders directly to:

Robert V. Ogrodnik
P.O. Box 240428
Ballwin, MO 63024-0428





150 Years of Polish Stamps

Date of Issue	January 15, 2010
Sheet Format	1 Stamp in SS
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Maciej Jedrysik

This first issue of the new year, a 4.15 zł stamp in a souvenir sheet, celebrates the first stamp issued in Poland under Russian occupation in 1860. The souvenir sheet depicts the front of a postal item sent from Kalwaria, Wadowice District, Kraków województwo [with circled numeral cancellation #23] to Warsaw, in a vertical strip of 6 stamps, each individually cancelled, and arrayed horizontally. One of

the old stamps has been selected for the new stamp-on-stamp design issue with perforations. The first day cover depicts an enlargement of an unused copy of this classic stamp of Poland.



2010 Winter Olympics

Date of Issue	January 27, 2010
Sheet Format	12 Stamps
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Jacek Brodowski

This single 3 zł stamp honors the 2010 Winter Olympics held in Vancouver, Canada. The stamp appropriately depicts cross-country skiers -- Poland's Justyna Kowalczyk won a gold medal in the Ladies' 30-km Cross-Country Skiing. Five other Poles also

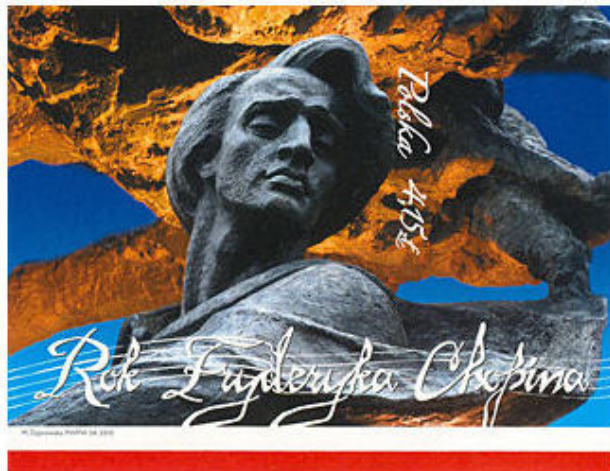
won medals in the competitions. The beautiful first day cover for the stamp depicts skaters and a view of Vancouver.



Cats

Date of Issue	February 17, 2010
Sheet Format	MS of 6 stamps
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Andrzej Gosik

These 6 stamps of cats include two 1.55 zł denominations (British Shorthair & Siamese); two 1.95 zł denominations (Somalian & Maine Coon); and two 3 zł denominations (Persian & Exotic). In addition, three attractive first day covers include cancelled pairs of each denomination and large imprinted images of different cats.



Warsaw. The original monument, designed by Wacław Szymanowski in 1926 depicts Chopin under a wind-blown willow, listening to the sounds of nature in his native Mazovia. Its strong symbolic representation of the strength of the Polish spirit led the invading German army to immediately destroy it in 1940. But in 1946 it was meticulously restored to its former splendor and to this day remains one of Poland's most important sites.

Anniversary of Chopin

Date of Issue	February 22, 2010
Sheet Format	Single in SS (preforate and imperforate)
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Marzanna Dąbrowska

This 4.15 zł stamp in a souvenir sheet honors the bicentennial of the birth of Poland's most celebrated composer and pianist, Fryderyk Chopin, who was born in 1810 in Zelazowa Wola, about 50 miles west of Warsaw. The stamp appears to depict a portion of the famous Chopin Monument in Łazienki Park in



Easter

Date of Issue	March 5, 2010
Sheet Format	100 Stamps
Printing Method	Rotogravure
Designer	Jerzy Pietras

These two holiday issues depict a lamb on the 1.55 zł stamp and a basket of eggs on the 2.40 zł stamp, each depicted in an outdoor grasslands setting. The two first day covers also include a design of wildflowers in a similar outdoor setting.



History of Polish Photography

Date of Issue	March 31, 2010
Sheet Format	MS of 3 sets of 4 stamps
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Jacek Konarzewski

These four 1.95 zł stamps depict urban photographs taken by photographer Jan Bulmak. The two first day covers issued show two additional printed photographs of Bulmak, and include a pair of the stamps and a cancellation depicting Bulmak.