

# BULLETIN OF THE **POLONUS** PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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## LET'S GET ROLLING WITH POLPEX!

With this issue of the *Polonus Bulletin* we enclose an entry application for you to exhibit at our POLPEX 81 to be held March 28-29 at the Polish Veterans Building in Chicago. In spite of the late start, there is still time to put on a successful exhibition if you members respond to this appeal for exhibitors. Since this year's theme is *Sports On Stamps*, we ask those who collect this topic to exhibit it. And to round out the display we must have other Poland and foreign exhibits too. Let's get in the spirit and show our stuff this year!

Our president, John Bartezak, has taken on the post of Executive Chairman of the POLPEX. Other committees are chaired by Stanley Rusin, Entries; Alfred Szebel, Awards; William Juszezak, Set-up; Chester Schafer, Ads - Patrons - Well Wishers; Roman Strzelecki, Bourse; J. Mazepa, A. Szebel and C. Schafer, Publicity; Walenty Poniecki, Security; Walter Lewinski, Sales; S. Rusin, Finances; L. Kawecki and A. Szebel, Arts & Design; S. Rusin and A. Szebel, Beeba.

Member Leon Kawecki has already designed the special cancellation to be used by the U.S. Postal Service which will have a postal station at our show. The cachets on the covers are also completed and they're beautiful. We are now anxiously awaiting the souvenir sheet design.



To start the ball rolling, our newest honorary member Richard Estka donated the sum of \$100.00 as the first patron. Listed as POLPEX Patrons in our souvenir program-catalog will be those who donate \$5.00 or more. Well Wishers are \$2.00. Please send your checks to Chester Schafer, 864 N. Ashland Ave., Chicago, IL 60622.

To offset the cost of printing the colorful souvenir program-catalog, we appeal for ads. Prices are \$50.00 for a full page; \$30.00 for a half page; and \$20.00 for a quarter page. Deadline for copy is March 10th. Send copy for your ad to C. Schafer, above address.

Inflation is catching up with Polonus and we will need more funds than usual. Do your share as a member — get an ad for the program-catalog; donate as a patron or well wisher; let's put on a good show!

# POLISH AIR FORCE POSTOFFICE IN BLACKPOOL

By F. JANUSZEWSKI

Following the fall of France in June 1940 and according to the order of the Commander-in-Chief, Polish airmen gathered in French ports on the Mediterranean and the Atlantic to find a way to cross to England. From June 24th through June 27th they left from St. Jean de Luz, Porte Vendre, La Rochelle, Bordeaux, and Verdun and landed in Plymouth and Liverpool in England. British authorities directed the Polish airmen to the main camp near Gloucester, and thence to Liverpool in Lancashire.

At the Polish Air Force camp in Blackpool, the organization of a Polish Air Force Training Center was started in July 1940. July and August saw the formation of the first Polish Air Force Squadrons in Great Britain:

July 1, 1940 — Bomber Squadron  
No. 300 *Ziemi Mazowieckiej*

July 13, 1940 — Fighter Squadron  
No. 302 *Poznanski*

July 22, 1940 — Bomber Squadron  
No. 301 *Ziemi Pomorskiej*

Aug. 2, 1940 — Fighter Squadron  
No. 303 *Kosciuszki*

In August of 1940 an agreement between the Polish and British governments was signed as to the manner of use of the Polish Armed Forces on land, sea, and air in the United Kingdom.

There existed in France a Liaison Office with Poland which, according to the order No. 86/tj/40, dated September 24th, 1940, issued by the Inspector of the Polish Air Force, became disbanded and closed.

An order No. 47/tj/40, issued by the Commanding Officer of the Polish Air Force Camp in Blackpool, caused the formation of a Postal Bureau in Blackpool. The director of this bureau was Cpt. Albert Kubieniec, assisted by Cpt. Andrzej Godlewski. Lt. Roman

Popiel was also attached there from December 2nd, 1940. After the transfer of Cpt. Kubieniec and Lt. Popiel on May 7th, 1941 to other posts, Cpt. Godlewski became in charge of the bureau with Cpt. Jerzy Kukulka as his deputy.



**Polish Air Forces mail cancellation dated November 5, 1943.**

The Postal Bureau was engaged in the dispatching of the mail from Polish soldiers to Poland and to neutral countries, as well as the receipt of incoming mail and its distribution to individual Polish Air Force units.

Up to the end of the year 1940, the handling of the mail with Poland was dealt with entirely by the firm "Cooks," handling approximately 200 letters each day.

The Postal Bureau in Blackpool dealt with formalities connected with the sending of parcels to Poland. The quantity of mail continued to increase, and the parcels from Canada and USA were also handled. The Postal Bureau searched out the addresses of the recipients, while the formalities associated with dispatching to the recipients were dealt with by the R.A.F. Record

Office, Polish Depot, Blackpool.

Already in late November of 1940. the command of the Polish Air Force Base in Blackpool was reporting to the Polish Air Force Inspectorate in London that they were holding large quantities of mail for airmen who do not appear on their records of airmen names and addresses. As a result of this, an order was issued that all private incoming and outgoing mail was to be directed to the Polish Clearing Military Office No. 2, *Komenda Uzupelnien Nr. 2.* in Blackpool, from which it would be sent to individual camps and units according to the lists held.

From the November 1st, 1940 censorship of correspondence applied according to censorship regulations issued by the Air Ministry, No. AAe8/s, 6112, the Alliance Forces in Great Britain used a special post office box Nos., with a different No. for each nation, giving as the return address: London EC1 (for Polish soldiers, this was P.O. Box 227, London EC1). On sending a letter, no rank of sender had to be quoted; only the individual identification number and a Christian name and surname. The number of outgoing letters was restricted to one letter every two weeks per person. Letters ready for sending were handed in unsealed envelopes to the Station Commanding officer or to his deputy. These were put into special mail bags and sent to the Main Censorship Office, Brook Street, London EC1. All letters were subject to censorship, and avoidance was treated as a disciplinary offense. It was forbidden to write about the weather, about military or industrial matters, or to use green ink.

Letters to Poland were passed by the Polish Postal Bureau in Blackpool to the Postal Officer of the Polish Ministry of National Defense in London. In order to cover the cost of sending letters to Poland via Portugal,

the postage of 1 shilling, 2 pence was charged, and the letters were franked with Portuguese stamps. With each letter it was necessary to include a small card giving any pseudonym and the actual name of the sender, date, station from which it was sent, and the name and address of the addressee.

To the letter addressed to Poland it was necessary to add:

*Alemanha* - To Poland under German occupation.

*General-Gouvernement, Deutsche Post Osten* - To Poland under General Government rule, or the North-eastern part of Poland.

If a reply letter was desired, it was necessary to quote the return address as: Caixa Postal 512, Lisboa Central, Portugal, instead of P.O. Box 227, London EC1.

A later instruction from the Polish Air Force Inspectorate, Lodz, 2095/tj/42, dated December 2nd, 1942, gives further obligatory details to be applied when sending letters to Poland. These included:

To Eastern Malopolska - The words *Galizien* - *General-Gouvernement* had to be added.

To the province of Wolyn and the province of Podlasie with Brzese by Bug - *Deutsche Dienst* had to be included.

To the province of Bialystok without the Suwalki district and the eastern side of the river Niemen & Pruzany - *Bezirk Bialystok durch Deutsche Dienst Post uber Ostpreussenn* had to be added.

To the provinces of Wilno and Nowogrodek - *Deutsche Dienst Post Ostland* had to be added.

To the town of Lodz - Address: *Alemanha-Litzmannstadt.*

Following the cancellation of Post Office Box Nr. 512 in Lisbon, a new address appears: Rue Dos Lusiadas, Lisbon, Portugal.

The style of the address used was, for example:

*Alemanha - Deutschland*  
*frau Krystyna Kowalska*  
*Długa Nr. 17*  
*Kielce - District Radom*

Sender:

*Jan Domanski*  
*Rue Dos Lusiadas 15*  
*Lisbon, Portugal*

Letters sent to Polish soldiers in prisoner of war camps in Germany were addressed: Prisoner of War, Post Kriegsgefangenen, Post Gebuhrenfrei.

Letters written according to the given instruction were directed to the following address: *Oficer Pocztowy Sztabu Naczelnego Wodza*, Postal Officer of the Commander in Chief Staff, Rubens Hotel - Room 42, London SW1.

Postal charges for mail to Poland via Portugal were reduced to: A) per postcard or letter stamped with Portuguese stamp - 6d. B) per letter unpayable to the Postal Officer of the stamped - 1sh. These charges were Commander-in-Chief Staff.

From the 3rd of November, 1941, Major Michal Pozniak was nominated as the head (a postal officer) of the Polish Air Force Postal Bureau in Blackpool. He was a regular officer before September 1st, 1939, an assistant quartermaster of the 3rd Regiment of Polish Air Forces in Pozen (Poznan). His assistant was Cpt. Godlewski, however, was transferred to another post in February 1942.

The establishment of postal personnel for the *Postal Bureau* in Blackpool was one officer and three men (n.e.o.). Actually there were one officer as per establishment, one temporary assigned officer, four sub-officers and two men. The Bureau dealt with both private and military correspondences, it received and dispatched service correspondence from the various offices in Blackpool, it collected

and dispatched letters and parcels from air force personnel, besides this, it periodically occupied itself with the collection of money for Polish stamps issued in London, according to the instruction of the Ministry of Finance. The Postal Bureau did not handle any other cash, apart from petty cash for office expenses.

The following records were maintained:

- a) Register of letters of value,
- b) Register of American letters,
- c) Register of registered letters,
- d) Register of parcels,
- e) Register of letters to Poland,
- f) List of addresses of officers,
- g) Index of airmen,
- h) List of general addresses,
- i) Receipts,

The Polish Air Force Postal Bureau (*Referat Oficera Pocztowego*) in Blackpool, according to an order from The Delegate of the Polish Air Force Inspectorate in Blackpool dated December 1, 1942, renamed as "*Biuro Pocztowe Delegatury Inspektoratu Lotnictwa Polskiego*" (Postal Office of the Delegate of the Polish Air Force Inspectorate.)

Based on the Third Polish-British Agreement of April 4, 1944, airmen of the Polish Air Force became liable to Polish Legal and Disciplinary Regulations. At that time the Polish Air Force Inspectorate changed its name to *Dowództwo Polskich Sił Powietrznych*, (Headquarters of the Polish Air Force), and The Delegation of P.A.F. in Blackpool to *Baza Polskich Sił Powietrznych*, (Polish Air Force Base), appropriately The Postal Bureau became known as *Biuro Pocztowe Bazy Polskich Sił Powietrznych*, (The Postal Office of the Polish Air Force Base).

The Postal Office in Blackpool changed its address a few times, it was: 88 Central Drive, 35 Tyldsley Road, 22 Derby Road.

# THE POLISH AIR FORCE IN BLACKPOOL

POSTAL OFFICE  
BIURO POCZTOWE

## POLISH UNITS

RESERVE CENTER  
OSRODEK ZAPASOWY

QUARTERMASTER'S OFFICE  
KWATERMISTRZOSTWO

OFFICER'S SQUADRON  
ESKADRA OFICERSKA

STAFF'S SQUADRON  
ESKADRA SZTABOWA

RESERVE SQUADRON  
ESKADRA ZAPASOWA

CLEARING MILITARY OFFICE #2  
KOMENDA UZUPELNIEN #2

RECORD OFFICE PAF  
WYDZIAŁ ADMINISTRACJI STANÓW

STANDING COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT  
KOMISJA SPADKOWO - WYDAWNICTW

HISTORICAL OFFICE  
BIURO HISTORYCZNE

CHIEF MEDICAL SERVICE UNIT  
SZEFOSTWO SZKUBY ZDROWIA

CHAPLAIN HEAD  
SZEŁ DUSZPASTERSTWA

BRANCH OF THE MILITARY COURT  
EKSPozyTURA SADU POŁOWEGO

INTELLIGENCE OFFICE  
PLACÓWKA BEZPIECZENSTWA

PAF POLICE STATION  
POSTERUNEK POLICJI LOTNICZEJ

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER  
OFICER GOSPODARCZY BAZY

THEATRICAL SECTION  
LOTNICZA CZÓŁÓWKA TEATRALNA

COMMON ROOM  
ŚWIETLICA I GOSPODA

## BRITISH INSTITUTIONS

RAF HEADQUARTER'S BLACKPOOL  
DOWODZTWO KROLWSKICH SIK  
POWIETRZNYCH - BLACKPOOL

RAF RECORD OFFICE  
BIURO REJESTRACJI KROL  
SIK POWIETRZNYCH

GENERAL POST OFFICE - BLACKPOOL  
GŁÓWNY URZĄD POCZTOWY (ANG.) BLACKPOOL

1945



The Polish Air Force in Great Britain was the theme Polonus used on its Polpex souvenir sheet of 1944.

On July 25, 1945 the Polish Air Force Base from Blackpool was transferred to the R.A.F. Station Dunholm Lodge near Lincoln, the Postal Office was moved there also.

The mail arriving at the Postal Office was usually stamped with the date postmark. Two types of postmarks were used, differing only in the wording which was only in Polish. The first postmark was used between December, 1942 and February, 1944, and read "*Biuro Pocz. Deleg. In. Lot.*" — Polish Air Force Mail, with the date in the middle in one line. The second was in use from February 18, 1944, and read "*Biuro Pocztowe Bazy Sil Pow.*" Polish Air Force Mail. These date postmarks were in metal, round in shape, having double rings, the outer being 35 diameter.

The Postal Office also used the following additional seals:

1. *Biuro Pocztowe Deleg. Insp. Lotn.* Polish Air Force Mail, horizontal two lines type seal.
2. Senior Polish Officer.
3. R.A.F. Station.
4. D.R.L.S.
5. *Otrzymano bez znaczka* (received unstamped).
6. *W Lotnictwie nie figuruje - Kier. Biura Pocz. Lot.* (not listed in the Air Force - Post. Comm. Officer).
7. *W razie przeniesienia adresata do innej jednostki, przeslac za nim -*



Example of cancellation used on post card dated May 8, 1945.

(In case of transfer of addressee to another unit, please forward).

8. *Biuro Pocztowe Bazy Sil Powietrznych* - Polish Air Forces Mail.

(horizontal two line type seal).

9. Polish Commanding Officer.

10. Return to sender.

In special cases a wax seal was used, using the impression of a Polish one grosz coin. This seal was the work of Capt. Kurzynski, made in January, 1945.

For official service correspondences, standard British envelopes or gummed labels were used with the inscription "Official Paid" and/or "On His Majesty's Service."

The registered mail bore the usual British recommended label "R" with the words "Blackpool 115" and "Nr. \_\_\_\_."

## 1942 Report from the Polish Air Force Postal Office in Blackpool

OFFICIAL MAIL - Numbers of items handled daily:

|                                                    |             |
|----------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Receipts from the civilian local Post Office ..... | approx. 130 |
| Dispatches to the civilian local Post Office ..... | 170         |
| Dispatches to H.Q. ....                            | " 120       |
| Receipts of registered mail .....                  | " 240       |
| Dispatches of registered mail .....                | " 183       |

PRIVATE MAIL - Number of items handled:

|                                       |               |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| Registered and overseas mail .....    | 10631         |
| Normal unregistered letters .....     | approx. 14000 |
| Parcels sent to Air Force Units ..... | 808           |
| Local parcels dispatched .....        | 121           |

(Total 929 during two months of November and December.)

The Official Mail was taken over from British authorities December 1, 1942 and henceforward, being independent, worked directly in liaison with the local civilian Post Office and with the H.Q. in Blackpool.

The private mail arose in the first days following the arrival of Polish airmen in Great Britain.

The track of the Polish Air Force Post Office was formed around two sections - official and private.

1943

#### OFFICIAL MAIL

|                                                                                                 |       |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| Dispatches of registered mail via H.Q. Blackpool by vehicles . . . .                            | 18921 |
| Dispatches of mail marked "Official", or in official envelopes<br>via the Post Office . . . . . | 9528  |
| Dispatches of registered letters in official envelopes . . . . .                                | 4661  |
| Dispatches of official parcels bearing postage stamps . . . . .                                 | 731   |
| Receipts of registered letters . . . . .                                                        | 4471  |
| Receipts of unregistered letters . . . . . approx. 60 items daily                               |       |

#### PRIVATE MAIL

|                                               |       |
|-----------------------------------------------|-------|
| Unregistered and overseas letters . . . . .   | 62143 |
| Registered and unregistered parcels . . . . . | 3258  |

1944

#### OFFICIAL MAIL:

|                                                                           |       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| Dispatches of registered and unregistered parcels - postage paid . .      | 914   |
| Dispatches of official pre-paid letters and in official envelopes . . . . | 13713 |
| Dispatches of registered letters in official envelopes . . . . .          | 7055  |
| Dispatches of letters by H.Q. messengers D L R S . . . . .                | 14330 |
| Receipts of registered mail . . . . .                                     | 9740  |

#### PRIVATE MAIL:

|                                                         |        |
|---------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| Receipts of letters unregistered and overseas . . . . . | 188322 |
| Receipts of parcels including registered . . . . .      | 7969   |

## THEY DON'T WANT A CLIQUE TO RUN THINGS

Reprinted from "The Philatelic Journalist"

"There are occasionally complaints by some of the members that they don't want to join an organization such as ours, because there is always a clique that runs things to suit themselves and they won't listen to any suggestions. This type of objection, it has been my experience, generally comes from those who don't attend meetings, who won't serve on any committee, because they are too busy, they won't become regional directors or, God forbid, serve as an officer. They never have the time or inclination to do anything for anyone in the group. And then they wonder why the few members who are left holding the

bag and serve their society, run things to suit themselves. They are compelled to do so, if they are expected to do anything at all.

### NEW MEMBERS

Arthur F. Borysewicz  
3851 Grayton  
Detroit, MI 48224  
Fred W. Werneth  
4562 N. Austin  
Chicago, IL 60656  
Roman Truskolaski  
5428 W. Cornelia  
Chicago, IL 60641  
Dr. David P. Reed  
202 Central Road  
Middlebury, CT 06762

# IS THE ENVELOPE No. 3 FROM 1869 ACTUALLY A "REPRINT" OR A PROOF?

By STANISŁAW ŻÓLKIEWSKI

James Mazepa, a Polonica collector whose outstanding collection "Kingdom of Poland 1733-1865"<sup>1</sup> was entered in the exhibition "Łódź '75" states that the reprint of the envelope No. 3 from 1869 is not any kind of a reprint, but rather a proof. His statement is published in No. 363 of the Bulletin of the Polonus Society issued in Chicago (USA) in May 1978. His conclusion is based on the following arguments:

A) There is no appropriate directive by the proper postal authorities to sanction the issue of the reprint.

B) There is no logical reason or need for issuing such a reprint.

C) The presence of a Polish eagle on the front of a Russian eagle is contrary, according to him, to the intensive Russification prevalent within the occupied Polish territories after the failure of the Polish uprising in 1863.

D) Any proof of the use of this reprint during its issue is completely lacking.

Mr. Mazepa's position is supported in No. 368 of the same publication by M.A. Bojanowicz, an honorary president of the Polish philatelic club "Polonia" organized last year in London. Mr. Bojanowicz, agreeing with the theory postulated by Mr. Mazepa, has, however, two reservations. He is not sure whether all the envelopes known as reprints are made from identical paper, and he is interested in whether all the envelopes are identical-

ly finished. In conclusion, Mr. Bojanowicz states that emergence of this envelope remains still a mystery. According to the opinions of both the above authors, there are two envelopes in the USA and one in England.

It seems to me that the most contemporary to the issue of this envelope No. 3 were Włodzimierz Polanski (1878-1944) and Włodzimierz Rachmanow (1886-1968); if the former one catalogued it as a reprint<sup>2</sup> and the latter one, in his expanded German translation (Vienna 1933) of the W. Polanski's work confirmed this opinion, then there is really no valid basis for questioning their opinions. Mr. Polanski had his own stationery collection of the Kingdom of Poland, and was familiar with the collections of Engineer Husarski, who had one of the most complete such collections, and Faberge, the czar's court jeweler, who also had an outstanding collection of this type, and others.

W. Polanski's cataloging was most probably based on the earlier work of Samuel Koprowski<sup>3</sup>, who died around 1908. According to Alexander Sniezko,

<sup>1</sup>At the exhibition "Polpex '79" in Chicago, Mr. J. Mazepa's collection received the Grand Award which is the highest award presented at that exhibition.

<sup>2</sup>W. Polanski, "Postal Stamps and Cancellations in Poland in 18th and 19th Century," Warsaw, 1922 (65 issues in Polish and 150 issues in French language).

<sup>3</sup>Samuel Koprowski, "Post and Postal Stamps in Poland," *Filatelista*, Rzeszów 1911, No. 8/9, pp. 91-94. Previously: "Postal Matters in Early Poland and Postal Stamps," *Polish Philatelist*, Kraków, No. 8-9, 1894. Continued "Post and Postal Stamps in Poland" reprint titled "Post in Poland" in a weekly *Wanderer*, 1901, No. 45, page 398.

Editor's Note: The article with the above title appeared in the June 1979 "Filatelista." It was written in response to two articles which were printed in the "Bulletin." We present Mr. Żółkiewski's views and response as part of the ongoing philatelic dialog concerning this fascinating period of Poland's philatelic history. Our thanks to Dr. Jerzy Biały for the translation. Mr. Mazepa concludes with a short reply to the article.

Koprowski engaged with great devotion in studying the cancellations and stamps used during the last years of the Polish Republic, the first stamp of 1860, and stamped envelopes of 1859-1861.

I am convinced that the reprint of the envelope No. 3, which, according to W. Polanski was manufactured in 1869, was printed especially for some foreign philatelic firm. First to postulate this theory was S. Koprowski, who wrote about it at the closing of the nineteenth century: "In response to the demand of foreign stamp dealers it was ordered to reprint (Neudruck) these new envelopes which differ from the regular envelopes by being printed on white paper, having the first type<sup>4</sup> of the stamp which is located in the left upper corner of the envelope, and lacking the controller's signature on the flap."

The fact that neither envelope No. 1 or No. 2 were reprinted seems to confirm the above theory, since these printing forms were destroyed because of the change in the heraldic crest for the Kingdom of Poland. Most probably, only the 1858 stamp with the coat of arms of the Kingdom of Poland was retained and was used to produce the reprint, in my opinion, exclusively for commercial purposes.

As far as Mr. Bojanowicz's reservation is concerned, it is commonly known that envelopes of the Kingdom of Poland in 1858-59 were handmade; under such circumstances, the shape of the flap cannot be considered a deciding factor.

#### REPLY — by James Mazepa

It is with a great deal of pleasure that I read Mr. Zolkiewski's remarks

on the mystery of the 1859 type II envelope. His article is particularly helpful in that he makes mention of the early references in the literature which were unknown to me.

While I believe Mr. Zolkiewski accurately repeats the conclusions of Polanski, Rachmanow and Koprowski, I do not find this evidence convincing, notwithstanding the quote from the article by Mr. Koprowski written at the turn of the century.

The reason for all the mystery in the first place is the lack of any official documentation of any sort either for a proof or a reprint. One must either accept an argument from history based on the early literature or reexamine the problem from a new perspective. Mr. Zolkiewski eloquently presents the former stance. It is my theory that this does not adequately explain the existence of the so-called reprint. While I do not wish to repeat my arguments as presented in the May 1978 *Bulletin*, I suggest many questions remain and are not answered by an argument from history. There exists a proof example of the type I stationery in the large format. This suggests the possibility of proofs of the type II stationery which up to now were believed not to exist. The picture in the Polanski and Rachmanow book (plate XXI-B) faintly shows, as noted by Mr. Bojanowicz, the 1858 date in pencil. The rarity of this envelope is far from what one might expect from a reprint. One would expect a reprint to be as common or more so than the original, especially if it were made for dealers, which would indicate that most of them would be placed in collections and preserved. (In my original article I noted three recorded copies, two of which were in this country. One of these has since found its way back to Europe). Mr. Bojanowicz notes in his recent book that the remainders of this envelope were sold to dealers in 1865 after the issue was suppressed.

4S. Koprowski in the above cited work: "Type 1 in a circular shape, diameter 34 mm, large doubleheaded eagle, above semicircular inscription in two lines (first in Russian, second in Polish) 'Kasa Główna Pocztowa', below two small posthorns."

The fact that this is the most commonly seen of the first stationery suggests that adequate supplies were distributed which would make the issuance of a reprint some four years later unlikely in my opinion.

Finally, I might note that the illustration in the May 1978 *Bulletin* is not the copy in my collection, but rather one previously noted in the *Bulletin*. My copy has the rounded flap which conforms to all the other recorded examples. The whereabouts of examples with pointed flaps would be appreciated if anyone can supply this information.

### STAMP MARKET TIPS

By JOHN G. ROSS

Hitler's armies overran Poland in the beginning of World War II in 1939 and soon afterwards the military set up a government for the occupied territory, and began issuing stamps. For many years after the end of the war, practically all of these issues were selling in the United States for pennies. But through the years supplies dried up and nowadays some of these issues have become difficult to find, and are going up in price. I suggest you make certain that you own the first set of semi-postals issued in August 1940 to raise money for the Red Cross, Scott numbers NB1-4. I do not have any figures available as to how many were issued, but I would imagine several hundred thousand sets were printed. Scott 1981 raised its Catalog price to \$4.75 from \$3.45 in the 1980 edition. Dealers in Germany have upped their buyprices to \$4.50 recently which is almost one dollar higher than they were willing to pay about six months ago. Make certain you own this Red Cross set. I believe it is in short supply in Europe and eventually any sets offered in this country will be shipped back to Europe. In no time at all prices over here might begin rising too. (Reprinted from STAMPS)

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

When you change your address, please fill out your address change card signifying that you are willing to accept the cost of having your *Bulletin* forwarded, and send the notice to Polonus. If you are certain that you will reside at the new address for a period of time, please inform the person in charge of mailing of this fact. Write Al Rybarski, Box 81, River Grove, IL 60171.

The Society has to pay the postage for the returned *Bulletin* plus the cost of a new plate for the address change. We are trying to keep our dues at a low rate, they are barely sufficient to pay the cost of printing and mailing, let alone the added cost of return postage and new address plates. Thank you for your kind cooperation in this matter.

—Al Rybarski

### THIS AND THAT

The Polish POW Study Group is expanding into DP Camp Mail also. Anyone with such material or would like to join, contact Chris Kulpinski, Box 464, Feasterville, PA 19047.

\* \* \*

The Polish Philatelic Society of Buffalo, N.Y., released a cacheted cover honoring Ignace Jan Paderewski at AMPOLPEX held Sept. 27-28. Covers with pictorial cancellation are available for 50 cents each plus a No. 10 self-addressed, stamped envelope from Polish Phil. Soc. of Buffalo, Jerome Mazurek, 612 Fillmore Ave., Buffalo, NY 14212.

\* \* \*

ALPEX 81, the 25th annual stamp and coin exhibition of the Plewacki Post Stamp Society will be held April 10-11-12 at the Post Auditorium, 385 Paderewski Dr., Buffalo, NY 14212.

\* \* \*

Czeslaw Slania celebrated the issuance of his 500th stamp designed for the Swedish postal authorities.

# POLAND PERSPECTIVE

By JOE BIENIECKI

Since writing our first two articles, we have received an update of price changes that will be listed in the next Ruch catalog. Volume IV of the Scott catalog has finally appeared. Collectors who have their album spaces filled will be happy to note the general increase in stamp values. With Poland being in the news due to the never ending struggles for human rights and the freedom that we all take for granted, we can expect to see a growing interest in the stamps of Poland.

We have recently had the opportunity to see an outstanding collection of Poland number one, that we believe could only be surpassed by that of Polonus member and authority on Poland #1, Mr. M. Bojanowicz in London. The collection we saw contained approximately a thousand copies of Poland #1, among this about 160 on cover. We have concluded that a mint copy of #1, unhinged, with original gum, does not exist, and if you wish to have good centering added, you may be hoping for the impossible. Such a stamp would be priceless. The collection we examined took many years to accumulate. It involved bidding in every auction possible and traveling from coast to coast and overseas, visiting and being acquainted with many stamp dealers everywhere. From what we have observed of this collection and many years of involvement with the stamps of Poland, owning a nice copy of Poland #1 would be a worthwhile objective and sound investment. Of course a number one on cover would be very desirable.

Poland 27/29 continues to be underpriced in Scott for the *Inverted* overprints. Scott lists the set at \$45.00 mint or used, while Ruch catalog lists the stamps inverted at 600 zl. each.

At 1800 zl. for the set, retail is upwards of \$50.00 for the set and it seems to be quite rare mint.

The Lublin overprints, Scott #30/40 appear to be getting scarcer and especially used. The 25h on 40h, #34, seems to be the key, even though #30 and #39 are the two high catalog values. Scott is finally raising the valuations on the inverted overprints of this issue, but we think they still are too low, compared to what they sell for.

The Krakow overprints, #41/60 have gained respect, through the studies of a good number of experts on this issue, both in Poland and in the U.S. Anyone having doubts about the stamps in their collection, should have them expertised by M. Melnichak in Chicago or Dr. Stanley Kronenberg, in Skillman, N.J. None should be bought without a 100% guarantee from the seller. The demand for genuine copies has outraced the supply for even the common values and prices go up accordingly.

## IN MEMORIAM

George Jezioranski

### MEMBERS MART

WANTED: Information on Airgraphs Will buy or trade. Z. Stankiewicz, 21 Primrose Lane, West Chester Penna. 19380.

WANTED: Information on Polish Air Mails Pre-1939. Will trade or buy. James Mazepa, Box 1217, Oak Park, IL 60304.

### STAMPS FOR THE WOUNDED

Members wishing to make donations to *Stamps for the Wounded* may send material to Dr. Matt Gajewski, 385 Paderewski Dr., Buffalo, NY 14212.



**POLPEX 81 theme: 'Sports On Stamps'**

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

*Friday, March 13, 1981:*

General meeting. After a short business meeting, members will be asked to help examine and prepare frames for the coming exhibition.

*Friday, March 27, 1981:*

POLPEX set-up night. Bring along a screwdriver, glass cleaner, wiping cloths, and a friend to help out.

*Saturday, March 28, 1981:*

Show opens at 10:00 a.m. Postal station and bourse open for business. Official opening ceremony at Noon. Beebe at 8:00 p.m. followed by award presentations.

*Sunday, March 29, 1981:*

Show opens at 10:00 a.m. Postal station and bourse in operation. Exhibits to be taken down at 5:30 p.m.

### STAMP DESIGNER ALOJZY BALCZERAK VISITS POLONUS

The distinguished artist, Alojzy Balczerak, visited Chicago for an exhibition of his paintings at the Copernicus Cultural Center. He was invited by Polonus to show his stamp designs at the special Polonus meeting called on February 20th, as he was returning to Poland on February 22nd.

### POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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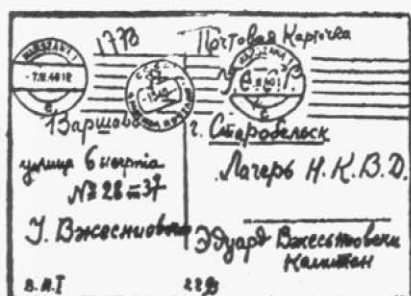
The Polonus Philatelic Society is non-political. Views expressed by authors of articles appearing herein do not necessarily express the views of the Polonus Philatelic Society.

— Annual Dues are \$10.00 —

Mr. Balczerak has designed many contemporary Polish stamps such as the flower series, mushrooms, and the space exploration issues. He offered to autograph first day covers bearing stamps which he designed.

### POLISH POW'S IN RUSSIA

Forty years ago 12,000 Polish officers were taken as Prisoners of War into Russia early in World War II. Some of the prisoners were taken to a camp near Starobielsk. Almost all from this camp were massacred and buried in the forest of Katyn. The illustrated postal card is addressed to the NKWD Camp in Starobielsk.



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AMERIPEX 86 International Philatelic Exhibition to be held in Chicago May 22 - June 1, 1986, has moved the event to the O'Hare Exposition Center, Rosemont, Ill.