



BULLETIN OF THE POLONUS POLISH PHILATELIC SOCIETY



Polish acceptance for the first Pan Am postal flight across the North Atlantic via “Northern Route” from Southampton to New York. (See Page 5.)

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The Polonus 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 the 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; Electronic Bulletin (via website) 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 prorated for the time of the year application is submitted: for period **Jan- Mar 100%** of annual dues; **Apr-Jun 75%**; **Jul-Sep 50%**; **Oct-Dec 125%** (to cover full payment for following year).

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Articles for publication to be sent to: Editor

Membership queries to be sent to: Membership Chairman

General Society matters and complaints to be sent to: President

Message from the President



by Bob Ogrodnik

The key to a successful philatelic organization is the orderly succession of leadership to sustain the financial viability and to deliver quality services to the membership. I am pleased to report that we have initiated an orderly succession of the leadership of Polonus. Effective October 1, 2016, Dr. Edwin J. Andrews assumes the position of President Pro Tem (or Interim President), a position accepted by Dr. Andrews and approved by the Board of Directors. He also continues as Chairman of the Nominating Committee and member of the Board of Directors. I will assume the position of Immediate Past President and ex-officio voting member of the Board of Directors. Therefore, this is my final "Message from the President."

We will conduct our elections in 2017, culminating with the newly elected board of directors and officers introduced at our Annual Meeting. Membership elects the Board of Directors (BOD) and the BOD elects the officers, i.e., Chairman of the Board, President, Executive VP, VP Administration, Treasurer and Secretary. We expect several changes in our board composition as several members have continued only because we did not have qualified candidates willing to serve. Based on the work of our Nominating Committee and specifically Ed Andrews, we have several new members who are qualified and ready to serve listed on the ballots of the upcoming election.

One of our board members, Hank Bieniecki, has resigned from the BOD but will continue to serve as chair of the website and expertizing committees. Hank has been very instrumental in guiding Polonus through the transition from a Chicago "club" to a worldwide organization.

The Society News section of this issue contains reports that have been given to the membership at the Annual Meeting. These include the "President's Report," a "State of the Society" summary and the Financial Report for this past year. In reflection on our past performance, I feel that we have improved our financial position due in large part to the generosity of our membership and that we have made some progress in improving member services. However, there is plenty of room for improvement, a challenge that I feel will be successfully handled by the succeeding leadership.

The Society News section also contains the highlights and results of WSS – NY 2016. The concerns over participating in an expensive eight-day show were overcome with greater than expected results, which included a record-high 27 new members, 50 percent more sales than projected

and controlling expenses below budget. Membership turnout was also greater than expected and, even though it was difficult to coordinate an event for all to network, I got the opportunity to meet many members for the first time. Many of the visiting members came from the northeastern part of the country but some came from as far away as New Zealand, Poland, United Kingdom and Germany.

The number of exhibits of Polish material was small compared to national shows that have open competition. I recommend you read Jim Mazepa's article on the difference between national and international exhibitions for the answer. Nevertheless, our presence at the show and the two presentations on "Introduction to Collecting Poland," together with the exhibits, contributed to our mission of promoting Polish philately.

Included in this issue is a five-year schedule of shows at which we will hold our annual meetings and exhibitions. Next up is WESTPEX 2017 on April 28-30, 2017. This event is held at the San Francisco Airport Marriott Waterfront in Burlingame, California. Mark this date and plan to join us.

We are pleased to see that more of our member-dealers are advertising in the *Bulletin*. This represents additional income for the society and identifies dealers who members are recommended to use for their philatelic needs. We also encourage member-to-member ads (adlets), two of which can be found in this issue. You will also find a couple opportunities to purchase "very limited supply" items from the Polonus Store. While checking out these items, do not overlook the ad for the *2016 Fischer Volume II Catalog*. A limited supply was purchased by Polonus as a service to its members. The objective is to offer a lower-cost domestic shipment at a discounted price and still make a small profit for Polonus.

Finally, I would like to thank the board of directors, officers, committee chairs, volunteer, and contributors who have provided me their support and encouragement over the past nine years. I would also like to extend my best wishes to incoming President Pro Tem Ed Andrews for success with the upcoming leadership transition and for success in chartering a course for the future.

Diversity is the key to an
interesting Bulletin
and member participation is
the key to diversity.
**Write an article today for
YOUR Polonus Bulletin.**

Letter to the Editor



Member Comments on Catalogue

I purchased a copy of the Stanley Gibbons Poland catalogue and noticed two features that are, well, unusual to say the least. Let me say the catalogue is a great addition to Fischers & Scotts as Poland at times can be a real challenge to find where early stamps go and that is why I purchased it.

The first thing I noticed is that the BOB stamps are there but listed with the regular issues at the bottom of the listing with print that's very (and I mean very) small. I found them with a magnifying glass by chance or luck! The second thing is airmails: none, nada, not there, any where? I called Gibbons and the answer I received: "I have liaised with our catalog department. I have been informed that airmails are not listed in our foreign catalogue and we do not provide listings for these items." Go figure that!

Just thought I would pass the review on to other collectors.

Bob Brandt #1791

From the Editor's Desk



This my seventh issue as editor of the *Polonus Bulletin* and the first that has included a "Letter to the Editor." As I mentioned before, I come from a weekly newspaper background and letters to the editor are on of the most sought-after commodities in that medium. Letters are an indication of a healthy publication and one that not only engages its community but provides a forum for complaints, comments and discussion. It is my hope now that Bob Brandt has "broken the ice," we'll see more letters in future issues.

I'm also going to use this space to appeal for articles. As of this writing, I have only one article for the next issue. That's not enough. My goal is to have enough of an inventory of articles to put out two issues back-to-back, if needed. I am not a philatelist, I'm an editor. While I write, it's not about Polish stamps. What I know about Polish stamps you could put on a, well, Polish stamp!

What I can do is take original copy, tweak it, correct spelling and grammar and make it something of interest to our readers. New writers mean new perspectives and new

areas that may not be familiar to your fellow readers. It doesn't need to be an in-depth scholarly article that requires weeks or months of research, although those are important. I'd like to start a feature titled, "My Favorite Cover." All you have to do is pick out your favorite cover, write a couple of paragraphs about it, including when you bought it, why you bought it and what makes it your favorite piece. It's as simple as that.

Maybe you have three or four covers that are unusual in terms of rates, routes or markings. Take a few minutes and write an article for the Bulletin. If it's interesting to you, it will interest other members.

How do you submit these articles? That's easy, too. Just write the text in Microsoft Word, scan your illustrations at 300 dpi jpegs, tifs or PDFs, attach both to an email and send it to me at vcanfieldp@gmail.com. Please don't embed the photos in the document. I can produce the best illustrations when they are part of the Word document.

Not computer savvy? Not a problem! Take a trip to you local shipping or copy store, ask them to make high-quality color copies of the illustration(s), print or write out your article, put it, along with the photocopies, in a 9"x12" envelope and send it to me at 11911 E. Connor Road, Valleyford WA 99036. Please don't fold the photocopies as the fold lines will appear in the final scan.

So, any questions? Send me an email, a note or even call me at 509-991-5376. It's my job to produce a high-quality quarterly bulletin that educates and informs. I can do the pretty stuff, like layouts with nice pictures, but I can't write the articles. I'm leaving that up to you. I sure hope to hear from you soon.

Vickie

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Development of Airmail Services in Poland

Part 11: LOT Polish Airlines:

Joint Flights with Foreign Carriers to North America

by Dr. Jerzy W. Kupiec-Węgliński and Jacek Kosmala

German North Atlantic Catapult Airmail (1929–1935)

Before the development of an aircraft that could carry mail non-stop across the North Atlantic, the German Lloyd Line introduced an accelerated ship-to-shore mail service. In 1929, two German liners, *SS Bremen* and *SS Europa*, began to cross the North Atlantic. The first part of the arrangement brought airmail to the ships after they departed Bremerhaven, Germany. Special flights were made from Cologne to Cherbourg, France, to speed the mail to the ships. These *nachbringe* flights saved up to two days in transit time.

SS Bremen and *SS Europa* had catapults aboard that launched small seaplanes (operated by the German Luft Hansa) to carry mail from ship-to-shore. By launching the plane mid-ocean 600-700 miles from New York, another day-and-a-half could be saved in airmail transit time. The *SS Bremen* began ship-to-shore service in 1929 and the *SS Europa* in 1930. Due to adverse North Atlantic weather conditions, the operation was limited to May through October each year.

Westbound mail from Bremerhaven, usually to New York City, could arrive in seven days. The destination of east-bound mail catapulted on the return voyages was usually Southampton, England. In the early years, occasional flights were made to Cologne and Amsterdam. Mail destined for Germany and the Netherlands was flown on to Bremerhaven by the floatplane. All other mail was transferred to London, Croydon, for further transport by DLH. The North Atlantic catapult mail system operated from July 22, 1929 until October 9, 1935. The Zeppelin *Hindenburg's* North American route, which began in 1936, eliminated the need for continuing the catapult service.

Mail was carried on the catapulted aircraft over the North Atlantic based upon Zeppelin-like "treaty state" contract. The 10 foreign acceptances for westbound service pursuant to postal treaty were: Netherlands, Austria, Denmark, Switzerland, Luxemburg, Liechtenstein, Saar, Danzig, Estonia and Hungary. However, courtesy acceptances from non-treaty states were infrequently flown. Out of 50 non-treaty countries known to participate in the German North Atlantic catapult service, the rarest mail originated in Albania, Andorra, Estonia, Spain, Vatican, Italy, Columbia, Brazil, Uruguay and Australia.

Poland courtesy mail acceptance for the North Atlantic catapult airmail service is rare. The Graue catalogue records just two pieces originating in Poland: (I) Flight K179 - May 25, 1934 catapulted from *SS Bremen* to New York (12:00 departure; 19:15 arrival; distance flown - 1,088 km); and (II) Flight K231 - July 31, 1935 catapulted from *SS Europa* to New York (07:00 departure; 15:30 arrival; distance flown - 1,276 km). Two additional dispatches gained courtesy acceptance for the service by mixed Polish and German franking, with

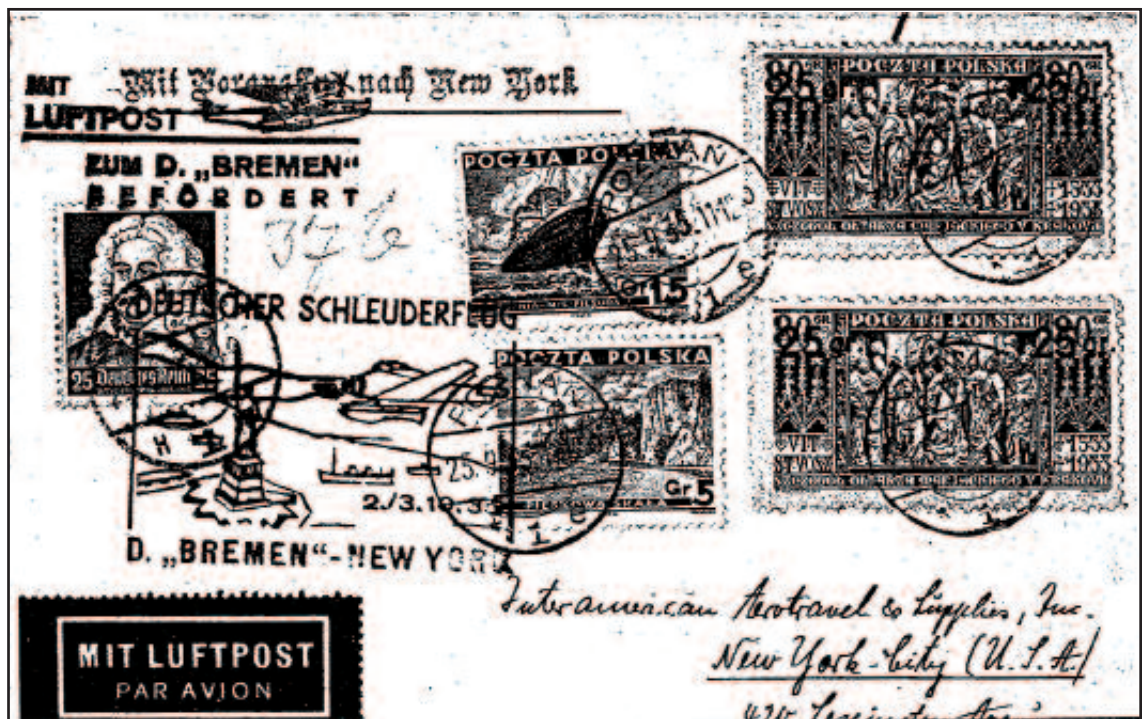


Figure 1
Poland courtesy acceptance for North Atlantic catapult airmail service with mixed Polish and German franking.

the latter paying the prevailing catapult surcharge. These were carried by: (I) Flight K177 – May 13, 1934 from SS *Europa* to New York (04:00 departure; 09:15 arrival; distance flown - 540 km); and (II) Flight K245 – October 2, 1935 from SS *Bremen* to New York (07:00 departure; 15:30 arrival; distance flown - 1,369 km; via Nantucket [404 km from New York] for fuel).

The only known copy of the latter is shown in **Figure 1**. Posted in Poznań on September 25, 1935, and addressed to New York City, this cover was flown by LOT/DLH to Berlin from where it was transported to *Bremen* for westbound North Atlantic German catapult service

on October 2, 1935. It is correctly franked with 70 gr letter rate Polish postage (55 gr per 20 grams and 15 gr per 10 grams for airmail service to New York) plus German surcharge of 15 Rpf for catapult service. Foreign acceptances with mixed postage of the origin nation plus Germany (or United States) are of a lesser class than those with all charges paid in postage of the nation of origin.

Unlike Polish origin courtesy acceptances for westward North Atlantic catapult service, those expedited from New York eastward and addressed to Poland are not uncommon. Here, we present two colorful and obviously philatelic North Atlantic catapult mailings (figures 2 and 3) with



Figures 2 (top) and 3
Examples of North Atlantic German catapult airmail service from New York eastward, addressed to Łódź, Poland: (2) – August 17, 1932; and (3) – June 4, 1933.



special cachets, both addressed to Mr. Otto Weissenberg in the city of Łódź. They originated in New York and were correctly franked a total of 20c, inclusive of 5c basic international letter rate and 15c catapult surcharge.

The **Figure 2** cover was catapulted August 17, 1932, from SS *Bremen* to Southampton (Flight K122; 16:00 departure; 19:40 arrival; distance flown – 565 km). Mail offloaded at Southampton was forwarded by DLH flight PF1 (22:00) from Croydon to Berlin, where the Berlin C2 arrival marking was applied. The next leg of the journey was via Stettin and Danzig (DLH) to Warszawa (LOT) and on to Łódź.

The **Figure 3** cover was catapulted June 4, 1933, from *Europa* to Southampton (Flight K142; 09:00 departure; 17:25 arrival; distance flown – 1,411 km). The late flight continued from Southampton at 19:00, arriving at Schellingwoude at 22:40. Mail was transferred to DLH flight PF4, leaving Schiphol (Amsterdam) at 23:20. The cover shows Berlin (June 5, 1933 *5-6) and Warsaw (June 5, 1933 *16) cancellations, suggesting same day airmail service via Breslau.

American North Atlantic Airmail (1939)

By 1939, Pan American Airways, commonly known as Pan Am, the principal and largest international air carrier in the United States, was awarded two service routes across the Atlantic Ocean to Europe. The six long-range Boeing 314 flying boats delivered in early 1939 enabled Pan Am to start a scheduled weekly contract Foreign Air Mail (FAM-18) service and passenger flights from New York (Port Washington, L.I.) to France and Great Britain.

The Southern Route was inaugurated for airmail on May 20, 1939, by the *Yankee Clipper*, piloted by Arthur E. LaPorte, and flying via Horta, Azores via Lisbon, Portugal to Marseilles, France. Mail for the UK was then flown to Paris by Air France and from there to London. Passenger service over the Southern Route, referred to also as the Mid-Atlantic Route, was added on June 28, 1939, with the *Dixie Clipper*, piloted by R. O. D. Sullivan. The eastbound trip departed on Wednesday at noon, arriving at Marseilles Friday at 15:00; return serv-

ice left Marseilles on Sunday at 08:00 and arrived at Port Washington, Tuesday at 7:00. The terminal was moved to Lisbon after September 1, 1939.

Figure 4 is a Polish acceptance for the first Pan Am postal flight from France to the United States. Addressed to the Polish Consulate in New York and endorsed “Par 1-er Service Aerien / France–Etats Unis,” it was posted May 23, 1939, in Warszawa. The cover was flown via Paris to Marseille where a special red-boxed cachet was applied. This item was then carried by Pan Am on May 25 from Marseille to New York where it was arrival backstamped May 27, 1939; 17:30.

A little more than a month after the inauguration of the New York – Marseille route, Pan Am opened the second “northern” trans-Atlantic operation (Great Circle Route). The first flight, piloted by Harold Gray, left New York on June 24, 1939 at 08:21 and arrived at 13:40 that afternoon at Shediac in New Brunswick, Canada. The next stop was Botwood, Newfoundland, but fog prevented the *Yankee Clipper* from flying there Shediac until 12:49 on June 27, arriving in Botwood at 19:25. The clipper left Botwood at 20:51 on June 27 and, via Foynes, Ireland, arrived in Southampton, U.K. at 19:30 on June 28.

The passenger service was added July 8, 1939. The eastbound flight left Saturday morning (07:30) arriving Southampton Sunday afternoon (13:00). Westbound service departed Southampton Wednesday at noon arriving at Port Washington Thursday afternoon (15:00).



Figure 4
Polish acceptance for the first Pan Am postal flight across the North Atlantic via “Southern Route” from Marseille to New York.



Figure 5
Polish acceptance for the first Pan Am postal flight across the North Atlantic via “Northern Route” from Southampton to New York.

The cover in **Figure 5** is a Polish acceptance for the first Pan Am flight from Southampton to New York. The cover bears a “Via Pan American Airways” cachet and has routing instructions for the first westbound trans-Atlantic air service over the Northern Route. After entering the mail-stream in Warsaw June 29, 1939, it was carried June 30 by Pan Am from Southampton to New York where it was arrival backstamped July 1, 1939; 22:00.

With the outbreak of war in September 1939, Pan Am terminated airmail service from New York, while Imperial Airways ran a shuttle service using short S.30C flying boats.

The first regular Imperial Airways flight left Southampton for New York on August 5, 1939. The route was Southampton – Foynes – Botwood – Montreal – New York (transit time of 1.5-2 days).

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2016 FISCHER VOLUME II CATALOG**

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World War II Polish Refugee Camp in Cyprus

by Jan Niebrzydowski

Note: What began as a three-part article, "Exiled Polish Children in World War II" has grown into a five-part article (Bulletins #559-563). This is the final part covering the movement of Polish refugees, consisting of the elderly, women and children.

The German invasion of Poland from the west on September 1, 1939, followed swiftly by the Soviet invasion from the east on September 17, left the Polish armed forces struggling to defend their country on two fronts, ultimately leading to its defeat.

A small number of soldiers and civilians were able to cross the border and find temporary shelter in Romania. The soldiers were placed in internment camps. From there they made their way to France and Syria, where Polish army units were being reconstituted.

The situation was more difficult for civilians. They were mostly old people, women and children who had worked for the government before the war. The exiled Polish government, based in France, asked the French authorities to help with their evacuation. The French planned to



Figure 1

transport the refugees to Tunis but the fall of France in June 1940 made that impossible. The Poles were afraid the Germans might put pressure on the Romanian government to hand over the Polish refugees, who would then be sent to work in labor camps.

The Polish Government in Exile moved to Great Britain and approached the British government with a similar request. The British

agreed to transfer 500 Polish civilians from Romania, Hungary, Yugoslavia and Greece to Cyprus which, at that time, was under their rule. However, conditions in Cyprus were not ideal and in May 1941 the Polish civilians were transferred to Palestine, being administered by the British under a League of Nations mandate. In the summer and autumn of 1941, they were moved again; this time to South Africa and Northern Rhodesia. They were



Figure 2



settled in a number of camps including one in Fort Jameson. Some of the Poles were employed by the British in an administrative capacity and helped set up camps for Polish orphans arriving from Soviet Russia.

There are only a few letters from Poles who were in Cyprus at that time. Shown are a card and two covers from Feliks Żmudowski to Helena Lübke in Switzerland. Feliks made the journey from Poland to Africa via Romania, Yugoslavia, Cyprus and Palestine. I have no further information about his subsequent whereabouts.

The card in **Figure 1** was posted on 19.6.1940 in Belgrade. The sender writes to Mrs. Lübke that he is searching for his brother and the rest of the family and that, before coming to Yugoslavia, he had been in Romania.

Figure 2 is a cover posted in Mufulira, Northern Rhodesia in 1942 where the sender was working for the British administration. The cover was twice censored and has British and German censorship labels.

Figure 3 was posted in Elisabethville in the Belgian Congo on 6.11.1943. The sender writes that he was employed by a big company as a cashier, was popular with colleagues and had good work and pay conditions. Censors' labels from Belgian Congo, Germany and Britain are visible on the cover.

Endnote: There is an informative and valuable book on British camps for Polish orphans in World War II by the Polish philatelic expert, Przemysław Drzewiecki. It may be purchased from him directly for \$50, which includes postage and packing to the United States. Contact him at: Oplawiecka 225, 85-469 Bydgoszcz, Poland. Telephone: 0048 52 340 2828. Email: pdrzew@onet.pl

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The Significance of the First and Last Four Non-Overprinted Port Gdańsk Issued by Poland in 1938

by Dr. Stanley R. Sandler

Four stamps were issued by Poland for Port Gdańsk on November 11, 1938 [1] (Scott Poland 1K33-1K36) [2]. It was the first and last set of stamps issued for the Port Gdańsk Post Office without "Port Gdańsk" as an overprint; this wording is part of the stamp design. Issued to mark the 20th anniversary of the Second Republic of Poland, these four stamps were only used by the Polish Post Office in the Free City of Danzig [3].

The Free City of Danzig, created at the end of World War I by the Treaty of Versailles (in accordance with Articles 100-108, Section XI of Part III), was a semi-autonomous entity. It was jointly governed by both Danzig and Poland and had its own constitution, parliament, flag and national anthem [4]. The population was primarily German, but with a very significant Polish minority. The Free City of Danzig was placed under the protection of the League of Nations and Danzig had a binding customs union with Poland.

By late 1938, when these stamps were issued, Nazi Germany was demanding that Danzig be reunited with Germany [5-8]. Poland felt this pressure and answered Germany with both a verbal diplomatic and a philatelic response. The four Polish Port Gdańsk stamps of November 1938 showed that Danzig had a deeply rooted Polish history.

The design of these stamps was carefully selected by an artistic competition by the Polish Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs that began in 1936; 52 artists with 121 submissions participated [9]. The Polish Postal Authorities were planning to issue several stamps that commemorated the 20th anniversary of the Republic of Poland in 1938.

One of the submissions was chosen for this Port Gdańsk issue. This was a painting by Wacław Boratyński (1908-1939) [10], a talented artist from Poznań, which showed two Polish merchant noblemen at the seaport of Gdańsk talking to a Danzig citizen. According to Hanseatic

regulations effective in Danzig from 1455 to 1793, Polish goods could only be sold to a foreigner through a Danzig merchant acting as a middleman. The Hanseatic League made Danzig merchants very rich as well as increasing the wealth of the Polish crown. Also pictured in the stamp design are the Krantor and a Hanseatic ship docked on the Motława River. These emphasize that the Danzig/Gdańsk Harbor was Polish in the 16th century and very important for Poland's trade and shipping on the Baltic Sea coast.

Only one design was used for the four new Polish



Figure 1
Registered cover with all four stamps (1K33-1K36) canceled on the first day of issue, November 11, 1938.

Port Gdańsk stamps with values of 5, 15, 25 and 55 groszy. All these stamps are shown on a registered first-day cover (Figure 1) from Gdańsk to Baranowicze, Poland. The outer bottom margin shows the name of the artist, W. BORATYŃSKI, and the engraver, M. DUTCZYŃSKI. (Wacław Boratyński was killed in combat in 1939 as a soldier in the Polish army defending the Polish City of Lwów.)

The Polish postal authorities were very sensitive that their chosen design for the new stamps would not anger or raise an alarm by the German population of Danzig. Poland also did not want to imply with these new stamps that the Free City of Danzig was part of Poland proper. They were meant to show that Poland had a long history in the Danzig harbor area for trade. It was a philatelic response to

Germany defending Poland's interest in Danzig. In the 1919-1939 period between the wars, Poland and Germany were in constant conflict over Danzig and the Polish "corridor" to the Baltic Sea that geographically separated East Prussia from the rest of the German nation.

After World War II, the Allied powers concluded the Potsdam Agreement that changed the national boundaries of several European countries, including Poland and Germany. Danzig is now back in Poland and has been renamed Gdańsk.

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8. Hans L. Leonhardt, "Nazi Conquest of Danzig," *University of Chicago Press*, 1942.

9. Hans Vogels, "The Stamp War Between the Republic of Poland and the Free City of Danzig 1938-1939, the Danzig Report, 81, pp. 1-18 (1993).

10. Home Museum In Gostyn, "Borotynski Wenceslaus (1908-1939)," [museum.gostyn.pl/gostynski biographical dictionary](http://museum.gostyn.pl/gostynski_biographical_dictionary)

Acknowledgment

I would to acknowledge the generous help of Hans Vogels in providing me a preprint of Section 2.13 from his forthcoming book, *A Handbook of Danzig*, that will be published in the near future.

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Addendum to 'Illustrating and Documenting the Early and Later Usages of the 'Port Gdańsk' Overprinted Stamps'

Dr. Stanley R. Sandler

This is meant to clarify the article that appeared in the June 2016 issue of the *Bulletin*.

1. The postal regulations are in the *Official Journal or Newspaper of the Polish Post and Telegraph Ministry* (*Dziennik Urzędowy Ministerstwa Poczty i Telegrafów*), archived in the Postal History Museums of Gdańsk or Wrocław, according to Hans Vogels.

2. A typical postal order recording the sale of "Port Gdańsk" overprinted stamps from the Main Post Office in Gdańsk at the philatelic section at the post office at Warszawa #1 in 1932 appears in *Dziennik Urzędowy Ministerstwa Poczty i Telegrafów* #16, pp. 342-344 (1932). This document is in the Postal History Museum (Archive) in Wrocław.

3. Reference # 11 should be omitted.

4. The figure was omitted and shows another early usage of the "Port Gdańsk" overprinted stamps (pair of Scott #1K11A), canceled 18. 8. 26. on a tourist picture postcard mailed at the Main Post Office in Gdańsk 1 to Jaworzno, Poland. This is an example of mail that complies with the prevailing postal regulations (before 1933) that mail with "Port Gdańsk" overprinted stamps can only be mailed from the Main Post Office in Gdańsk to locations within Poland.



5. The book, *Stemple i Pieczęcie Polskich Urzędów Poczтовых W Wolnym Mieście Gdańsku 1920-1939* should be consulted (all in Polish and located at the American Philatelic Research Library in the section with the Polonus Philatelic Society Collection). Pages 25-27 contain more information on the postal regulations in effect in Poland in the Port Gdańsk area, particularly with regard to the overprinted Polish "Port Gdańsk stamps. Authored by Kazimierz Morawski and Jerzy M. Morawski, it was published in Gdańsk in 1992 by the Dyrekcja Okręgu Poczty W Gdańsku, ISBN 83-900495-0-3.

Polonus Bulletin Procedures and Deadlines

Deadline

Deadline for the receipt of articles, letters, advertising and news is the first of the second month of the quarter. For example, we need everything for the June issue by May 1, everything for the September issue by August 1, everything for the December issue by November 1 and everything for the March issue by February 1.

The preferred method of receiving copy is via an email attachment. Please send as an MS Word document. We also welcome compact disks (CDs). Hard copy is acceptable but it must be rekeyed so we prefer electronic transmission.

All submissions are subject to editing for length, clarity and content. Every effort will be made to retain the facts without changing the meaning or thrust of the article.

Illustrations

The most effective way to transmit illustrations is electronically. They should be TIF or JPEG, scanned at no less than 150 dpi and attached to an email. They can also be sent on CD. We can also retrieve copy and illustrations from electronic storage if provided with the correct routing.



Gems of Polish Philately

United States Two-Cent Pulaski Stamp of 1933

by Dr. James Mazepa, RDP



Figure 1

One aspect of Polish collecting that I have not addressed in my "Gems" series is Polonica. Polonica refers to stamps issued by countries other than Poland that have a Polish theme. The United States is rich with Polonica issues. The first of these is the two-cent Pulaski stamp, issued Jan-

uary 16, 1933. Issued to honor the 150th anniversary (in 1929) of his death at the battle of Savannah during the American War of Independence, this stamp paid the domestic letter rate. It was followed by a five-cent stamp honoring General Tadeusz Kościuszko in October 1933 that paid the international surface rate. Other stamps followed including the 1943 Poland Flag stamp of the Overrun Countries series, and later stamps honoring Copernicus, Paderewski and the Millennium of Christianity in Poland.

The accepted procedure to issue a stamp is to produce essays, or suggested designs, select one of the essays as the final design, make die proofs of this design, then produce the stamp.

What was in practice at the time of the Pulaski stamp was to make "photo essays" of the suggested designs as opposed to inked die impressions of the essays. There are four "photo essays" known for the Pulaski stamp and these are shown in Figure 1. One will note some major and minor differences as compared with the final design. The large photo essay in Figure 2 is that of the accepted design for the stamp.

Finally a colored die proof was made of the final design and this is shown in Figure 3 (inset in Figure 2). This small color die proof is believed to be unique.

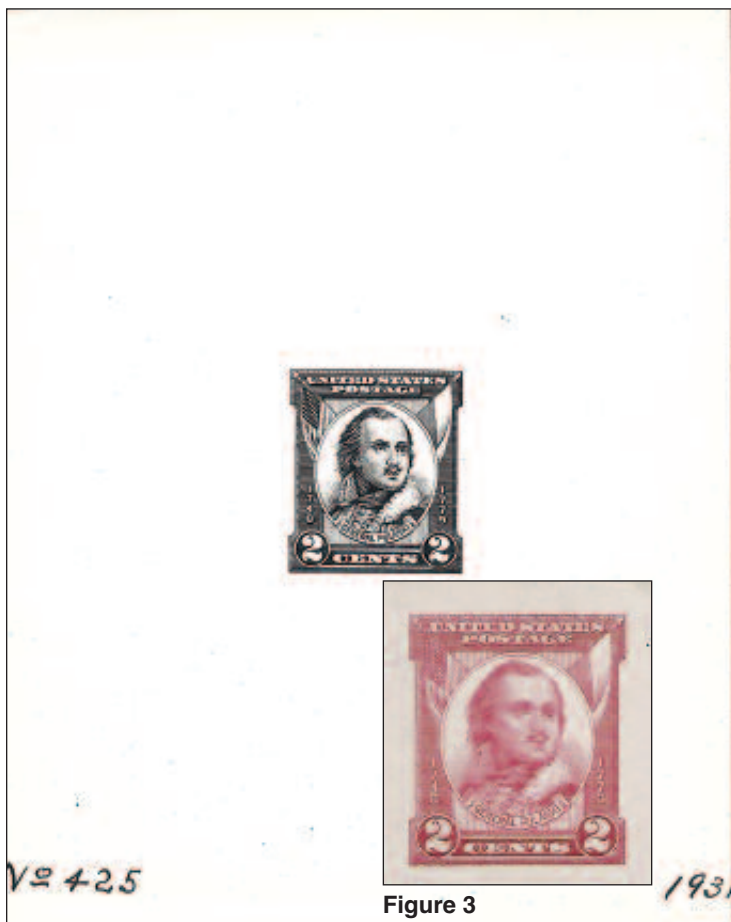


Figure 2

Figure 3

Dealers:

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Full page and insert ads are also accepted.

Email robert.ogrodnik@sbcglobal.net for information.

50th Anniversary of Poland's Millennium

by Bob Ogradnik

In 1966, we marked the historical birth of Poland with great enthusiasm and celebration. One of the highlights was the issuance of a 5-cent U.S. commemorative postage stamp (**Figure 1**). The stamp was designed by Edmund D. Lewandowski, Director of the Layton School of Art, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The drive to issue this stamp was spearheaded by Polonus.

This year marks the 50th Anniversary of Poland's Millennium. The Polish Museum of America (PMA) in Chicago is featuring a special exhibit in honor of the occasion. Based on archival documents and photographs from collections of Bishop Alfred L. Abramowicz, who served as the Chairman of Poland's Millennium of Christianity – Chicagoland Observance Executive Committee, the PMA has prepared an outstanding exhibit on the collaborative work the many organizations and individuals. This exhibit is available for viewing at PMA through September 25, 2016.

The PMA is the official archives for Polonus and



Figure 1



Figure 3

when it came time to retrieve Polonus archival material related with POLPEX 1966 and the drive to have the U.S. commemorative issue, PMA asked for help, especially with the philatelic material. Polonus member Adam Giegel responded and prepared four frames of philatelic material (**figures 2 and 3**). This eye-catching exhibit features sheets of stamps from Brazil and the Vatican City, in addition to the U.S.A. A Polonica collector (collecting Polish subjects worldwide), Adam exhibited material from his personal collection.

A special anniversary reception is planned for Friday, August 26, with plans to screen the 1966 Soldier's Field celebration. If you have not yet visited the PMA, I encourage you to do so. The Polish Museum of America is located at 984 N. Milwaukee Avenue, Chicago, IL 60642 / Tel: (773) 384-3352 / website: www.polishmuseumofamerica.org.



Figure 2

Moving?

Please send address changes to:
Polonus Polish Philatelic Society,
PO Box 60438, Rossford OH 43460



Limited Print Mini-Sheet Available

The mini-sheet shown here was featured on the cover of our December 2014 issue (#557). This was the ninth mini-sheet in a series issued by Poczta Polska in limited quantities (15,000) and it contained one each of the eight fish shown on mini-sheets one through eight. It includes labels for PZF, Poczta Polska, Poland's Olympic Committee and the XXI OWF (philatelic exhibition) Warszawa 2014. The supply we had at that time sold out quickly.

Members from Poland visiting the WSS brought us additional sheets that we can now make available at the same price (see Polonus Store page 27). Do not miss the opportunity to add this scarce mini-sheet to your collection. Listed in Fischer TOM I as ark. 4566-4573 (blok 239) at 100 zł.

Polonus Annual Meeting / Exhibition Schedule

Polonus has made arrangements with the organizers of the following APS World Series of Philately shows to participate as a "convening" or "featured" society:

2017 - WESTPEX

April 28-30
San Francisco Airport
Marriott Waterfront
Burlingame, CA
www.westpex.org

2018 - ST. LOUIS STAMP EXPO

March 30 - April 1
Renaissance Hotel
St. Louis, MO
www.stlouisstampexpo.org

2019 - CHICAGOPEX

November 22 - 24
Westin Chicago Northwest
Itasca, IL
www.chicagopex.org

2020 - ROCKY MOUNTAIN STAMP SHOW

May 15 - 17
Crown Plaza Hotel
Denver International Airport
Denver, CO
www.rockymountainstampshow.com

2021 - BALPEX

September 3 - 5
Baltimore Hunt Valley Inn
Hunt Valley, MD
www.balpex.org

Invite a friend to enjoy the fellowship and exchange of information about your hobby.

Give a gift membership to The Polonus Society.

See Page 2 for membership information.

National vs. International Exhibitions: How are They Different?

by Dr. James Mazepa, RDP

We have just concluded the massive International Exhibition in New York. Polonus had a society table at the show which gave us much visibility and enabled us to gain many new members and renew contacts with other members.

I was on the international jury and was asked, "What are the differences between national and international exhibition?" Allow me to explain:

In the United States, we have 31 national exhibitions each year. A full FIP (Federation International de Philatelie) can be held only once every 10 years, give or take a few years, in any country (with a few exceptions). In the U.S. we had internationals WASHINGTON 2006, PACIFIC 1997 (San Francisco) and AMERIPEX1986 (Chicago), to name a few. The next U.S. International Exhibition is in Boston in 2026.

A typical national exhibition has 150 to 200 frames. New York 2016 had 4,200 frames. Exhibitors asked for a total of more than 6,200 frames; many were disappointed and turned away.

In a national exhibition anyone can apply to exhibit, even if they are not a member of the local society or the APS. In an FIP International one must be a member of one of the 150-plus national federations, such as the APS.

In a national exhibition anyone from first-time beginners to large-gold exhibitors can apply. In an international, one must have received at least a vermeil national medal (or large vermeil in those countries that have this level) to qualify to exhibit.

In a national exhibition one can show one frame or up to 10 frames. In an international, a first-time exhibitor is allowed only five frames. If they receive at least a large vermeil for their exhibit, they can show eight frames the next time. Only five- or eight-frame exhibits are allowed (with rare exceptions).

In a national exhibition there are usually five APS accredited judges, one of whom is the chairman of the jury. These jurors judge all the exhibits regardless of philatelic class (traditional, postal history, aerophilately, thematic, revenue, etc.). The panel discusses the merits and medal level of each exhibit. In New York, we had 52 judges split into 15 teams. For example, there were teams for "United States Traditional," "United States Postal History," "Rest of the Americans Traditional," "Rest of the Americas Postal History" and so forth. Each team had a leader. I was the senior jury member and team leader of the "Traditional Rest of the Americas" class.

In an international, only team leaders can discuss an exhibit with a team leader of a class they are not judging. For instance, I had to discuss with the team leader of Tradi-

tional Europe because I disagreed with their evaluation of a Polish exhibit (and I won!).

In a national exhibition we typically use points to evaluate an exhibit and award the medal based on those points. How points are allocated to medal levels will change starting in January 2017 when the new *Manual of Philatelic Judging* takes effect. A major change will be the addition of a Large Gold and Large Vermeil levels. All medal levels (except certificate) receive a medal. In an international exhibition, the points are allocated in a slightly different manner. Medals are also given according to the points the exhibit received. One-frame exhibits do not receive a medal, but get their points and a certificate.

I hope this clarifies the major differences between national and international exhibitions. Please contact me or the editor of the *Bulletin* if you have questions.

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Polonus Philatelic Society News



Polonus Highlights at WSS - NY 2016

by Bob Ogrodnik

My initial reaction was, "Sure glad that the World Stamp Show only comes every 10 years!" The next one is scheduled for Boston on May 23-30, 2026. Mark that date.

Unlike the national shows, the international show is an eight-day extravaganza, making it challenging to staff our society table, attend the required meetings, see the exhibits and visit booths of interest. Nevertheless, with the help of several members, we managed to fulfill the show obligations and exceed our expectations.

If you will recall the previous two *Bulletins*, we established show objectives as: (1) promote Polish philately and Polonus; (2) solicit a minimum of 20 new members; and (3) generate a minimum of \$1,000 in Polonus Store sales. I am pleased to report that we exceeded all three objectives.

In promoting Polish philately and Polonus, we had 13 exhibits of Polish material, seven presented by Polonus members (see "Polonus Exhibitors on the World Stage" in this issue). We maintained a presence with our society table, featuring our new banner that added "Polish" to the name, i.e., Polonus Polish Philatelic Society (Figure 1). In addition, we delivered two presentations (Introduction to Collecting Poland) and held our Annual Board of Directors and Membership Meetings. (See "President's Report" in this issue)

The response from visitors to join our society was outstanding: 27 new members, including a couple of former members who rejoined. This is a record high number of new members signed up at stamp show.

We welcome these new members and encourage them to take full advantage of the available benefits.



Figure 2
First day cover with Poland's souvenir sheet commemorating WSS – NY 2016 and autographed by designer Agata Tobolczyk. A limited supply of the autographed FDC is available. See Polonus Store in this issue.

Thanks to the supply of the new (2016) Fischer *Katalog Tom II*, sales generated by the Polonus Store were \$1,438.25, exceeding our objective by nearly 50 percent. Members from Poland brought items for sale at the show. The featured item was a commemorative souvenir sheet and first day cover (Figure 2) issued by Poland for the World Stamp Show in NY.

The 6 zł souvenir sheet shows an image of New York City with a skyline and bustling taxis in the background and a prominent marquee with WYSTAWA, with Światowa Wystawa Filatelistyczna Nowy Jork 2016" written underneath. This translated is "Exhibition, World Stamp Show New York 2016." The biggest surprise of the show was the visit by the designer of the stamp and cover, Agata Tobolczyk, from Warsaw (Figure 3). She was surprised to find her souvenir sheets and first day covers available for sale at our society table. With Poczta Polska absent at the show, Agata brought a supply of sheets and covers. See the Polonus Store.

We had a great turnout of members over the eight-day show. Based on members informing me of their plan to attend, we had 32 Welcome Packets prepared. Estimates are that another 20 members, who did not inform me of their plan to attend, visited the society table. Having an opportu-



Figure 1
Hank Bieniecki (left) and Ed Andrews staffing the Polonus Society Table at WSS - NY 2016.



Figure 3
Designer Agata Tobolczyk, holding the FDC she designed, and Bob Ogródnik. She is the Creative Director of Turkus, a Warsaw-based creative design company. Turkus is Polish for "turquoise," the dominant color of our visitor's attire and accessories.

nity to finally meet in person members whom I knew by name only, as brief such a meeting may have been, was very rewarding. Due to the eight-day show schedule it was difficult to coordinate a large number of visiting members for any activity, hence our Annual Meeting drew an attendance of only 18 members. Therefore, the society table became the primary meeting and networking place at this show.

The "Dutch-Treat Dinner" was held at Clyde Frazier's Wine & Dine at 485 10th Avenue, which is close to the Javits Center and convenient for the 20 members and guests who opted for this networking opportunity. The restaurant, named for the New York Knicks basketball star Walt "Clyde" Frazier, is New York's premiere sports-themed restaurant/bar/lounge. With one day left for the closing and show obligations complete, this was a good time to unwind among friends with good food and drink. A good time was had by all.

Overall, World Stamp Show in NY proved to be a successful show for Polonus and we projected a positive image as the Polish Philatelic Society.

Polonus Exhibitors on the World Stage

In contrast to what we normally report as Polonus exhibitors participating in an annual exhibition, this report will appear to be paltry. However, there is a significant difference between a national and an international exhibition. Refer to Jim Mazepa's article in this issue for an explanation of the difference, which will answer the question on participation.

A total of seven Polonus members qualified for and exhibited at World Stamp Show–NY2016. Here are the results:

Large Gold (95) – Jerzy Kupiec-Węgliński, 5 frames, *Airmail in the Polish Territories (1914–1939)*;

Gold (93) – Julian Auleytner, 8 frames, *Beginnings of the Post in the Independent Poland Nov. 1918-1920*;

Large Vermeil (85) – Wiesław Kostka, 5 frames, *Kingdom of Poland – Study of Rates for Stampless Mail (1815–1871)*;

Non-Medal (85) – Dariusz Grochowski, 1 frame, *Essays and Proofs of the Post War Lublin Issue*;

Non-Medal (83) – Andrew Urushima, 1 frame, *The 1944 Gross Born POW Olympics*;

Non-Medal (81) – Jacek Kosmala, 1 frame, *Aerial Formations of the General Haller "Blue" Army and the French Military Mission in Poland 1917-1925*;

Non-Medal (80) – Jan Niebrzydowski, 1 frame, *The WWII Ordeal of One Polish Family*.

In addition to the Polish philatelic material exhibited by Polonus members, there were six entrants from Poland, four exhibiting Polish philatelic material and two exhibiting Polish literature:

Large Vermeil (88) – Janusz Adamczyk, Jarek Szopa, Janusz Tadeusz Nowak, Literature, *Formation Cancels of the Polish Legions, The Polish Auxiliary Corps and the Royal Polish Army on Field Post Mail 1914-1918 and Their Historical Background*;

Vermeil (80) – Andrezej Fischer, Literature, *The Catalogue of Polish Stamps Vol. I & II*;

Vermeil (84) & Special Prize for Treatment – Konrad Andrzejczak, 5 frames, *Charms of the Polish Motorization*;

Silver (71) – Jagoda Gałusińska, 3 frames, *Poland Olympic Chronicle*;

Silver-Bronze (66) – Łukasz Wierzbicki, 3 frames, *Rail Transport*;

Non-Medal (85) – Piotr Zubielik, 1 frame, *The Letters of the Hope*.

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President's Report

Polonus Annual Meeting ~ June 3, 2016

World Stamp Show - NY 2016 ~ New York City, New York

This is the 14th anniversary of our "Annual Meeting & Exhibition" format and as your president for the past nine years, I am pleased to report that Polonus continues to thrive as a viable philatelic 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization. Our financial health is good thanks to the continued generosity of our members, who make tax-deductible contributions in addition to the normal membership dues. Another welcome boost to our income is the revenue from the Polonus Store.

Last August in Grand Rapids, I summarized four key issues that required our attention. Today, I can state without hesitation that we have made progress in all four areas. The most important of which was the "leadership succession," which will become clearer to you as we hold our elections for the board of directors. Our Nominating Committee, under the leadership of Ed Andrews, will have a list of qualified candidates for the ballots, which will be sent out for your vote. Your vote will be very important as the newly elected board of directors will elect the slate of officers at WESTPEX 2017 for the next three years, i.e., President, Executive VP, Administrative VP, Treasurer, and Secretary. With this process, I shall look forward to turning over the job of president to a successor.

The remaining issues will be covered in the following summary of the 2015 and 2016 year-to-date highlights:

1. Our financial position has improved in 2015 due to income exceeding expenses by \$3,819.36, resulting in a year-end cash balance of \$13,136.39. This result exceeds our 2015 projection at Grand Rapids, which had our year-end cash position at \$10,000. Factors contributing to the higher-than-expected income are: early dues payment and related contributions and sales from the Polonus Store.

2. The financial outlook for 2016 is that we will see a reduction in the income due to the initial early dues payment (one-time benefit for 2015) and a slow-down of activity at the Polonus Store. The net effect will be an approximate "break even," but maintaining the same cash balance as in 2015.

3. Membership Chair Dan Lubelski reported an active (paying) membership level of 235, which includes those members who have not yet paid their 2016 dues. In 2015 we welcomed 41 new members and thus far in 2016 (including the New York show) we will welcome approximately 40. The challenge is to grow the new members faster than attrition takes its toll.

4. The Publication Committee completed its first year in the APS "Articles of Distinction" program and as announced in the June Bulletin, Dr. Jerzy W. Kupiec-Węgliński and Jacek Kosmala were the winners and they were awarded Cross pens with inscriptions. Their winning article will be added to the archives on the APS website. 2016 will be the second year in the program and we encourage our members to contribute articles for the *Bulletin* and enter the competition for the "Best Article" for 2016.

5. In addition to changes with hosting support to improve up-time reliability, our website has made progress in populating several drop-down menu items. One very noticeable change on our Home Page is our name – POLONUS Polish Philatelic Society. In earlier teleconferencing board meetings, it was decided to add "Polish" in our name to more clearly identify our country of concentration. This will help us on the internet as collectors seek resources that support Polish stamps. Besides the website, other uses of the logo will incorporate this subtle but important change. We are close to testing and implementing the online Polonus Store. Other goals for the balance of the year include: completing "Introduction to Polish Philately;" revision of menu and links applications; adding short form Membership Directory; and revising dues payment section and PayPal link.

6. Hank Bieniecki, Chairman of the Expertizing Committee, has announced that Dr. Jerzy Walocha, Polonus Honorary Member, is now certified to expertize virtually all Polish material from 1920 forward, including Port Gdańsk, General Gouvernement, Levant, Eastern Silesia and 1944/45 local overprints. He is also capable of providing expertizing certificates in the English language. The one remaining area, i.e., Poland #1 and 1918/1919 issues, will be worked out soon and Chairman Bieniecki plans to have an article for the *Bulletin* explaining the program in more detail.

7. Our library has been successfully transitioned to the American Philatelic Research Library (APRL) in Bellefonte, PA, and all library materials provided by Polonus have been processed into the APRL system. Library Liaison Robin Elliott has written several "From the Library Liaison" columns for the *Polonus Bulletin*, explaining the services offered by

APRL, explaining how to use the on-line catalog and how to obtain materials from APRL without leaving home. It is now up to you to use this sustainable and well-managed resource. Robin plans to populate the "Library" section of our website with a listing of the Polonus material provided APRL, an introduction to APRL's new facilities, instructions for using APRL's on-line catalog (Philatelic Union Catalog) and instructions for obtaining material from APRL.

8. Our Back Issues Chair, John Dunn, reports the sale of two complete sets of *Bulletins*, one "Dudek" index and several individual *Bulletins*. We still have a good supply of the small-size *Bulletins*, i.e., #1 through 525, and the published (Dudek) index for *Bulletins* #1-401). The supply of the large-size *Bulletins*, i.e., #526 through 563, is available but limited.

9. We made very slight progress in getting more volunteers and have an urgent need for the following jobs: Ad Manager, Polonus Store Manager and Awards Chair. These jobs do not require much time, however, they do require a commitment to responsible handling in times of need for their services. Let me know if you are interested in joining the Polonus team of volunteers.

Finally, I want to acknowledge and thank the Board of Directors, committee chairs and volunteers for their contribution towards the accomplishments reported and their commitment to work towards meeting the challenges ahead.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert V. Ogrodnik, President
Polonus Polish Philatelic Society

Polonus Welcomes New Members

Congratulations to the newest members of our society. Please welcome them warmly if you see them.

1822 – **Frank Geiger**, P.O. Box 4743, Pinehurst, NC 28374

1823 – **Tomasz Napierala**, Poland

1824 – **Tomasz Letowski**, 2015 Fairwood Lane, State College, PA 16803

1825 – **Roger Stanford**, 47 Moreland Terrace, New Bedford, MA 02740

1826 – **Mark Schwartz**, 5801 Hana Road, Edison, NJ 08817

1827 – **Paul Pachacz**, 21 Millet Street, Dix Hills, NY 11746

1828 – **Sławomir Beszterda**, 220 Roosevelt Ave., Mineola, NY 11501

1829 – **Edward Gorski**, 69-17 Trotting Course Lane, Reg Park, NY 11374

1830 – **Esa Karkas**, Eskolntntie 17, Parola, FIN-13720 Finland

1831 – **Adam Haber**, 100 W. 57th Street, Apt 14-L, New York, NY 10019

1832 – **Peter Gutter**, P.O. Box 20305, Carson City, NV 89721

1212 – **Stefan Petriuk**, Nueu Strasse 3, 24977 Langballigholz, Germany

1834 – **Edward Janusz**, P.O. Box 2282, Pawcatuck, CT 06379

1835 – **Barbara Szydłowski**, New York

1836 – **Mike Dziomba**, 5 Jared Drive, Mendham, NJ 07945

1837 – **Peter Jasinski**, 1111 W. Mountain Nugget Drive, Green Valley, AZ 85614

1838 – **Andrzej Podbielski**, 529 East 81st Street #1-B, New York, NY 10028

1839 – **Manda Kowalczyk**, 2006 Columbia Pike #1, Arlington VA 22204

1840 – **Terence Hines**, Box 629, Chappaqua, NY 10514

1841 – **James Dalton**, 7 Medaille Drive #301, Watervliet, NY 12189

1842 – **Michael Zelenak**, P.O. Box 2232, East Setauket, NY 11733

1843 – **Igor Zlatkin**, 51 Stoneybrook Drive #9, Millis, MA 02054

1844 – **Loren Rolak**, M211 Edgewood Lane, Marshfield, WI 54449

1845 – **Thomas Duszak**, 1016 Green Street, Harrisburg, PA 17102

1846 – **Karen Goldbach**, 7203 McClure Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15218

1847 – **Joseph Signor**, 84 Spectacle Pond Road, Littleton, MA 01460

1848 – **Stan Madyda**, 33 Hudson Drive, New Fairfield, CT 06812

1849 – **Bob Swick**, P.O.Box 133, Wallingford, CT 06492

1850 – **Alexander Balaban**, New York

1851 – **Andrzej Riess**, 931 Fairway Lane, Mamaroneck, NY 10543

1852 – **George Doblewski**, Australia

1853 – **Edward Michewicz**, 84 Wauwinet Trail, Guilford, CT 06437

1854 – **P. Clark Souers**, 5094 Crestwood Court, Pleasanton, CA 94566

Enhance your collecting
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Polonus Study Group.
Information is on Page 2.

Polish Philatelic Society in Germany

by Bob Ogrodnik

Bundes-Arbeitsgemeinschaft POLEN is celebrating its 40th anniversary as the philatelic organization promoting Polish philately in the German language. Chairman of this organization, Stefan Petriuk, attended the WSS – NY 2016 and visited the Polonus Society Table with one objective: rejoining Polonus as a member and in doing so, reestablishing a cooperative relationship between the organizations.



We agreed to a reciprocal membership wherein, I pay the dues for Stefan and he would do the same for me. (see photo) The one challenge we both face with our respective publications is language, i.e., Stefan with English and me with German. Fortunately, Polish is the common language for our personal communications.

It was a pleasure meeting Stefan and his wife at the show in New York, we welcome him back as a member and we look forward to a mutually productive relationship.

Odds & Ends

1) WESTPEX 201

This is a “call to Polonus exhibitors” to get your exhibits in shape and to be prepared to submit your applications to exhibit in our 15th Annual Membership Meeting and Exhibition at WESTPEX 2017. This is one of the qualifying shows for the APS World Series of Philately competition. More on this show is available on the websites: www.westpex.com and www.polonus.org. The December issue will have more details regarding our plans for this show.

2) Annual “Best Article” Competition in Second Year

Winners for the 2015 competition were announced

in the June 2016 issue. Engraved Cross pens were awarded to Jerzy Kupiec-Węgliński and “in absentia” to Jacek Kosmala at the WSS – NY 2016. We are well into 2016 and we encourage members to submit their articles. Ballots for the selection of the 2016 “Best Article” Competition will be sent to the membership in March with the winner announced at the Annual Meeting at WESTPEX 2017.

3) APS Circuits in Need of Polish Stamps

We have been informed that the APS circuits are running low on books of Polish stamps. If you have duplicates or issues that you no longer are interested in saving, the APS circuits offers you a way of selling them to other APS members. APS membership is a pre-requisite and you need to follow the rules and regulations established by APS Sales Circuits. Refer to the APS website for more information and instructions.

Financial Report for 2015

Cash Balance as of December 31, 2014..... \$10,749.72

Income

Membership Dues..... 7,643.75

Donations 6,531.78

Sales..... 4,623.31

Total Income..... \$18,798.84

Expenses

Bulletin Print & Prep 9,088.19

Website..... 1,135.20

Annual Meeting & Exhibition (Grand Rapids 2015).....

.....2,205.35

• 2014 CHICAGOPEX Carryover..... 127.35

• Hospitality Suite 899.75

• All Other 928.25

• 2016 NY World Stamp Show..... 250.00

Membership Related Expense..... 834.52

P.O. Box Maintenance Fee.....265.00

Postage & Mailing Services 979.82

Printing & Copying.....200.51

Miscellaneous 270.89

Total Expense \$14,979.48

Net Income..... \$3,819.36

Deferred Expense (1,432.69)

Cash Balance as of December 31, 2015..... \$13,136.39

Have a question? A concern?

A comment?

Let your voice be heard!

Write a Letter to the Editor!

New Issues

Jan Długosz

This 1.75 zł stamp shows a profile of Jan Długosz (1415-80) overlooking ancient Kraków. Also known as Ionnes or Johannes or Johannes Longinus or Dlugossius, he was a Polish priest, chronicler/historian, diplomat, soldier and secretary to Bishop Zbigniew Oleśnicki of Kraków. He was born in Radomsko, educated at the Jagiellonian University and served as a cannon in Kraków until his death.



Długosz is perhaps best known for his work, titled in Latin, *Annales seu cronici incliti regni Poloniae* (English: *Annals or Chronicles of the Famous Kingdom of Poland*), a history of Poland from the year 965 into his lifetime. He is also notable for being sent by King Casimir IV Jagiellon on diplomatic missions to the Papal and Imperial court, and for his involvement in the king's negotiations with the Teutonic Knights during the Thirteen Years' War (1454-66) and later at the peace negotiations. His 1448 work, *Banderia Prutenorum*, described the famous Battle of Grunwald in 1410.

Date of Issue	November 30, 2015
Sheet Format	Single in pane of 12
Printing Method	Photogravure
Designer	Jacek Konarzewski

The Witnesses of Hope – Blessed Polish Missionaries

This 1.75 zł stamp shows photographic images of two recent Polish missionaries who were martyred in Peru. Michał Tomaszek (1960-91) was born in Łękawica (near Żywiec), and studied theology at the Seminary of Franciscans in Kraków. In 1987, he was sent on missionary work to Pariacoto, Peru, but murdered by terrorist militants of the organization, Shining Path. His martyrdom was recognized by Pope Francis when he received the title Venerable Servant of God, and later the title of Blessed. Zbigniew Strzalkowski (1948-91) was born in the village of Zawada (near Tarnów), and became a Franciscan in 1979. While on missionary work with Fr. Tomaszek in Peru, he, too, was murdered and martyred there, and similarly honored by the church.



Date of Issue	December 6, 2015
Sheet Format	Single in pane of 6
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Aleksander Pietrzak

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STAMP DEALER

John Rudnicki

POLAND NEW ISSUES

**John Rudnicki is an official member
of Polonus**

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Flowers & Fruits (Lilac)

One more in a series of stamps depicting flowers and fruits found in Poland, this 5 gr stamp shows a beautiful lilac flower (*Syringa Vulgaris*), a species of flowering plant in the family *Oleaceae*. Native to the Balkan peninsula, this species is now widely cultivated as an ornamental and has been naturalized in other parts of Europe and North America. It is a deciduous shrub or multi-stemmed small tree producing secondary shoots from the base or root. The flowers have a tubular base to the corolla, usually lilac to mauve in color, but occasionally white. The plant was first described by Carl Linnaeus in 1753.



Date of Issue	December 7, 2015
Sheet Format	Single in a sheet of 100
Printing Method	Photogravure
Designer	Marzanna Dąbrowska

Wooden *Tserkvas* of the Polish and Ukrainian Carpathian Region

This 5 zł stamp recognizes two historic wooden *tserkvas* (churches) in the Carpathian Mountains of Poland and Ukraine that have been designated as UNESCO World Heritage sites: the Finial-Orthodox Church of St. Paraskiewa XVII (*Kwiaton-Cerkiew sw. Paraskiewy XVII w*) and the Drohobycz-Orthodox Church of St. George XV-XVI (*Drohobycz-Cerkiew sw. Jerzego XV-XVI*). This is a joint stamp issue with Ukraine, whose stamp has a similar design valued at 5.40 hryvnias. In addition, a blackprint pane of four with denomination obliterated was also issued for collectors by the Polish Post.



Date of Issue	December 10, 2015
Sheet Format	Single in pane of 4
Printing Method	Photogravure & Steel Engraving
Designers	Andrzej Gosik & Przemysław Krajewski

Final of the Great Orchestra of Christmas Charity

One more in a series of stamps that recognize the early-year charity event in Poland (*Wielka Orkiestra Świątecznej Pomocy*), this heart-shaped 2.35 zł stamp depicts a col-

orful hot-air balloon ascending into the sky. This year's activities mark the 24th such national charity event that has been described in detail herein in previous years. The event focuses on helping the very young and very old in Poland who are worthy of care (*godna opieka*). The 2016 pane is perforated in a special manner to facilitate the removal of stamps for usage.



Date of Issue	January 5, 2016
Sheet Format	Single in a pane of 6
Printing Method	Offset & Screen Printing
Designers	Gawel Andrzejewski, Jerzy Owsiak & Katarzyna Sasin

EHF 2016 European Men's Handball Championship in Poland



These two circular stamps, denominated at 2.25 and 5 zł, recognize the European Handball Federation's (EHF) championship that was held for the first time in Poland on January 15-31, 2016. The specific Polish cities hosting the event were Kraków (Tauron Arena), Gdańsk (Ergo Arena), Katowice (Spodek), and Wrocław (Centennial Hall). The 16 European national teams competed in four seeds and 42 matches were played. This championship event occurs every two years to crown the European champions and serves as a qualifying tournament for the Olympic Games and World Championship. The 2.35 zł stamp shows a man in play and the 5 zł stamp portrays a hand gripping a ball. The pane has multiple perforation patterns that facilitate removal of the stamps.

Date of Issue	January 15, 2016
Sheet Format	Two stamps in pane of 6
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Agata Tobolczyk



Wrocław, European Capital of Culture 2016

A 5 zł stamp was issued to mark Wrocław's designation in 2016 as the European Capital of Culture and the World Book Capital. During the year, the city will host the Theatre Olympics, World Bridge Games and European Film Awards. The stamp appears to show an oblique aerial view of the old market square in the city. Wrocław (German: Breslau) is the largest city in western Poland and fourth largest in all of Poland. It is located on the Oder River in the Silesian Lowlands of Central Europe and was historically the capital of Silesia; today it is defined administratively as the capital of the Lower Silesian Voivodeship. In its turbulent history, it was once a part of the Kingdom of Poland, Bohemia, Hungary, the Austrian Empire, Prussia and Germany.

Date of Issue	January 15, 2016
Sheet Format	Single in numbered SS
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Aleksandra Pietrzak

Flowers & Fruits (Cornflower)



Another in a series recognizing the flowers and fruits found in Poland, this 50 gr stamp shows the cornflower (*Chaber*), a flowering plant in the family *Asteraceae* and the genus *Centaurea*, consisting of 350-600 species found mainly in Europe. These thistle-like plants have flowers that are often dark blue in color, but are also found in white, pink and purple. They often grow as weeds in corn fields, hence the name. They have been used for medicinal purposes, as a dye and for cosmetics.

Date of Issue	January 20, 2016
Sheet Format	Single in sheet of 100
Printing Method	Photogravure
Designer	Marzanna Dąbrowska

250 Years of the Warsaw Mint

This 2.35 zł stamp recognizes Poland's Mint on Bielanska Street in Warsaw that has operated intermittently since the late 18th Century. In 1764 the Royal Elections chose Stanisław August Poniatowski for king, obligating him to implement monetary reform and establish a mint to produce coinage; this was accomplished on February 10, 1766. Beginning in 1791 the coins minted at the Warsaw Mint were inscribed with "M.W." or "M.V." (*Monitaria Varsoviensis*), thereafter the mint mark for all its coins.



In 1796, the mint was closed after the 3rd Partition of Poland, but was reopened for a short time in 1810. On February 10, 1966, the 200th anniversary of the mint, it was officially recognize, and since then every February 10 is celebrated in Poland as Mint Master's Day.

Today the Mint of Poland (*Mennica Polska*) is the only producer of coins in Poland, including the 5 zł, 2 zł, 1 zł, 50 gr, 20 gr, and 10 gr values, manufactured to the order of the Polish National Bank (*Narodowy Bank Polski*). Since 1994, the mint was transformed into a private company and it began trading on the Polish stock exchange in 1998 as State Mint Plc. The gold-colored stamp portrays a symbolic woman in the likeness of a classical Greco-Roman goddess holding a coin.

Date of Issue	January 21, 2016
Sheet Format	Single in pane of 6
Printing Method	Offset & hotstamping
Designer	Agata Tobolczyk

50th Anniversary of First Successful Kidney Transplant in Poland



This 1.75 zł stamp recognizes the first Polish kidney transplant successfully completed 50 years ago by Prof. Tadeusz Orlowski and Dr. Jan Nielubowicz in Warsaw. Both men are shown on the official first-day cover. The stamp shows a tree with the top half alive and green and the bottom half leafless and black.

In 2013, the first robotic kidney transplant was performed by head surgeon Wojciech Witkiewicz in Wrocław; the Da Vinci robot system was used for the surgery. There are 24 organ transplant teams in 20 centers in Poland today and since 1966 more than 14,300 kidneys have been transplanted.

Date of Issue	January 22, 2016
Sheet Format	Single in sheet of 50
Printing Method	Photogravure
Designer	Agata Tobolczyk

National Day of Remembrance of Accursed Soldiers

This 1.75 zł (A) stamp portrays the late Mjr. Zygmunt Szendzielarz, one of Poland's accursed soldiers (*Żołnierzy Wyklętych*), in recognition of the National Day of Remembrance (*Narodowy Dzień Pamięci*), celebrated on March 1 each year since 2011.



The accursed soldiers, also known as cursed soldiers, damned soldiers or disavowed soldiers, once part of the old Home Army, continued clandestine anti-communist activities against Poland's Stalinist government well

into the 1950s. Their guerrilla warfare included an array of military attacks against the communist regime's prisons, state security offices, detention centers for political prisoner, and concentration camps set up across Poland. Portrayed by the communist government as terrorists, most of the accursed soldiers were hunted down by agents of the Ministry of Public Security and Soviet NKVD assassination squads. In 1989, after the fall of communism, the convictions of these soldiers were declared invalid and annulled by Polish law.

Mjr. Szendzielarz was one such accursed soldier who was captured and executed in 1951, together with several other accursed soldiers; his *nom de guerre* was Łupaszka. In 1988 he was awarded the *Viruti Militari*, Poland's highest military decoration by Kazimierz Sabbat, the President of Poland in exile. In 2007, he was officially awarded the order of *Polonia Restituta*. During a 2013 exhumation, his remains were recovered and identified as one of about 250 bodies buried in a mass grave at the Meadow in Warsaw's Powązki Military Cemetery. The cemetery was the site of this year's March 1 ceremony presided over by President Bronisław Komorowski.

Date of Issue	February 28, 2016
Sheet Format	Single in pane of 12
Printing Method	Photogravure
Designer	Marzanna Dąbrowska

Easter

This year's Easter (*Wielkanoc*) stamps portray three decorated eggs (*pisanki*) from the regions of the Hutsuls (*Hucul*), Lemkos (*Łemkowie*) and the Lublin area. There are several different kinds of decorated Polish Easter eggs, each



based on the technique and preparation used. Originally a pagan tradition, these eggs now symbolize the revival of nature in spring and the Christian hope that derives from faith in the resurrection of Christ.

The 2 zł egg design derives from the Hutsulshchyna region in the southeastern Carpathian Mountains of Galicia, Bukovynia, and Transcarpathia, inhabited by Ukrainian highlanders called Hutsuls. The 2.50 zł egg shown is traditional to the Lemkos (*Łemkowie*) ethnic group found in the Carpathians, now mostly in Slovakia. After World War II many Lemkos were forcibly deported to different areas in Poland and Ukraine. In the Polish Census of 2011, about 11,000 people identified themselves with Lemko nationality.



The 6 zł purple egg shown is traditional to the Lublin area. Lublin is the ninth largest city in Poland and the largest east of the Vistula River, about 106 miles southeast of Warsaw. The city was spared from severe destruction in World War II, resulting in the preservation of its unique historical Old Town. Two very colorful official first day covers, one of which is shown above, were issued for these stamps.

Date of Issue	March 3, 2016
Sheet Format	3 stamps, in sheets of 100
Printing Method	Photogravure
Designer	Agnieszka Sancewicz

Would you like to see your name in print?

**Write an article for the
Polonus Bulletin!**



Welcome

to the
Polonus Store

(We're Always Open for Business)

The Polonus Store is open and we have an inventory (limited in some items) of POLPEX souvenir sheets, POLPEX show cards, POLPEX cachet covers, FDC's, monograph, and other commemorative items (lapel pins, tie tacks, cufflinks, shot glasses, catalogs, etc.). If you do not find the item you may be searching for in this offering, contact us by email or telephone and we can quickly advise whether or not we have it available.

Item 1 – AUTOGRAPH FDC for WSS – NY 2016\$10.00

Pictured in this issue (see image on Page 18) is a FDC with the stamp issued by Poland commemorating WSS – NY 2016. The stamp and cover were designed and autographed by Agata Tobolczyk. ONLY THREE (3) REMAIN – “first come – first served.”

Item 2 – LIMITED PRINT MINI-SHEET\$30.00

Pictured in this issue is a mini-sheet featured on the cover of our December 2014 issue (#557). At the time, our supply (see image on Page 16) was limited and we quickly sold out. Since then, we were able to obtain another limited supply that we are offering on a “first come – first served” basis. Add this to your collection today.

Item 3 – Rocket Mail 1979 Souvenir Sheet.....\$3.00

In commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the founding of Polonus, a special souvenir sheet was issued commemorating the rocket mail event in the Mojave Desert. (shown on right)

Item 4 – Rocket Mail Cover (flown by RRS).....\$10.00

Newly discovered cache of covers postmarked “MOJAVE, CA Mar 3, 1979” with handstamp “FLOWN BY RRS”. (Reaction Research Society) Covers have a cachet with the image of Świętowit, the four-faced Slavic God of war, fertility and harvest. (shown on right)

Item 5 - Commemorative Catalogue\$2.00

A 52-page souvenir of the 75th anniversary celebration at CHICAGOPEX 2014 in Itasca, Illinois. This publication contains proclamations, congratulatory letters, listing of Polish exhibits and exhibitors, history of Polonus, etc.

Item 6 – *The Occupation of Russia by the Polish 1 Corps*\$10.00

This is the first POLONUS HANDBOOK, authorized by Tadeusz Gryżewski and James Mazepa in 1977. There are less than 10 copies left in stock.

Item 7 - Poland No. 1 by V. Rachmanoff.....\$5.00

As presented in *The Collectors Club Philatelist* of New York in September 1955. Limited supply remaining at this reduced price.

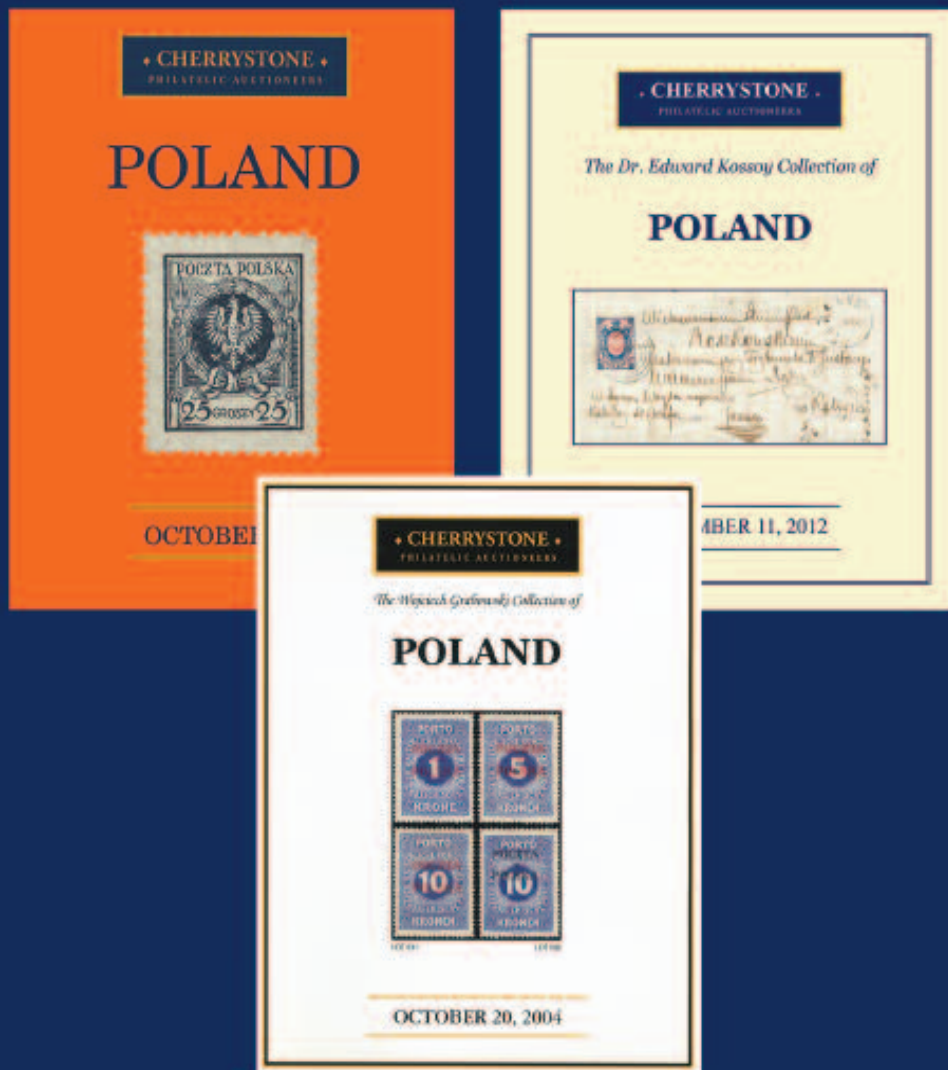
Prices for the items listed above **do not** include shipping and handling costs. Send your request to purchase items to: **Bob Ogrodnik, P.O. Box 240428, Ballwin, MO 63024-0428** or email to robert.ogrodnik@sbc-global.net. In return you will receive a confirmation of availability of the items and the correct amount for S/H to be added to the price of the items.

Payments are to be made to: Polonus Polish Philatelic Society via personal check or via PayPal (info@polonus.org) If paying by check, include payment with order, mailed to the above address.



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