

BULLETIN OF THE **Polonus** PHILATELIC SOCIETY



Meets Every Fourth Friday at Polish Veterans Home, 6005 W. Irving Pk., Chicago

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July-Aug., 1982

PAPAL BLESSING FOR POLPEX 83

Alfred Szebel, Chairman of the coming Polonus Stamp and Coin Exhibition received Pope John Paul II's blessing for the society activities and for a successful POLPEX 83/MILITARIA. The Honorary Committee of our International Exhibition includes prominent Poles, Americans of Polish descent, and friends of Polonus. This steadily growing list includes: His Eminence Archbishop Jozef Glemp, Primate of Poland; John Cardinal Krol of Philadelphia; Wladyslaw Cardinal Rubin of Rome; Gen. L. Dulacki, U.S. Marine Corps; Gen. J. Pieklik, U.S. Army; Senator Charles Percy; Congressman Clement Zablocki; Congressman Dan Rostenkowski; Professor John Gronowski; Aloysius Mazewski, President of PNA and PAC; and others.

Polpex Publicity Labels

With this Bulletin we enclose a sheet of our newly printed three-color publicity labels. Use them on your mail to advertise our coming show. Additional sheets are available at two for \$1.00 plus a stamped self-addressed envelope from John Bartczak, 10428 South Avenue 'O', Chicago, IL 60617.

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With such enthusiastic support of



Special Polpex cancel to be used by the US Postal Service at their postal station at POLPEX 83. Designed by Leon Kawecki.

our Honorary Committee we appeal to our members for financial support of POLPEX 83. For \$50.00 or more, you will receive a beautifully crafted gilded medallion especially struck by Medalic Arts of Danbury, Conn. Make checks payable to Polonus and send them to Mr. Stanley Rusin, Treasurer, P.O. Box 56148, Chicago, IL 60648. 60656

So far we have four \$50 donors.

DR. EDWARD C. ROZANSKI

ALFRED SZEDEL

WALTER J. TRYBULSKI

POLISH P.O.W. STUDY GROUP

U.N. FIRST DAY ISSUE

The United Nations Postal Administration notified us that their First Day of Issue of the *Safety At Sea* stamps and souvenir cards will take place on March 18, 1983 at POLPEX 83. The UN will also provide a special rubber stamp cachet for the show and will maintain a counter for the sale of UN postage stamps and cards.

HENNIG TO CHAIR JURY FOR POLPEX/MILITARIA-83

Bud Hennig of Chicago has accepted the Chairmanship of the Jury of POLPEX/MILITARIA-83. Mr. Hennig has served on the Juries of many of our Polpex Exhibitions and served as Chairman of the 1979 Exhibition. He is the Chairman of the American Philatelic Society Committee on the Accreditation of Judges and has served on many National and International Juries. He is Chairman for Entries for the AMERIPEX 1986 International Exhibition to be held in Chicago. He has assured us that he will preside at a Judge's Critique in which the Jury will explain why certain medals were awarded to the exhibits and offer suggestions as to how the exhibits might be improved.

KAMIENSKI CANADIAN COMMISSIONER FOR POLPEX/MILITARIA

Dr. Miet Kamienski has been appointed Commissioner for Canada for POLPEX/MILITARIA. He will personally bring and return the Canadian exhibits for those desiring this service. Canadian members can contact him at: 26 Parkcrest Drive, Scarborough, Ontario, M1M 2Z1.

A prospectus and exhibit application are available from him for Canada members.

SUPPORT

POLPEX/MILITARIA-83

Preliminary costs for the Exhibition next March are running about 50 to 100% higher than the exhibition in 1979. Inflation is taking its toll, and we have other costs which we did not have previously. For example, we will have to rent frames for the exhibits since ours are no longer in the kind of condition required for an exhibition of this caliber. The rental fee for 200 frames is \$1000.00 plus cartage. Labor, materials, awards, and, of course, even postage, are up substantially. Do consider supporting the show by being a patron and receive the beautiful gold medal commemorating King Jan III Sobieski.

SOCIETIES PLAN TO MEET AT POLPEX/MILITARIA-83

The War Cover Club will have their spring meeting at Polpex/Militaria and have a special award for a War Cover Exhibit. The Polish POW Study Group will also meet and offer a special award. Other societies have indicated an interest in meeting during the exhibition which include the Hellenic Philatelic Society, the United Nations Collector's Club, the Czechoslovakian Philatelic Society of America, and the Chicago Air Mail Society. The American Air Mail Society is considering holding their regional meeting at the show.

PLAN NOW TO EXHIBIT

WANTED: Military and War Related Material, not only Poland, but any other country—Fieldpost, Occupations, Plebiscites, KZ, Internment and POW Camps, Red Cross, etc. Entry forms available from John S. Bobo, 1668 Sycamore Street, Des Plaines, IL 60018.

THE POLISH COSMONAUT MYSTERY

By GEORGE SPITERI

Sir, I was interested to read in the May issue of *Spaceflight* (Space Report, p. 215) about the "Polish Cosmonaut Mystery" and the last minute change of stamps.

It is worthy to note that whilst Hermaszewski was training in Star Town prior to the flight of Soyuz 30 he was hospitalized with tonsillitis and underwent a minor operation (1). This could account for the fact that Jankowski may have been ready to fly as a prime crew member of Soyuz 30, but Hermaszewski recovered and went into space anyway.

However, it is possible that Jankowski may have been the original prime crew member and if so would have flown with his Soviet commander, Valeri Kubasov (2).

The possibility remains that Jankowski fell or was injured and was replaced at the last moment by Hermaszewski and his Soviet commander Klimuk (similar to Swigert replacing Mattingly prior to Apollo 13 in 1970), and hence the change of stamps. This would be well within Soviet practice as in 1980 Ryumin replaced Lebedev prior to the Soyuz 35 flight to Salyut 6 (3).

Kubasov was then given a flight aboard the next available Inter-cosmos mission with Farkas in May, 1980 aboard Soyuz 36. The Soviet-Polish mission may not have been the only flight flown by a back-up crew; the Soviet/Romanian flight appears to have been flown by the back-up crew of Popov and Prunariu replacing Bykovsky and Dediu (4).

This poses the possibility that the Soviets issue photographs of the back-up crew together and then in the event of them flying announce that they are the prime crew. Indeed there are several photographs

of Klimuk and Hermaszewski together whilst training at Star City (5), and in the British press at the time of the mission of Soyuz 30 (6). I have several photographs from the Polish Embassy in London of both of them with their families at Star City.

The Soviets did the same with Popov and Prunariu (7) and Popov and Ryumin (8).

Finally, it is worth noting that Hermaszewski is now in the Polish military government (9).

REFERENCES & NOTES

1. *Spaceflight*, Feb. 1979, p. 60.
2. *Spaceflight*, Mar. 1979, p. 129.
3. Ryumin was not a back-up; the Soviets opted not to fly the back-up crew but to simply replace Lebedev with an experienced cosmonaut (Ryumin) to fly with Popov on his first flight.
4. *JBIS*, Feb. 1982, Correspondence p. 95.
5. *Spaceflight*, Mar. 1979, p. 132.
6. *The Times*, June 28, 1978.
7. *Spaceflight*, Apr. 1982, p. 115.
8. *Spaceflight*, July-Aug., 1980/*Soviet Life*, Apr. 1981, pp. 30/31.
9. *The Times*, Dec. 14, 1981.

Reprinted from *Spaceflight*, Oct. 1982

PROGRAM MEETING NOV. 26

"The V-Mail of the General Government" will be the topic of a slide presentation by Thomas J. Gobby at the next Polonus meeting to be held on Friday, November 26th, 1982 at SWAP Hall. Refreshments served after meeting.

DECEMBER MEETING

Because Christmas Eve falls on the fourth Friday in the month of December, our meeting night will be moved up to Friday, December 17th. A program meeting is planned.

HELP — MILITARY ARTICLES NEEDED

We have a desperate need for original articles on any aspect of Military Philately. Articles will be needed for the Bulletin, the Exhibition Program, and the philatelic press. Never has there been a better time to try your hand at writing an article, and never has the need been so great. Send them to the Publications Chairman.

POLPEX 83 COMMITTEE

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STAMP MARKET TIPS

By JOHN G. ROSS

After the end of World War I and the collapse of the Russian Czarist regime, Poland became an independent country and issued some very interesting and definitely worthwhile issues. You shouldn't fail to add them to your collection. During World War II, Poland was overrun by Hitler's army and again it lost its independence. Following World War II, it became a satellite of the Russian empire and began issuing far too many stamps. Most collectors have given up trying to keep up with all these new issues, but now and then there are stamps which you shouldn't pass up if you have an opportunity to buy them. In May 1954, the Polish Philatelic Association met in Warsaw and in commemoration of that event a miniature-sheet of 5 Zloty was issued, Scott No. C34. This sheet was issued in green, but a small amount, a little over 11,000 sheets was issued in blue. It was offered for sale only at the stamp show, and was sold out in no time at all. Scott mentions this sheet in a footnote below C34. Officially it was not good for postage, but I have seen several covers of the sheet sent on registered mail to this country. Scott prices the blue sheet for \$150.00, the German Michel lists it for Mark 800.00 which is about \$320.00. If you can find this sheet somewhere offered for around \$100.00, buy it. It is scarce.

Reprinted from STAMPS of 9-4-82

WINNER'S CIRCLE

JAMES MAZEPA - Reserve Grand Award, INDYPEX Gold Medal and American Air Mail Society Award for Best Air Mail Exhibit, for Air Posts In Poland to 1939 at INDYPEX in Indianapolis, a National Stamp Exhibition.

The V-Mail of the General Government

(Reprinted from APS Journal)

by Thomas J. Gobby

World War II spawned a number of famous and memorable symbols. One of the most famous symbols was the use of the letter "V" to symbolize "Victory." Most people remember and associate it with England, the United States, and their allies.

The use of the letter "V" to symbolize victory generally is attributed to Winston Churchill, England's indomitable prime minister. However, credit belongs not to Churchill but to a Belgian refugee, Victor de Laveleye, who made shortwave broadcasts from London to his occupied country.

De Laveleye urged his fellow citizens in occupied Belgium to inscribe the letter "V" for *Victoire* in public places as a gesture of defiance against the German invaders. The letter "V" was very versatile: In Dutch it stood for *Vryheid* (freedom), in Serbian for *Vitostvo* (heroism), and in Czech for *Vitezstvi* (victory).

In addition to de Laveleye, Colonel Britton, a British broadcaster, also urged his listeners in the Nazi-occupied countries of Europe to adopt the "V" as a symbol of defiance against the German occupier. Its Morse code equivalent (dit-dit-dit-dah) was tapped out in door knocks, on car horns, and even with train whistles, and Beethoven's Fifth Symphony became a popular request because its first four notes echoed the code.

Before long, V-signs were seen and heard in towns and cities across occupied Europe. The Poles took to it with gusto, and in the late spring of 1941 Warsaw was virtually blanketed with thousands of V-symbols.

The German occupiers were furious, but not quite able to cope with this



Figure 1. Postcard of the Town Hall Clock Tower in Krakow adorned with a bilingual (Polish-German) V-sign. The cancellation commemorates the first anniversary of the Nazi party in the G.G.

demonstration of audacity and courage on the part of the Polish population. Dr. Goebbels, the Reichminister of Propaganda, decided to turn the trick against the English and appropriated the V-sign to symbolize German victory.



Figure 2. The three V-slogans reported to date. Top: bilingual (German-Polish); center: German; bottom: Polish. Translation for all: "Germany is Victorious on All Fronts."

Goebbels reasoned that Germany was the only victorious nation at this time. Czechoslovakia, Austria, Poland, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Denmark, Norway, and Greece were under German rule. Hungary and Romania were in the German camp, Crete was successfully invaded and occupied, and the German army was in North Africa and Yugoslavia. Moreover, the German army had invaded Russia on June 22, 1941, and its early successes added to the headiness of Goebbels's reasoning.

The Reichministry of Propaganda feverishly went to work to incorporate the V-sign to its own purposes. Posters, signs, and monuments using the V-sign and V-slogans were manufactured and erected in cities and towns across the General Government (Poland).

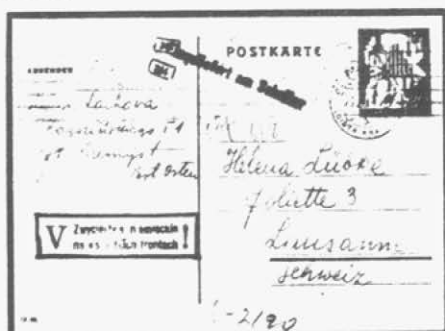


Figure 3. G.G. postal card posted at Deutsche Przemysl on July 29, 1941. Boxed V-slogan (approximately 55 mm by 9 mm) in black ink, machine roller censor cancel and boxed "244" censor mark applied at Frankfurt/Main. "Eingeliefert Am Schalter" ("dispatched from a counter") signifies compliance with rules for mail sent to neutral nations; i.e., such mail had to be posted at the post office counter and the sender had to submit an official identity card.

The resourceful Poles soon took their revenge on the German use of the symbol. The slogan "Deutschland Viktoria" ("Germany Victorious") was changed to read "Deutschland Verloren" — "Germany is Lost!" Another slogan, "Deutschland Siegt an Allen Fronten" ("Germany Wins on All Fronts"), needed only one letter

changed to make it "Deutschland Liegt an Allen Fronten" — "Germany Lies on All Fronts."

Signs and posters that were not altered were defaced by being painted over by members of the underground.

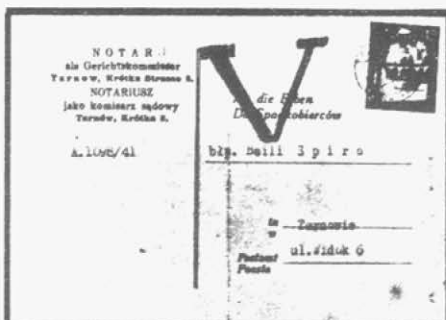


Figure 4. Postal card posted and mailed within Tarnow, July 28, 1941. The "V" is approximately 45 mm across and 34 mm high. Examples of this marking are known in both black and violet ink.

In a daring move, an elaborate V-monument erected in Saski Square in Warsaw was firebombed and destroyed. Such was the fate of this propaganda until it either was relocated to places out of reach of the citizenry, or fenced and posted with sentries (Figure 1).

The Germans missed no propaganda opportunity, and also incorporated the V-sign usage into postal cancellations and markings in the Reichpost, Feldpost, and Netherlands, Norway, Bohemia-Moravia, and Poland-GG.

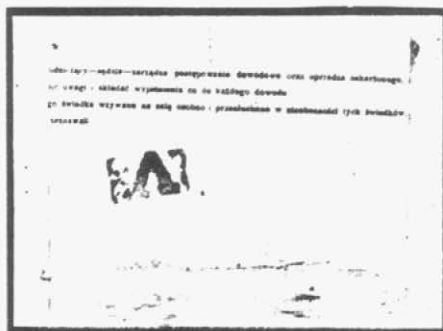


Figure 5. Reverse of envelope made of scrap paper and posted from court in Ulanow, October 23, 1941. The "V" in black ink is approximately 22 mm across and 13 mm high.

To date there are no known or reported special "V" postmarks for the General Government. However, all post offices and some postal agencies are reported to have been issued rubber handstamps which had the letter "V," or "V" and a slogan in either the German or Polish language (the slogan stamps appear to have been machine-made).

Ostensibly, these rubber stamps were to be used on letter mail only, although examples on postcards have been found. Primarily used as propaganda directed at Polish citizens, these markings also were applied to mail from the G.G. to other countries. Mail with these markings to Germany generally is considered to be in the nature of "courtesy" marks. It also is reported that all mail sent to Polish prisoner-of-war camps received these markings.



Figure 6. Red "V" (approximately 23 mm by 23 mm) on letter canceled at Wlozczowa, July 23, 1941. Registry label indicates "Krasocin" in hand lettering. "Krasocin über Wlozczowa" in violet 50 mm by 23 mm box in lower left corner is a postal agency marking.

The V-only stamps range from clean, clear type slugs to rather crude devices apparently hand-cut from rubber or a similar material.

If one looks for G.G. covers with "V" markings, he will find quite a search ahead of him; this material is rather scarce. Mail between Polish citizens within the G.G. was limited, and most Poles usually destroyed such

covers in gestures of defiance against the hated propaganda efforts. But, surviving material today is worth the effort of the search.

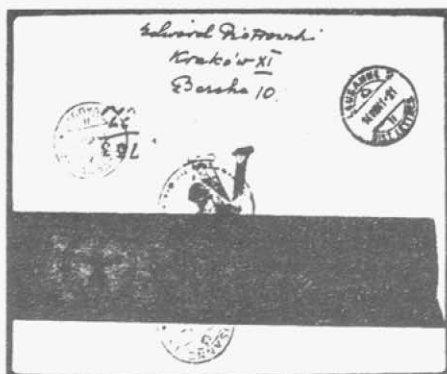


Figure 7. Violet "V" (approximately 23 mm across and 25 mm high) on letter posted from Krakow, August 9, 1941; censor tape and handstamp applied at Frankfurt/Main.

Types

Slogans have been reported in three types:

1. The letter "V" with a slogan in both the German and Polish languages, in a horizontal format. Translation: "Germany is Victorious on All Fronts" (Figure 2, top).

2. The letter "V" with a slogan in the German language, in a boxed frame horizontal format; translation as above (Figure 2, center).

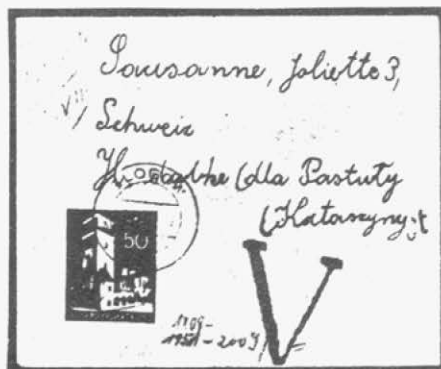


Figure 8. Crude "V" (approximately 27 mm across and 32 mm high) in black ink on letter posted from Glogow, August 11, 1941.

3. The letter "V" with a slogan in the Polish language, in a boxed frame horizontal format; translation as above (Figure 2, bottom, and Figure 3).

There seems to have been no special protocol for the application of these slogan stamps. Covers and postcards that I have seen have them applied to the face.



Figure 9. Violet "V" (12.5 mm across, 21 mm high) on letter posted from Petrikau, August 9, 1941.

V-Marks

By the present time, no complete listing of these markings has been made; however, a General Government study group in Hannover, West Germany, is in the process of cataloguing all known varieties. Included in their study will be a listing of the types and their characteristics and dimensions, color of ink used, date of cancellation, and the town. Figures 4 through 9 show some of the many varied types of these V-marks.

Dates of Usage

The majority of items with either the V-slogan or V-mark that I have seen have had cancellations applied during July, August, and September of 1941. Some few items have been noted with cancellations through December 1941, though some items have been reported

with dates in the early months of 1942. One reason that one does not encounter many covers with these markings after 1941 is the fact that the German army — like Napoleon's — came face to face with the Russian winter, which arrived early in 1941, in October. From that time onward, the victorious advances of the German army turned into a stagnant, then receding front. The occasion for V-slogans and marks seemed to have passed.

Cities and Towns of Use

As mentioned, no listing exists that identifies all of the cities and towns in which such mail received these markings. To judge from material seen or reported thus far, mail in the larger cities of Warsaw, Krakow, Radom, Lublin, etc., received such markings. Smaller towns and villages such as Glogow, Krasocin, Ulanowie, Wloszczowa, etc., all have been reported with V-type stamps.

Forgeries

While no forgeries of this material have been reported to date, it is not improbable that such items exist. Before acquiring such material, the collector is urged to compare it to known genuine items, particularly those of the slogan variety.

I hope this article gives the collector an idea of the background of the V-marks of the General Government.



DO YOUR SHARE!
PARTICIPATE IN
POLPEX 83/MILITARIA

HALVED OR TORN?

By STANLEY KRONENBERG

Illustrated here are the front and back of a cover which was mailed on August 25, 1947 from Brzozow, Poland to the USA.

On its front is the right half of the blue 2 zloty stamp, Scott No. 371, tied to the background with the Brzozow cancellation.

The question arises if this 2 zl. stamp is "halved" for use as a 1 zl. stamp or if it is just a very badly torn 2 zloty stamp. This question can be answered as follows:

On August 25, 1947 the postage required for this letter was: Foreign Postage - 10 zloty, plus registration - 15 zl., totaling 25 zl. This is confirmed further by a "25" written with a red pencil on the envelope by the postmaster under the violet 3 zl. stamp (visible when holding the cover against a strong light). The postmaster thus received from the mailer 25 zl. in cash and then affixed the stamps whose total nominal value was 25 zl. including the full value of the torn in half 2 zl. stamp. Therefore this is not a halved stamp on cover, but only a badly damaged stamp.

The tearing in two could be explained by poorly made perforation

of these stamps. There is also the possibility that using the poor perforator tore stamps in halves on purpose



te tore stamps in halves on purpose charging customers the full face value for each half, supplementing thus his income.

NEW MEMBER

Glenn Matthew Ramski
1524 W. Edgerton
Milwaukee, WI 53221

A BRODY TRANSIT MARK OF 1803

THE ENVELOPE by James Mazepa, THE LETTER by Ryszard Poddubiuk

THE ENVELOPE

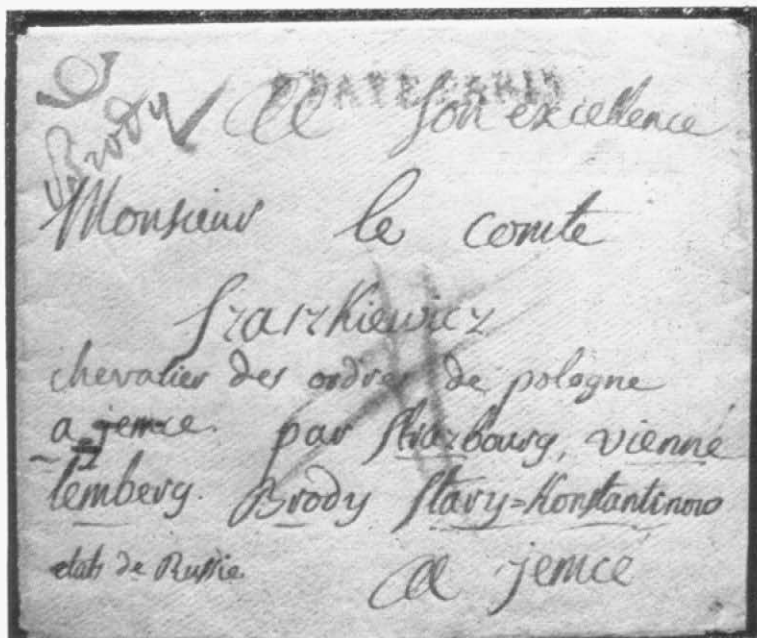
The years between the Third Partition of Poland in 1795 and the Council of Vienna in 1815 is probably the least explored period of Polish postal history. Since Poland as a sovereign nation ceased to exist, the postal history of this period is bound-up with that of the occupying powers of Russia, Austria, Prussia and the presence of the French inspired Duchy of Warsaw and the Napoleonic Grande Armee.

In the Austrian occupied territories, postmarks fell into disuse after 1795 until after 1815. During this period, manuscript marks of dispatch and transit are found, even though they are the exception rather than the rule. One such example from the town of Brody is shown here. What makes this mark unusual is the addition of the "post-horn" to the town transit.

The letter originated in Paris where it received a red "P. Paye Paris" (Postage paid at Paris). The meaning of the red crayon "#" in the center is unknown to me but it could indicate that the postage was indeed collected, or it may indicate some kind of routing. The letter is addressed to Count Szarzkiewicz, Knight of the Orders of Poland, who resides "in the State of Russia." Transit towns are noted which carried the letter into Galicia at Lemberg (Lwow) and on to the border at Brody into Russia and the Ukrainian town of Stary Konstantinow, and on to its destination. As the letter passed from Austrian territory into Russian, the postal clerk noted the Austrian transit in red, "Brody and posthorn."

THE LETTER

The letter carried in the envelope described by Mr. Mazepa contains



some first-hand information about post-revolutionary France by a Polish ex-patriot. Some license has been taken in translating due to the difficulty of the French of this period, but I trust the sense of the letter has been preserved:

Dear Count,

As we anticipated, in the interval since the last letter and my journey, Mr. de Montesson has again changed his mind. His fortune somewhat re-established, and his marriage to a charming woman, has persuaded him to settle irrevocably in France, but he finds himself in great difficulty when it comes to either the recovery of his money or giving you the satisfactory release for the deposit that has remained in your hands. He wrote to me recently stating that he has written and delivered to you promissory notes for this sum, but fears that the receipt you have given me may be an obstacle to reimbursement. He pleads with me, Count, to send a word to you, assuring you that you have absolutely nothing to fear as far as his honoring these promissory notes. As soon as we learn that these notes have reached you, your acknowledgement (receipt) will be torn up. Later, the pieces will be exchanged for the very same notes, either on my return to Poland or when a safe and inexpensive occasion presents itself to enable us to forward them to you. As for the medals, you will receive or maybe you have already received, the request from Mr. de Montesson, to deliver them to a banker in Brody or Lwow that he will appoint and who will be instructed to forward them to France. Well, here it is Count, this is what we have agreed with Mr. de Montesson and I hasten to let you know.

I am not going to feel sorry for myself because of my journey to

France. The continuing war with England does not contribute to a pleasant sojourn here, everything is exceedingly expensive and nothing predicts a happier future. The clergy plays a sad role and without the charity of private individuals many would die of hunger. The parish priests, reduced to approximately one tenth their original number, are paid by the government, but the incumbents placed in the churches and the curates, live only out of collections which produce very little. In general, the people, being accustomed for ten years to scorn religion and priests, have difficulty in returning to the fold and the exercise of the ministry is very unrewarding and disagreeable.

The returning refugees do not enjoy greater consideration. Fortunate are those who have found some remnants of their fortune; they are a little less wretched although continuously humiliated by the little respect people have for them and by the futility in which they live. Otherwise, Paris has never been more glittering, even at the time when the monarchy was at its most flourishing best. New embellishments are added every day to museums and collections, especially works of art and curios from Italy, Germany and Egypt, which, without seeing them before my visit, I had difficulty to imagine.

A great fortune is needed to hold one's own honestly and comfortably. The provinces, at a glance, do not come close to offering as satisfying a prospect, and they will suffer for a long time from the disasters of the revolution. Since my arrival in France I have divided my time between Paris and the province. I had the comfort of finding again a part of my family and my fortune, but, I repeat, I would have been better off if I had waited a

few more years. My journey would have been less expensive and more profitable. I will remain in France until the month of March at which time I will decide which party to side with. I would like very much to return to Poland, but I am afraid I may encounter some difficulties on the part of authorities who could insist on a renunciation of inheritances which I could claim later.

It is my privilege, Count, to renew the expression of my gratitude for all the friendly affection I have experienced in your home during my stay in Poland. Happy I would be if I could be of some assistance to you in France. I beg you not to spare me and be well assured of all my feelings of respect and great regard, with which I have the honor to be

Your very humble
and very obedient servant,
Pointeau de Villemancy
chan. of Kamin.
provost of Krasnopol.

Count

Paris, this 20 October 1803

I hope that the Countess is well, my respectful compliments to her, as

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— Annual Dues are \$10.00 —

(Please remit in U.S. Currency)

Stanley Rusin, Treasurer

P.O. Box 56148, Chicago, IL 60656

well as the young ladies, your daughters, and I embrace Mr. Joseph with all my heart.

My address for the transmittal of letters through Brody or Lwow is:

to Mr. Pointeau Villemancy,
rue du Palais No. 6 at Blois,
Department de Loir et Cher,
at Blois, France.

STAMPSHOW 82

STAMPSHOW 82 held in Milwaukee this year was a show to see. The material on display was really superb. This "Champion of Champions" exhibition was very well presented. The dealers had material for everyone.

Polonus had an affiliate meeting Saturday afternoon. We had an attendance of sixteen people from Milwaukee and Chicago. A program was presented by David Stefancic on *Polish Legions* and Tom Gobby on *Modern Censored Mail*.

I attended the APS general meeting which gave reports on finances and future improvements and changes. Also represented *Polonus* at the APS Affiliate lunch meeting which was tasty and informative. Many good things coming up to benefit us. The banquet was attended by 350 people. The food and program was very good.

—John Bartczak