

BULLETIN OF THE

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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PolPex 2001

By: Chester Schafer

The first philatelic exhibition of the year in the Chicagoland area will be POLPEX 2001 on March 16, 17, and 18 at the White Eagle in Niles. Polonus will commemorate the Sixtieth Anniversary of the formation of Polish Armed Forces in World War II.

In September of 1939, immediately after the occupation of Eastern Poland, the Soviets began drastic purges resulting in sporadic murders and arrests of extraordinary numbers of citizens.

Concentration camps and prison camps sprung up all over the European territory of the Soviet Union. They soon became over crowded resulting in mass deportations to Asiatic Russia.

On June 21, 1941, Hitler sent an army against Russia. Its rapid

advance caused Stalin much worry. General Sikorski, Commander-In-Chief of all Polish forces, negotiated with the Soviets; resulting in a Polish-Russian



General Władysław Sikorski

Declaration permitting him to reorganize a Polish army on USSR territory consisting of Polish officers, soldiers, and civilian war prisoners with its own commander, General Anders. Stalin insisted that the formation be under the supervision of the Soviet High Command. He agreed that 25,000

Polish officers and troops should proceed from Russia to the Near East and would be equipped with American and British arms, food, and uniforms. Through this declaration over 100,000 officers, troops, and civilians arrived in Iran, Iraq, and Palestine.

In September 1941 prisoners of war, civilians, and political prisoners were freed from prisons and forced into labor camps. They gathered in Czkatov and Saratov in Siberia and moved into many other towns forming the nucleus of the Polish Army in Russia. Later this army became the mainstay of the Polish Armed Forces abroad under the command of General W. Anders with its headquarters at Kuybyshev.

There is another Sixtieth Anniversary this year—the death of Ignace Jan Paderewski, a world renown pianist. During World War I Paderewski used his music in the service of humanity—touring North and South America, using the concert stage to attract audiences who contributed dollars for relief of starving and dying Poles. In 1914 he came to America pleading his cause to the four million Polish-Americans making possible the formation of an expeditionary army which developed into the Polish Army of General Haller in France. Paderewski made contacts in high places; becoming friendly with President Woodrow Wilson, who later appeared before the United States Senate declaring that there should be a free and independent Poland. Paderewski's attendance at the 1919 Peace Conference in Paris strengthened Poland as a new country.

In 1939 Ignace Jan Paderewski was called to the position of President of the Polish National Council in France. In 1940 at age 80 he revisited America pleading the Polish cause. His feeble heart was strained by public appearances. Paderewski's succumbed to pneumonia resulting in death. His parting words were:

"Polska powstanie."—"Poland will live again."

POLPEX 2001 will feature philatelic exhibits showing the Polish Armed Forces In World War II by Fred Szebel and Champion of Liberty: Paderewski by Stanley Dobrzycki. Souvenir sheets will be printed carrying both Sixtieth Anniversary themes. 



To promote the exchange of philatelic information between the Society membership, a new feature is being added to the Bulletin. In this section we will publish questions about Polish philately, submitted by our members. The answers, provided by our members, will be published in future Bulletins.

Questions and answers should be typed or printed and submitted as follows: **Attn: Polonus - Member Q & A**

Via Mail: P.O. Box 100 (P), Granite, IL 62040

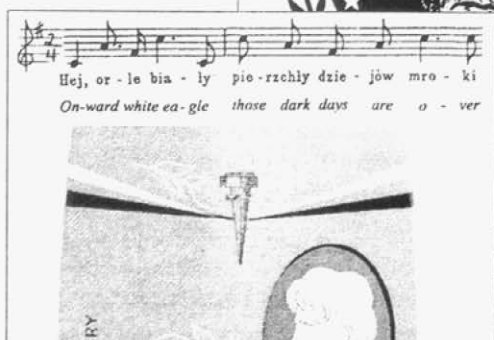
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POSTAL ANNIVERSARY

By: Lech Konopinski

English Translation by:
Dr. Stanley Kronenberg

In the fall we will celebrate 440 years of the Polish Post. The origin of *Poszta* (as it was called before the 18th century) is traditionally connected with the privilege given by King Sigismund August on 18 October 1558, to the "nobly born" Prosper Prowany. It established the "*Poszta*" on the route Kraków-Venice and nominated Prowany as its chief. This establishment of messenger/communication facilities was named "*poszta*" or relay house stations. (In the original text: "*Postam ut vocant sen eques dispositas*") This institution was established to secure "our own and our citizens comfort" and it served to transport letters and to take care of other matters.

The celebration of the anniversary should not interfere with the fact that the Polish word "*Poczta*" is derived from "*po-cozcić*". As written by Bruckner in the Old-Polish Encyclopedia, it is a "greeting gift, without which a landowner did not dare to show up at this lord to request something or to complain". The actions of the post in Poland have a much older origin.

Martin Kramer, the secretary of the King Sigismund August, wrote in his book *De origine et rebus gestis Polonorum libri XXX* (Basel 1555) about the murder of five monks in Kazimierz Wielkopolski on 12 November 1003. He quoted the historian Dlugosz who reported on communication services at the times of Bolesław Chrobry: "Thus the king arranged his state cleverly and with foresight that all the news from nearby or from far away, from inland or abroad, was arriving for his cognizance."

Z. Gloger writes in the The Old-Polish Encyclopedia: "The later Piasts extended these duties named *angaria* to cover the inhabitants of villages. In a document of 1225 are named in Polish numerous "*podwody*".

A *podwoda* was a peasant wagon with horses and transport horses alone. Since the times of the Piasts it also meant the obligation of towns and villages to supply wagons and horses for the servants of the king and for raveling delegates. Chroniclers from the time of the Piasts are reporting about *podwody* from the rules but Bielski and Kromer point out that those *podwody* were used by the courtiers carrying the king's letters. One should point out that by "court" was meant the living quarters of the rulers.

In the times when the entire administration of the land, courts of justice, and treasury were in the hands of the ruler, there was a large demand for courtiers who dutifully served and executed the recommendations of the ruler. The general population was obligated, aside from providing hospitality, also to assist in the transportation of persons and objects. A courtier accompanied every transport of the king's property such as weapons, furniture, clothing, provisions, etc. People living along the route had to move the things on their wagons and continue the transport according to recommendations. If the transport took place without a courtier, these requirements did not apply. The transport included also the letters of Kings and Dukes, thus this service was called in the old times "Courtier Service" (*komornica służba*).



The *podwod* duties presented a considerable burden which ruined the peasants. Among others Wincenty Kadłubeck reports that in his "chronicle". With time these services were replaced by money dues and were vanishing gradually thanks to release from service. The decrease of free transport was caused by the reduction of rulers' areas due to partitioning and due to the development of rulers' own transport systems in courts.

Many towns tried to be released from a *podwody*. The first such privilege received was by Warsaw in 1379. Similar releases received towns from Władysław Jagiello for funds used to fight the Teutonic Knights. (Privileges for Poznań were confirmed by the Kings Sigismund August and Stephan Batory at the coronation sejm). This situation required reforms.

Queen Bora died in 1557 but not everybody connects this fact with the birth of modern post in Poland described above. It is known that the King, Sigismund August, was entangled in complicated procedures



Old postal station building in Kornik (18th century).

connecting his inheritance in Italy. He wanted a fast communication on the Kraków-Venice route. There existed examples that this could be done. Since 1451 the noble family Taxis transported the mail inland under the Hapsburgs. From 1516 their mail system became generally available and for a payment transported regular correspondence and passengers. On the basis of licenses given by the Hapsburgs, the Taxis maintained the mails in the lands of the German Empire, Spain, Netherlands, and in a parts of France, Switzerland, and during 1562-1567 in Poland.

In Great Poland there is known the family of Fuggers, merchants from Augsburg. Their postal network belonged to main city mails (it included Kraków, Poznań and Wrocław) and extended to Vienna, Antwerp, and to some Spanish towns. The reforms of Polish mails after 1558 went ahead quickly but not without difficulties. As the result of an exceptionally good offer by the Taxis family, King Sigismund August II cancelled the deal with Prosper Prowany and on 11 July 1562 gave the postal privileges to Kristofer Taxis who guaranteed communication with the entire West. The King's mail was free of postage but other citizens had to pay quite high prices. A letter of one ounce (12.7g) from Kraków to Venice required 6 groszy which at that time was equivalent to the value of 60 eggs, or four chickens! In spite of advantages derived from the

poszta K. Taxis did not provide the best of service. In late 1563 the King stopped using his services.

One year later at the sejm (congress) in Warsaw it was announced that Sigismund August's ruling introduced a continuous *podwody* tax on specific places regardless of the earlier tax reliefs and privileges. Villages were taxed according to acreage and had to maintain horses for public service. Payments for the use of horses, wagons, and drivers were introduced.

It became apparent that the income from taxes was insufficient to cover the expenses. On 14 May 1565 it was announced at the sejm that the so called "podwody universal of Piotrków" did not solve the problems either. King Stephan Batory, who desired effective communication, put a limitation on state expenditures for this purpose. In 1576 he issued another "podwodowy universal" with heavy sanctions for resistive taxpayers.

King Stephan Batory was known in the world history of posts to have introduced in 1583 a uniform postage, independent of distance. Inland letter postage was 4 groszy per ounce. This reform, preceded by 257 years, became the solution applied by England with the introduction of postage stamps.

In 1620 King Sigismund III Waza issued a *poszta Universal* which ordered the postal system's General Tax *podwodną* introduced to establish a regular postal service instead of the service by the people for communication. The process of reforms was crowned by the famous "quadruple" introduced by King Władysław IV in 1647. This was simply a tax four times higher than *podwodne* read in the King's ordinance: "Our subjects will give to the noble Carl Montelupi" (*1, Pg. 10) the postal magistrate and our secretary, when they pay they will not fine any *podwody*, and when towns pay these quadruples we will keep an orderly postal service in the kingdom. From this time on the Polish Post became a public institution funded by the State Treasury.

On 6 April 1662 after the death of M. K. Montelupi (also called Wilczogorski) the postal administration was taken over by Aniol Maria Bandinelli. He received the title *generalissimus et supremus postae magister et pfectus*, the right to organize the entire area of the Kingdom postal stations, and to nominate magistrates and sub-delegates. The main stations that were created on routes were: Kraków-Lwów, Lwów-Warsaw, Warsaw-Gdańsk, and Warsaw-Poznań. One of the first stations on the route Warsaw-Poznań was created in the same year, 1662, in

At this point it is worthwhile to go back to the first half of the 16th century when Europe started a considerable economic development. This was mainly influenced by overseas commerce and by long distance overland exchange, particularly between the East and the West. An important commercial route lead from Gdańsk to Silesia and then further to the West and South. These routes crossed in Great Poland which at these times offered considerable trade goods and farm products. Between the mid-16th century and the mid-17th century the kings awarded over 60 privileges and mandates to sponsor the development of commerce in Poznań.

Increasingly closer connections between Pomerania, Great Poland, and Silesia resulted in the establishment in 1573 of a permanent postal connection between Gdańsk, Toruń, Poznań, and Wrocław. Toward the end of the 16th century Gdańsk maintained ten wagon posts, two horse riding messengers, and pedestrian messengers. For the route through Toruń and Poznań to Wrocław, opened in 1597, the city council of Gdańsk in 1604 issued a special ordinance, which defined the duties of messengers. A treaty was made which determined rules for the post between cities. The Gdańsk-Wrocław route was served by four messengers who made the distance in nine days (in the winter eleven days). Unfortunately in 1622, Poznań was cancelled from this route.

In 1649 King Jan Kazimierz issued a document for Francis Lawini (an Italian, the son of Peter Lawini) for the purpose of establishing a post in the city of Poznań (in agreement with the postal magistrate Karol Moutelupi). Before his expedition to Vienna, on 27 April 1683 King Jan III Sobieski instituted the privilege to establish a post in Leszno. Simultaneously, postmasters of Poznań, Toruń and other cities became obligated to assure that the post from Warsaw, Prussia, and Wrocław was transported only on the route: Toruń, Poznań, Leszno, Nowe, Bojanowo, and Rawicz.

The election of August II the Strong as King of Poland in 1697 necessitated the establishment of the routes Warsaw-Wrocław-Dresden which existed already during the time of Jan III Sobieski. From 1706 on there were two such routes: the northern route through Kalisz, Leszno, and Zagan and the southern route through Piotrków, Kępno, and Wrocław. In 1714 another route was introduced to Saxony from Toruń through Poznań, Leszno, and Żarki exclusively for the king's needs. In 1732 this route was changed to Dresden to Warsaw through Kargowa,

Poznań, and Sochaczew. After the changes of the route to Saxony, new postal stations were established in Kleczew and Kutno; old buildings in Karzowa and Poznań were restored. It is worthwhile to mention that these stations were called *post-palais* or postal palaces and great care was taken to decorate their interiors.

Wars, military transports and the fight for the throne (of Poland) after the death of August II the Strong, did not contribute to the development of the post. Karl Leopold Bieberstein, who assumed the position of postal magistrate in 1742, consolidated in his hand the offices of these general postmasters (*2, Pg. 10); forming the "General Prefecture of the Posts of the Republic." He undertook to reorganize the post in the pattern of the post of Saxony. He extended the network of regular routes between the towns in the country and abroad and introduced sealing wax seals to secure the mail (* 4, pg. 10) and also to register accepted letters.



In *Articuli pactorum conventorum* at the election diet of 1764, King Stanisław August Poniatowski, recognized the great value of the post as a public government institution. On the basis of the "Universal" of 18 December 1764 and the connected "Instructions for Messrs. Postal Magistrates" a modernization of the post took place through:

- giving it the character of an income producing undertaking "to increase the meager income for the king's table"
- making it accessible to the entire population;
- guaranteeing the security and confidentiality of mail;
- the introduction of exactly defined prepaid tariffs for services;
- the development of postal routes, with Warsaw being the central point (the Great Poland route went to Gineзно and Wschowy).

A. Brueckner in the Old Polish Encyclopedia stresses the fact "the king accomplished a great deal. Polish mail was not inexpensive but it was excellent. Foreigners and citizens alike agreed its excellence and the politeness of postmasters. As a result the king had an income and the postmaster did quite well".

At the transition from the 17th and 18th centuries, 24 regular postal lines went through Greater Poland. A plaque at 95 Old Market in Poznań commemorates the Royal Post Office which was located there from 1778-1793.

Under Prussian Rule (1793-1806), a post office was built on the corner of the current 23 February street and Marienkowski alley. Important postal routes were: Berlin-Poznań-Warsaw, Poznań-Wrocław, Poznań-Toruń-Gdańsk, Poznań-Starogard-Szczecin, and others.

The first coaches for passengers and mail transport were introduced in Poland in 1808 during the Duchy of Warsaw. Already one year later, six such coaches built according to French examples, ran regularly on the route of Warsaw-Poznań. It is worthwhile to note that a letter sent by relay post from Poznań to Warsaw exists which has the seal of the Polish Post Office in Poznań and the crowned Polish Eagle. (*3, Pg. 10)

On 11 February 1815, it was decided at the Vienna Congress that Poznań be deeded to Prussia and become part of the Grand Duchy of Poznań. On 8 June of that year the Prussian administration took charge officially. Until the victory of the Poznań uprising, the post of Greater Poland was in German hands. This is, however, an entirely different history.

Souvenir sheet
issued
to commemorate
400 years
of
Polish Post
printed on
silk.



Footnotes:

- * (1) Maria Carlo de Montelupi, from a Tuscany family, settled in Kraków; together with his brother Sebastian played an important role in the Polish postal administration. The brothers organized among others postal routes which connected main centers of commerce: Gdańsk, Lwów, Poznań, Warsaw, and Wilno. M.C. Montelupi in 1638 received the life long privilege of leading the post in the kingdom. He was the general postmaster from 1647 to 1662.
- * (2) This means: Kingdom, Lithuania, and Royal Prussia.
- * (3) This did not stop K.L. Bieberstein from introducing in the Warsaw Post Office the "Black Cabinet" (censorship office) where he opened letters, copied them and reported them to authorities.
- * (4) The first stamped postmarks in Poland were introduced already in 1768. In Great Poland they were first used in Kalisz. The name "Posen" first appeared on a simple square rubberstamp of postal magistrate Keyser in 1780.



Polish Post, Warsaw

**KRAKÓW—European City
of Culture 2000**

Two stamps and a sheet were issued April 26, 2000. The prestigious title of European City of Culture 2000 was granted by Ministers of Culture of the European Union. Granted to Athens for the first time in 1985, it subsequently went to Florence, Amsterdam, West Berlin, Paris, Glasgow, Dublin, Madrid,

Antwerp, Lisbon, -Luxemburg, Kopenhagen, Prague, Reykjavik, and Santiago de Compostela.



70 gr.: Jan Matejko, Franz Joseph, during whose reign conditions in Galicja were much better than those in the other partitioned parts of Poland. Shown are persons and events from the literary life of the city. Kraków owes its importance to Stanisław Wyspiański and the landscape depicted in Wesele.



1.55 zł.: Queen Jadwiga leaning over a symbol of the University next to Joseph Dietl, professor and former rector of the Jagellonian University, the first president of Kraków who stated, "Kraków is the core of Poland's national life."

The stamps were offset printed; the sheet (bottom, page 11) was a steel engraving, all on fluorescent paper. Stamps are available in sheets of 18.



First Day Cancel



Quantity issued: imperforated, 120,000; perforated sheets 400,000. The 70 gr. value 1,000,000; 1.55 zł. 600,000. The sheet was engraved by Czesław Słania. Stamps were designed by Maciej Jędrzyk.

STOP DRUG ADDICTION

The Polish Post issued a postcard stamp from the "Stop Drug Addiction" series on April 28, 2000.

70 gr.: Stamp depicts in a symbolic way a dying man in the form of a rose. The leaves are stylized to resemble human hands making a gesture for help which may be too late. Author of this project is Wiesław Wałkuski.



First Day Cancel

Offset printed on fluorescent paper in sheets of 18 stamps. Quantity issued: 2,400,000.

EUROPA 2000



EUROPA 2000
09.05.2000
Warszawa 1



First Day Cancel

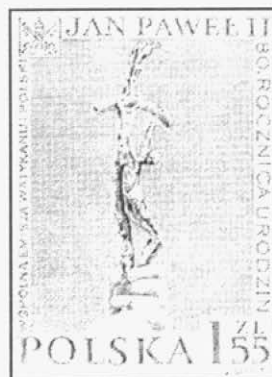
Being a member of the Society of European Public Postal Operators, the Polish Post issued stamps annually with other postal administrations.

1.55 zł.: Europa 2000 stamp

stamp was issued by all member countries on May 9, 2000, the Fiftieth Anniversary of Robert Schuman's Declaration. This French Minister of Foreign Affairs proposed the co-ordination of the production of coal and steel with West Germany. This increased the life standard of the society and created an economic community of countries that frequently fought against each other and thus initiating European integration.

Designed by French artist Jean Paul Cousin. Offset printed on florescent paper in sheet of 20. Quantity: 400,000

80th BIRTHDAY OF POPE JOHN PAUL II



Three stamps were issued May 9, 2000, for the event of the eightieth birthday of Pope John Paul II in conjunction with a Vatican City issue. Designs were by Czesław Ślania.

80 gr.: Portrait of John Paul II.

1.10 zł.: Black Madonna of Częstochowa.

1.55 zł.: Silver cross accompanying the Pope on his Pilgrimages.

Steel engraved and offset printed on fluorescent paper in sheets of 25. Quantities produced: 80 gr. 6,000,000; 1.10 zł 2,500,000; 1.55 zł. 2,500,000.



First Day Cancel

SPAIN INTERNATIONAL PHILATELIC EXHIBITION



ESPANA 2000 was held October 6-14 on the 150th Anniversary of the first Spanish postal stamp. The Spanish Post, Spanish Philatelic Societies Federation (FESOFI) and the International Philatelic Federation (FIP) were its patrons.

Poland participated in this event with the issuance of a stamp on May 26, 2000.

1.55 zł: Showing a face of a woman covered by a fan suggesting edges of postage stamps.

Offset printed on fluorescent paper in sheets of 20, designed by Jacek Konarzewski; issued in quantity of 450,000.



JOY OF PARENTHOOD

Human life is the highest good. The Polish Post realized the purpose of the Polish Federation of Health Protection Movements, the goal of the Deputy of the Republic of Poland, Antoni Szymanski, and hoped that the issuance of the "Beauty of Parenthood" stamp on May 31, 2000, helped to increase respect for life and family. This 70 gr.

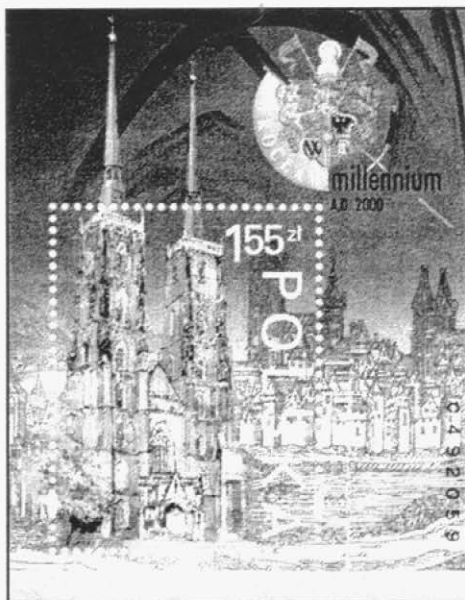


First Day Cancel

stamp was offset printed on fluorescent paper in sheets of 20, designed by Dariusz Litwiniec and issued in the quantity of 2,700,000.

1000 YEARS OF WROCLAW

The June 15, 2000, issued stamp commemorates the history of Wrocław dating back to the first century of Christianity. Its name is derived from Wrocisław. The oldest note on this city was found in the description of the Gniezno Summit by Dytmar. He wrote that Emperor Otto III approved the bishopric in Wrocław with Bishop Jan (Johannes Vrotizlaens) for the legal Polish King Bolesław; independent of the Gniezno metropolitan area. The selection of Wrocław to be the seat of the Silesian





Bishopric was an important event that established the rank of the city.

1.55 zł.: Designed by Andrzej Gosik; offset printed on florescent paper in a quantity of 500,000 sheets.

FAMOUS POLES—Karol Marcinkowski and Josemaria Eseriva de Balaguera

70 gr.: Portrait of Karol Marcinkowski against a 19th century industrial landscape is from the wood engraving by Tomasz Bewick. Born in Poznań in 1800, Karol Marcinkowski completed his medical studies in Berlin, and began a medical practice in his home city. He was known for treating poor patients free of charge. Dr. Marcinkowski participated in the November Uprising; emigrating after its defeat. He was active in the Scientific Assistance Association in Paris with Adam Czartoryski, Adam Mickiewicz, and Julian Ursyn Niemcewicz. Returning to Poland he resumed medical practice among the poor and implemented his social plans. Through economic development, modernization of the social structure, and cultural events, he thought that Poles could survive the years of partitions. He summarized his program: "Education and work—these are the means to shape the necessary road." Dr. Marcinkowski attracted devoted co-employees coming from noblemen families and clergy to follow his ideas. In 1837 he founded an Association which granted scholarships to young people attending schools; the first such institution in Poland. He considered education to be the basis of national and economic existence. In 1838 Karol Marcinkowski founded a joint-stock company to construct the Bazar Building. Completed in 1841, it was the second largest building in Poznań. This modern hotel became a center of Polish economic and social life. In 1845 he founded an Association for supporting the poor of Poznań, which granted stipends to people incapable of work (elderly and disabled), fought against unemployment, and found schools and orphanages. Dr. Karol Marcinkowski died in



POZNAŃ 1
00
ETOS
PRACY
23.06.2000
ETOS
PRACY

First
Day
Cancel



80 gr.: Portrait of Josemaria Escriva de Balaguera on the background of sculpture by Andrea Pisano of Campanile in Florence. Born in Spain in 1902, Father Balaguera received Holy Orders in 1925 in Saragossa. Moving to Madrid, he developed his work. He took special care of the poor and homeless from the social margin districts and the terminally ill in hospitals. In 1928 he founded Opus Dei—a Catholic laity institute. The Vatican II meeting permitted its activities. In 1943 he founded the order of priests of the Holy Cross, permanently connected with Opus Dei, and accepted by the Holy See in 1950. In 1946, Father Balaguer began recruiting members for this order of priests that within several years spread over the world.

These two stamps were designed by Maciej Jędrzyk, offset printed on fluorescent paper and issued in a quantity of 400,000 pieces.

NEW MEMBERS

1505

Andrew Oleksiuk
641 N. Western Ave.
Chicago, IL 60612

1506

Bogdan Charlam
P.O. Box 3156
New Britain, CT 06050

Polonus Tribute To
DR. STANLEY KRONENBERG
who passed away on December 9, 2000,
to appear in Issue No. 505

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President and Editor Emeritus:
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864 North Ashland Avenue
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New Britain, CT 06053

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