



BULLETIN OF THE POLONUS POLISH PHILATELIC SOCIETY



This cover was posted June 27, 1933, in Warsaw, a Polish acceptance for the extension of the Imperial Airway's (IA) route from Karachi to Calcutta.

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www.polonus.org

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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).

Dues and Changes of Address to be sent to: Polonus Polish Philatelic Society, PO Box PO Box 2212, Benicia, CA 94510

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

Ed Andrews
afacinc@yahoo.com



Activity since WESTPEX

Your Board of Directors [BOD] and committee heads have been busy since the WESTPEX show and meetings. An ad hoc website review committee is in place collecting information on our and other philatelic websites with the goal of having recommendations for the BOD at its mid-October meeting. It should be noted that many changes have been made to the website including a complete listing of POLPEX material in the store section. Additional changes are also planned to streamline PayPal payments. A complete discussion of website changes will be the subject of an article in the December issue of the **Bulletin**. In the meantime, please take time to visit the website and review new and updated sections. If you have comments, please send them to me at my email address above.

Preparation for St. Louis

The next gathering of Polonus members is at the St. Louis Stamp Expo, held at the St. Louis Renaissance Airport Hotel, March 16-18, 2018. It is not too early to begin preparations for this show. As a convening society we are expected to provide a certain number of frames for exhibition. While we fared well with medals and awards at WESTPEX we missed our frame target. In St. Louis we would like to ensure that as the major convening society of the show we have a good showing of exhibits. Separate emails and reminders regarding applications for exhibiting will be forthcoming but we urge all exhibitors to consider entering an exhibit for this show.

We are confident that several judges knowledgeable in the philately of Poland will be on the jury to assure fair evaluations of your material. It also appears that we will have the ability to host a Polonus hospitality suite for members to meet, enjoy food and libations and to even trade, buy or sell material. In addition to our annual meeting, we will be planning philatelic seminars of interest to members. There will be more to come in the next **Bulletin**.

Kościuszkó Bicentennial Event

The Polish Museum of America in Chicago has scheduled an exhibition commemorating the 200th year since the death of Tadeusz Kościuszkó; Polonus will participate with related exhibits. The date for the opening is October 15. Refer to the article in this issue for more details.

Making Polonus Better

In the last issue I asked for volunteers to help fill a number of positions and was gratified that several members

stepped forward. However, we still have many open positions where even minimal assistance can help us improve our operations and services. In this issue there are specific postings for a Store Marketing Manager and well as for those with language skills to assist our translations services. If you think you might like to help but are not sure what to consider, please send me an email so we can openly discuss opportunities to fit your needs.

Let us know your needs. We are only as good as our ability to service the needs of the membership. So we need to hear from you if we are not providing an activity, service or resource that you believe would help you and other members. Feel free to contact me at any time using the email address above.

Many thanks for your continued support and interest in Polonus and Polish philately.

NOTICE

Polonus Store Moved To Website

The Polonus Store has moved to our website at www.polonus.org. Log in to our website. Gain access by clicking on "Store."

Currently, you will find a complete offering of all POLPEX souvenir sheets and show cards, available for purchase. Click the "Buy" button" for each item you wish to purchase. Next click on "My Cart" located on the right side of the top menu to review your purchase. When your order is correct, click the appropriate "Postage/Handling Fees" option and "Method of Payment." The "Notes" section allows you to provide additional information or ask questions.

Place your order by clicking "Send" at the bottom of the page. You will receive an email documenting your order.

More products will be added to the store. Watch for announcements in future bulletins.

If you have any questions regarding the store or problems navigating the Polonus website, contact Hank Bieniecki at:

info@biistamp.com.

www.polonus.org: it's YOUR website!

Letters to Jan Erdman

by Jan Niebrzydowski

Jan Erdman was born in Warsaw in 1906 and died in Middlefield, New York, in 1986. He came from an aristocratic family in Kurland (present-day Latvia). He was a sports journalist reporting on major athletic events, including boxing and cycling, in the period between the two world wars. His reports from the Olympic Games in Los Angeles (1932) and Berlin (1936) were very well received.

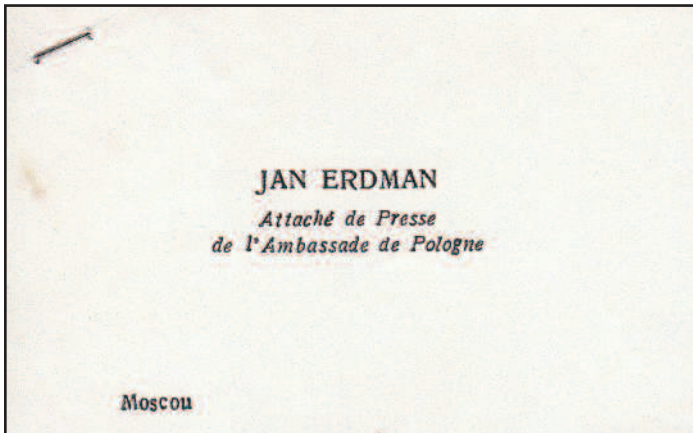


Figure 1
A copy of Jan Erdman's business card from his time as the press attaché at the Polish embassy in Moscow and the Kuybyshev consulate (1942-43).

When Hitler invaded Poland on September 1, 1939, he was called up and took part in the defense of Warsaw. On September 17, 1939, the Soviets invaded Poland from the east. Unable to fight on both fronts, Poland capitulated. Erdman escaped to Syria through Slovakia, Hungary and Yugoslavia. There he joined the Polish Independent Carpathian Rifle Brigade and saw action in Egypt and in the siege of Tobruk, Libya (April-November 1941).

When Hitler invaded Russia in June 1941, Stalin became an ally of the western powers. Needing time and resources to prepare a coun-

terattack, Stalin agreed to release Polish citizens arrested by the Soviets and deported from Eastern Poland in early 1940. He allowed them to sign up with the Polish army units in Russia to join the war against Germany. Soviet Russia reestablished diplomatic relations with the Polish government, then operating from London.

In 1942 Erdman was posted to the reopened Polish consulate in Moscow and later to Kuybyshev (now Samara) on the Volga river. The town was on the route for Poles who were making their way to the southern part of Russia, where the Polish army was being formed. Many of them, including women and children, made the journey on foot, overcoming numerous obstacles and traveling huge distances.

Erdman was a press attaché in the consulate (**Figure 1**) and published a newspaper for Polish refugees. He received many letters from people asking for support and financial assistance, inquiring about their relatives and their circumstances. He also received many letters from Polish school children, some of whom sent him poems.

Figure 2 is a postal card dated January 11, 1943, and addressed to the Polish consulate in Kuybyshev. It was written by J. Fuks, a regional representative of the Polish government in the Irtysh Pawłodar district of the Kazakh Republic. The message on this postal card provides infor-



Figure 2

mation about Polish refugees singing an “updated” version of the official refrain of the Polish national anthem. In the “updated” version, the refugees were replacing the historical reference to General Dąbrowski’s Italian campaign in the Napoleonic wars with words expressing the hope that current Commander-in Chief and Prime Minister Władysław Sikorski would lead them out of the USSR to liberate Poland. Fuks found this inappropriate but the Poles who had been deported and were longing to join the fight for freedom were, understandably, pinning their hopes on Sikorski.

Kuybyshev consulate closed in 1943 after the Germans discovered the mass graves of Polish soldiers and officers in the Katyń forest. The soldiers were murdered three years earlier on Stalin’s orders by a shot in the back of the head. The Soviets denied this and put the blame on the Germans. The bodies were examined by the International Red Cross Commission of experts, at the request of the Polish government, and forensic examinations proved beyond doubt that the crime had been perpetrated before the German invasion of Russia. The Soviet government severed diplomatic relations with Poland. Erdman, along with other Polish consulate staff, left Russia immediately.

of letters with children’s poems (maybe a hundred) on an impulse as he was leaving his office when the consulate closed. These letters accompanied him on his journey through Persia (Iran), Iraq, Syria, Palestine, Egypt, Italy, Great Britain, Germany and the United States.

He finally settled in the U.S., where he became editor of the Polish-language cultural and educational magazine, *Ameryka*. He also worked for Voice of America, the U.S. administration’s international broadcaster, becoming deputy chief of its Polish section. In the 1970s, he and his wife Marta, daughter of the Polish writer Melchior Wańkowicz, settled in Middlefield in upstate New York.

Erdman used his time to write a book, *Droga do Ostrej Bramy* (*The Road to the Eastern Gate*¹). The book is about his brother-in-law, Colonel Maciej Kalenkiewicz, who served during the war in a Polish army unit led by Major Henryk Dobrzański. Known by his code name “Hubal,” Dobrzański, was one of the last remaining resistance fighters in Poland. He refused to give up the struggle against the Germans and fought until the end of April 1940, thus becoming the first guerrilla leader in German-occupied Europe.

Kalenkiewicz escaped to Hungary and, from there

joined the Polish army in France. After the fall of France, he was evacuated to Britain and set up a Polish undercover parachute brigade known as “Cichociemni.”² He parachuted into occupied Poland in 1943 and was appointed commander of the Nowogródek district of the underground Polish Home Army (AK). Known in the resistance movement as “Kotwicz,” he fought against the Germans and then against the Russians. He was killed in action battling against the Red Army in Surkonty near Vilnius on August 21, 1944, along with 36 members of his formation.



Figure 3

Figure 3 is a card dated January 27, 1943, from Melanina Tabaczyńska, wife of General Tabaczyński, whom the Russians deported to Urdzar in Semipalatinsk district of Kazakhstan. She was anxious to find out the names of three officers whose photograph Erdman published in his newspaper as she was searching for her sons in Great Britain.

Erdman told me many years later that he took a pile

ileged to be invited, along with the Polish art collector Adam Masacz, to visit Jan Erdman in Middlefield. At the time, the village in which he lived was almost 200 years old and everything remained as it had been when originally built. We were greeted by a charming gentleman of aristocratic demeanor and treated to an excellent dinner and fine wines. He had a good memory and recounted many wartime sto-



Figure 4

ries. We left feeling enriched and humbled after such an extraordinary history lesson. He was generous and presented us both with books written by his father-in-law Wańkowicz.

I was thrilled to receive an extra gift: his collection of letters and cards and a diary sent to him by exiled Polish children, which he kept since leaving his post at the Polish

consulate in Kuybyshev. He put the collection in my hands to do as I saw fit. After long thought, I finally decided to donate it to the Józef Piłsudski Institute in New York with the proviso that the entire collection be published in book form.

The postal card shown in Figure 4 is dated April 17, 1943, and addressed to Erdman at the *Gazeta Polska* newspaper. It was written by Dr. Henryk Leser, a Polish embassy regional representative in Osh in Kyrgyzia. Leser described the atrocious conditions of life there. He was in poor health and had not been paid for four months. He wrote that the Polish station in Osh was now closed and

he was unable to issue any documents.

Notes

1. A monument that features a much-revered icon of the Virgin Mary.
2. "Cichociemni" translates to "silent and dark."



STAMP DEALER

John L. Rudnicki

POLAND NEW ISSUES

John L. Rudnicki is an official sponsor of Polonus

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CANADA

Polish stamps from No. 1 to Year 2015
Back of the book, Locals, Errors, Proofs, Imperf, Hard to Find, etc.
Collections of Stamps and Covers
Unused or used collections also available
Fischer Volume II available

The Poland Flag of the United States Overrun Country Series

Dr. James Mazepa, RDP



Part 3: First Day of Issue

The POLAND flag stamp of the Overrun Countries Series was printed and issued with unusual speed. President Roosevelt proposed the idea for the series on October 22, 1942. The sample design was approved on March 21, 1943, and the public announcement of the series was made on May 11, 1943. The American Bank Note Company (ABNC) was awarded the contract on June 2, 1943 and had the first flag stamp, the Poland stamp, ready for a June 22 first day.

Following usual procedures, the United States Post

“publicity photos” to newspapers to announce the issue of stamps. **Figure 3** is the post office publicity photo and memo sent to the *Chicago Sun Times*. These publicity photos themselves are $2\frac{3}{4} \times 1\frac{1}{8}$ inches and with the border they are $3\frac{1}{8} \times 2\frac{1}{8}$ inches. These should not be confused with the photo essays described in Part 2. These photo essays are in the approximate size of the issued stamps.

The First Day Ceremony

The Polonus Philatelic Society put forth the idea to add Chicago as a first day city. The first day ceremony was to take place in the Main Post Office Building. Presumably, Polonus was in charge of the ceremony and two of its members were in the first draft of the program. However, when the final program was printed the two Polonus members were omitted. The August 14 issue of *Stamps Magazine* reported that another Polish-American organization tried to take over the event and run the ceremony. The program was 45 minutes

Post Office Department THIRD ASSISTANT POSTMASTER GENERAL Washington

POLAND COMMEMORATIVE STAMP

The 5-cent postage stamp for Poland, the first of the special series of stamps honoring the Axis over-run countries in Europe, will be placed on sale at Washington, D. C., on June 22, 1943. The central design of this stamp is a reproduction in colors of the Polish flag. The stamp will be of the special delivery size, 0.84 x 1.44 inches in dimensions, arranged horizontally and issued fifty stamps to a sheet.

Stamp collectors desiring first-day cancellations of this stamp on June 22, may send addressed envelopes not in excess of 10, to the Postmaster at Washington, D. C., with cash or postal money order to cover the cost of the stamps. *Postage stamps and personal checks will not be accepted in payment.* Each cover should be pencil-marked in the upper right corner to show the number of stamps to be affixed, and therefore, no letter of instructions will be necessary. Enclosures of medium weight should be placed in each cover and the flaps turned in or sealed. Envelopes should not be smaller than 3 by 6 inches. Requests should not be made for unusual arrangements and plate numbers. The Philatelic Agency will not service first-day covers.

Requests for uncanceled stamps must not be included with orders for first-day covers. For the benefit of collectors desiring select stamps, the Poland Commemorative postage stamp will be placed on sale at the Philatelic Agency, Washington, D. C., on June 22. To insure prompt shipment, mail orders to the Agency should not include other stamp issues. Allowance must be made for return postage.

All requests for first-day cover service must be addressed to the Postmaster, Washington, D. C.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 475101

Figure 1

Office Department sent out announcement cards for the POLAND Flag stamp. The first of these was sent May 25 (**Figure 1**). When Chicago was added as a first day city, a second announcement was sent on June 10 (**Figure 2**). These announcement cards, as well as the May 11 public announcement, are very collectible and can be found in dealer's stock from time to time.

A standard practice of the post office was to send

Post Office Department THIRD ASSISTANT POSTMASTER GENERAL Washington

SPECIAL NOTICE—POLAND COMMEMORATIVE STAMP

Collectors of first-day covers are hereby advised that the Poland Commemorative Stamp will be placed on sale on June 22, 1943, at Chicago, Ill., Post Office, in addition to Washington, D. C., as heretofore announced.

Stamp collectors desiring first-day cancellations of this stamp on June 22, may send addressed envelopes, not in excess of 10, to these postmasters, with cash or postal money order to cover the cost of the stamps. *Postage stamps and personal checks will not be accepted in payment.* Each cover should be pencil-marked in the upper right corner to show the number of stamps to be affixed, and therefore, no letter of instructions will be necessary. Enclosures of medium weight should be placed in each cover and the flaps turned in or sealed. Envelopes should not be smaller than 3 by 6 inches. Requests should not be made for unusual arrangements and plate numbers.

The Philatelic Agency will not service first-day covers.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 475101

Figure 2

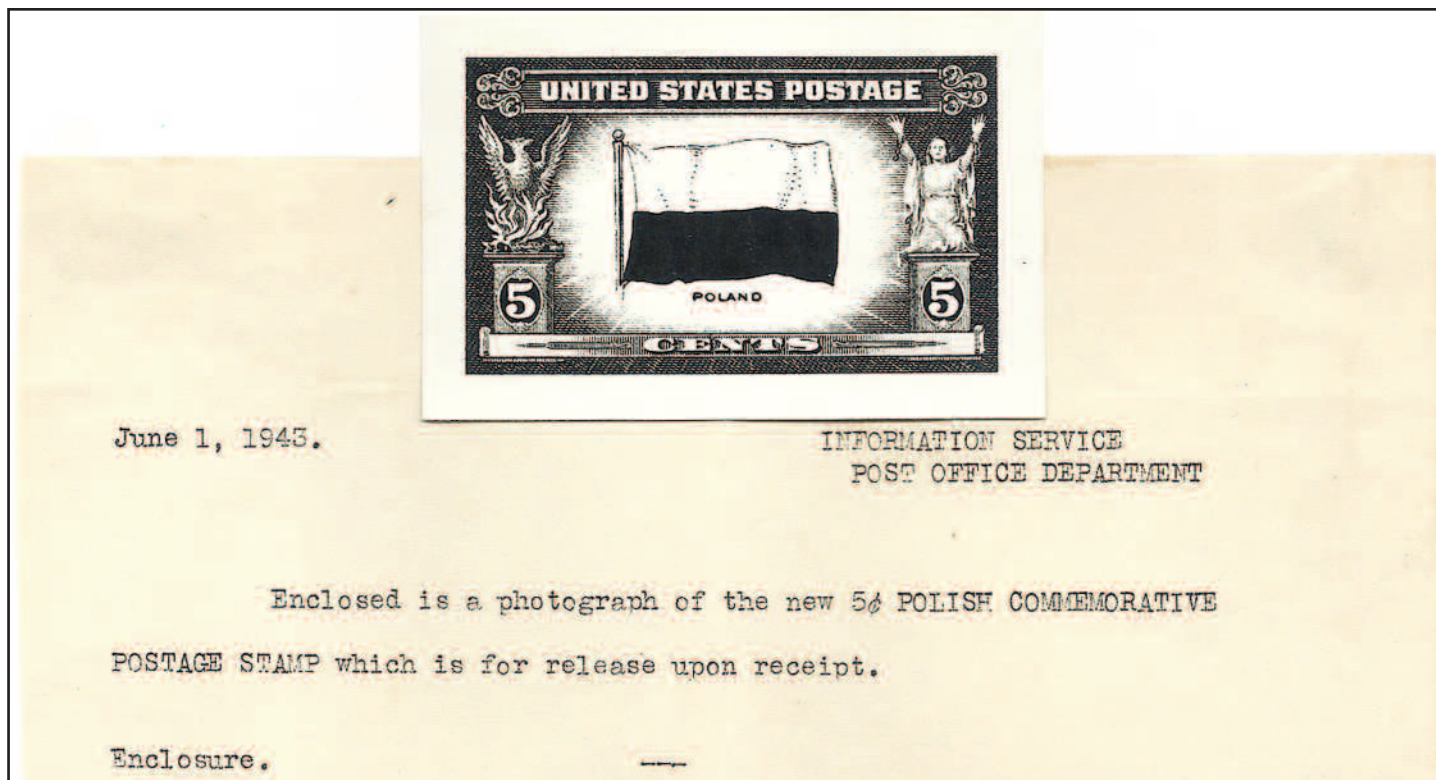


Figure 3

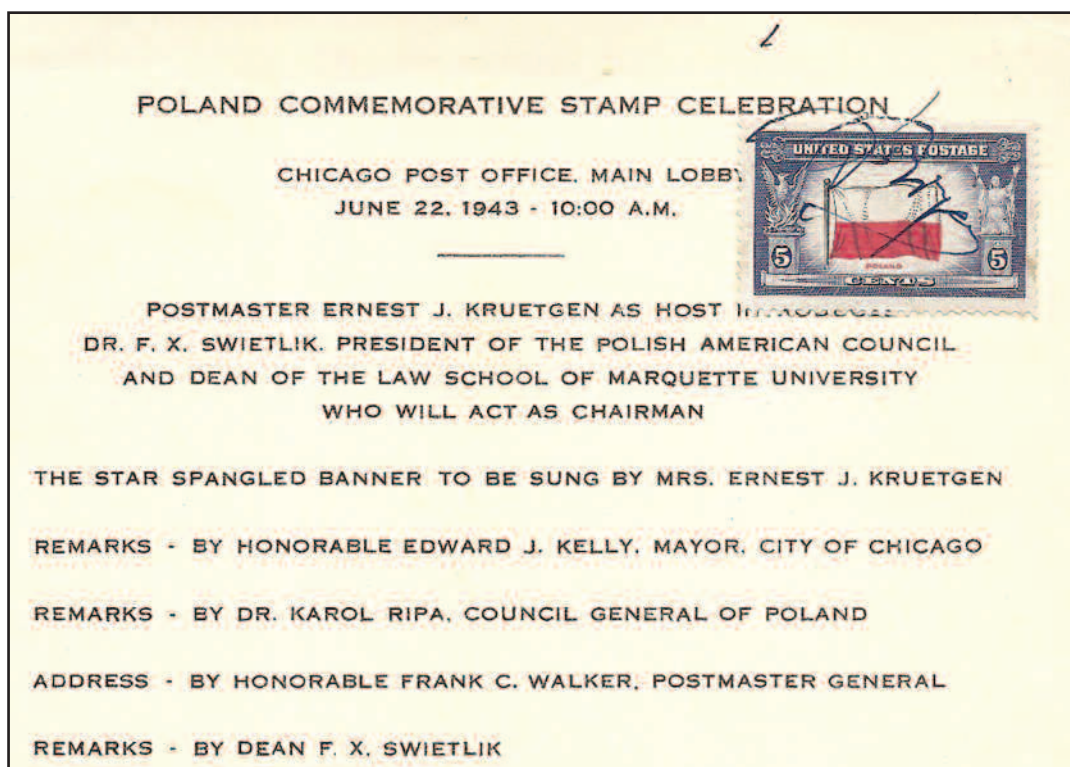


Figure 4

late because the postmaster general was giving an interview to the press.

One other report said that there was "pushing and shoving" between two of the Polish organizations, but the Polonus representatives made their way to the rostrum and

Myron Steczynski, the Polonus president, prevailed on Dean Swietlik, president of the Polish American Council and dean of the Marquette University Law School, to introduce him. Steczynski then gave what was reported as the most informative address of the ceremony.

Figure 4 is an official invitation for the ceremony and is signed by the Honorable Karol Ripa, consul general for the Polish Government in Exile. After the address, Postmaster Frank Walker sold the first sheet of the POLAND Flag Stamp to Karol Ripa.

Figure 5 is a full size souvenir card signed by all the notables attending the Chicago ceremony as well as the first day cover prepared by

the Polonus Philatelic Society. There will be more about this cover later.

In Washington, Herbert Chamberlain, assistant superintendent of the Division of Stamps for the United States Post Office Department, was in charge of the first day cere-

UNITED STATES STAMP HONORING POLAND'S HEROIC RESISTANCE TO THE NAZIS

FIRST DAY OF ISSUE
TUESDAY, JUNE 22, 1943
AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS



Irwin Czerwinski
POSTMASTER GENERAL

J. J. Domar
CONSUL GENERAL OF POLAND

Jakub Dąbrowski
BRIGADIER GENERAL U. S. A.

Robert A. Loska
SECRETARY, POLISH AMERICAN COUNCIL

Myron E. Steczynski
PRESIDENT, POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

J. J. Domar
CHAIRMAN, POLISH AMERICAN COUNCIL

Edward Kelly
MAYOR OF CHICAGO

Ernest J. Krutgen
POSTMASTER, CHICAGO

J. S. Hankin
DIVISION OF STAMPS, U. S. P. O.

Anthony Zarnecki
THE CHICAGO DAILY NEWS

Figure 5

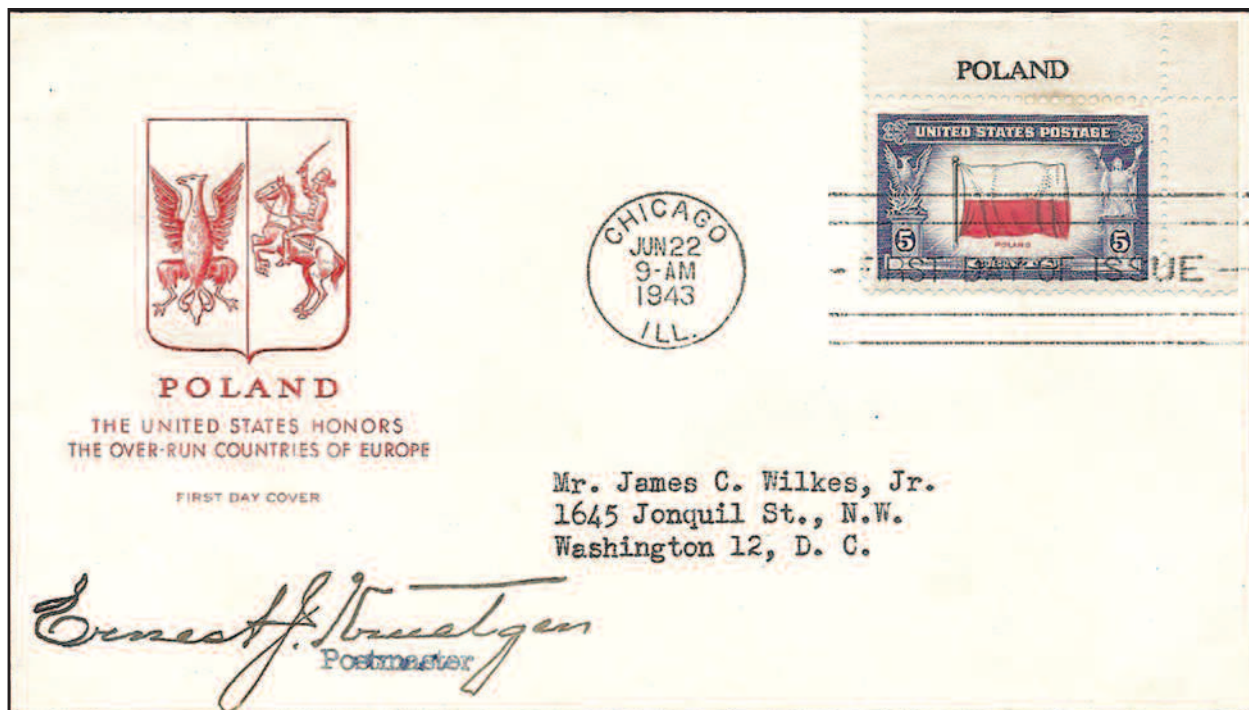


Figure 6
20 mm Chicago signed by Kruetgen

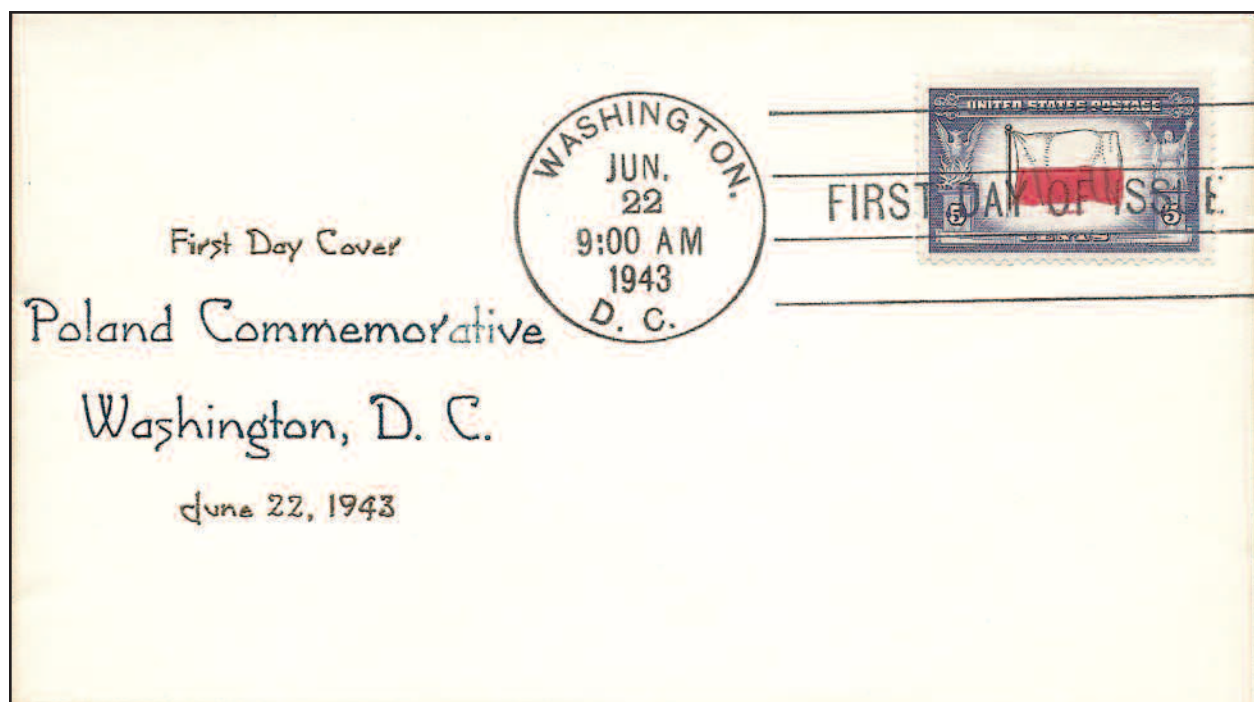


Figure 7
33 mm Washington

mony. The ceremony in Washington was less dramatic. North, who was in charge of stamp issues for the post office, sold the first sheet of stamps to Ambassador Ciechanowski.

The two covers on the following page complete part 3 of this series.

Watch for Part 4 in a future **Bulletin**.

Are you Moving?

Please send address changes to: Polonus Polish Philatelic Society,
PO Box 2212, Benicia CA 95410

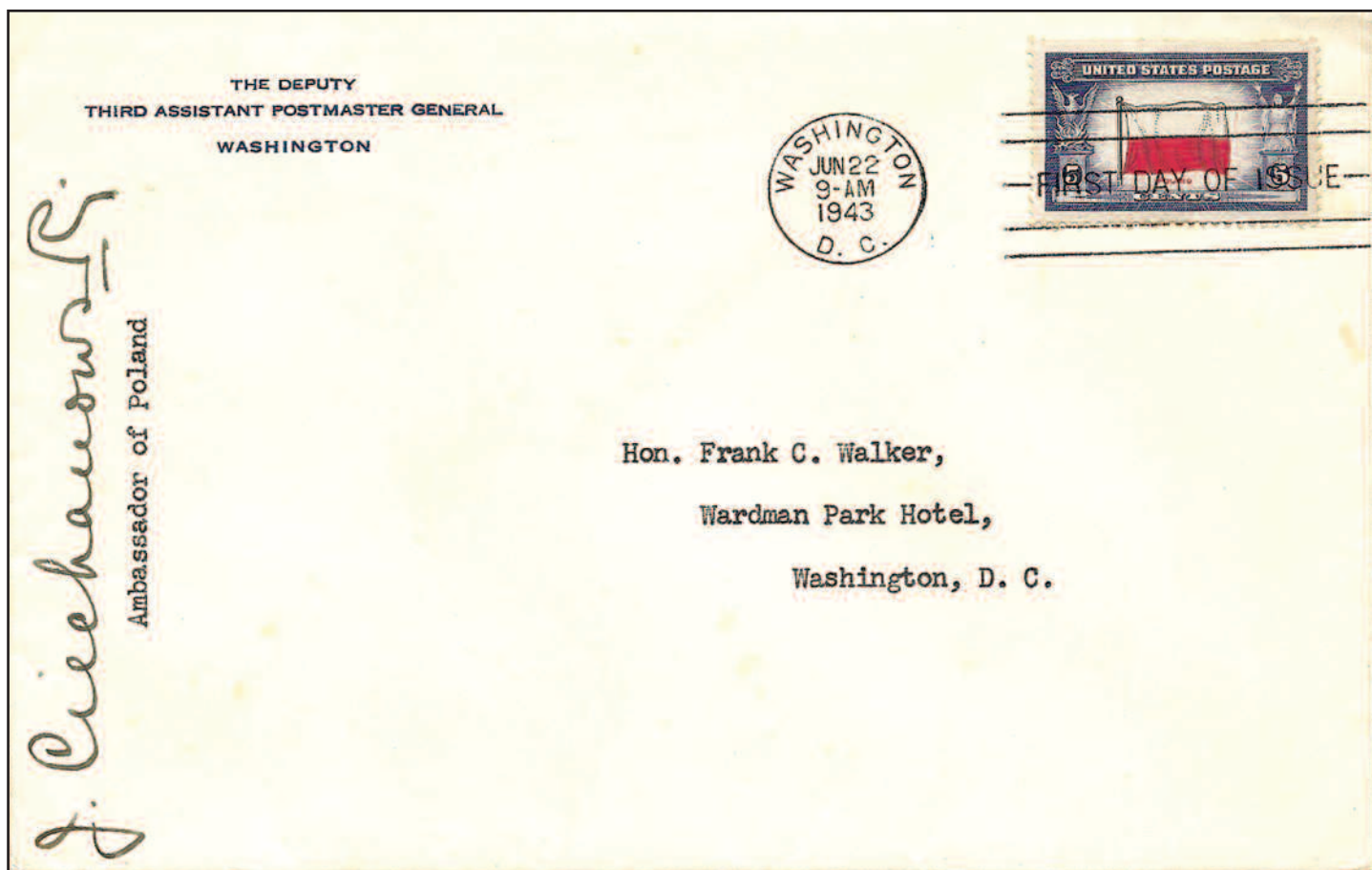


Figure 8: 20 mm Washington signed by Ciechanowski

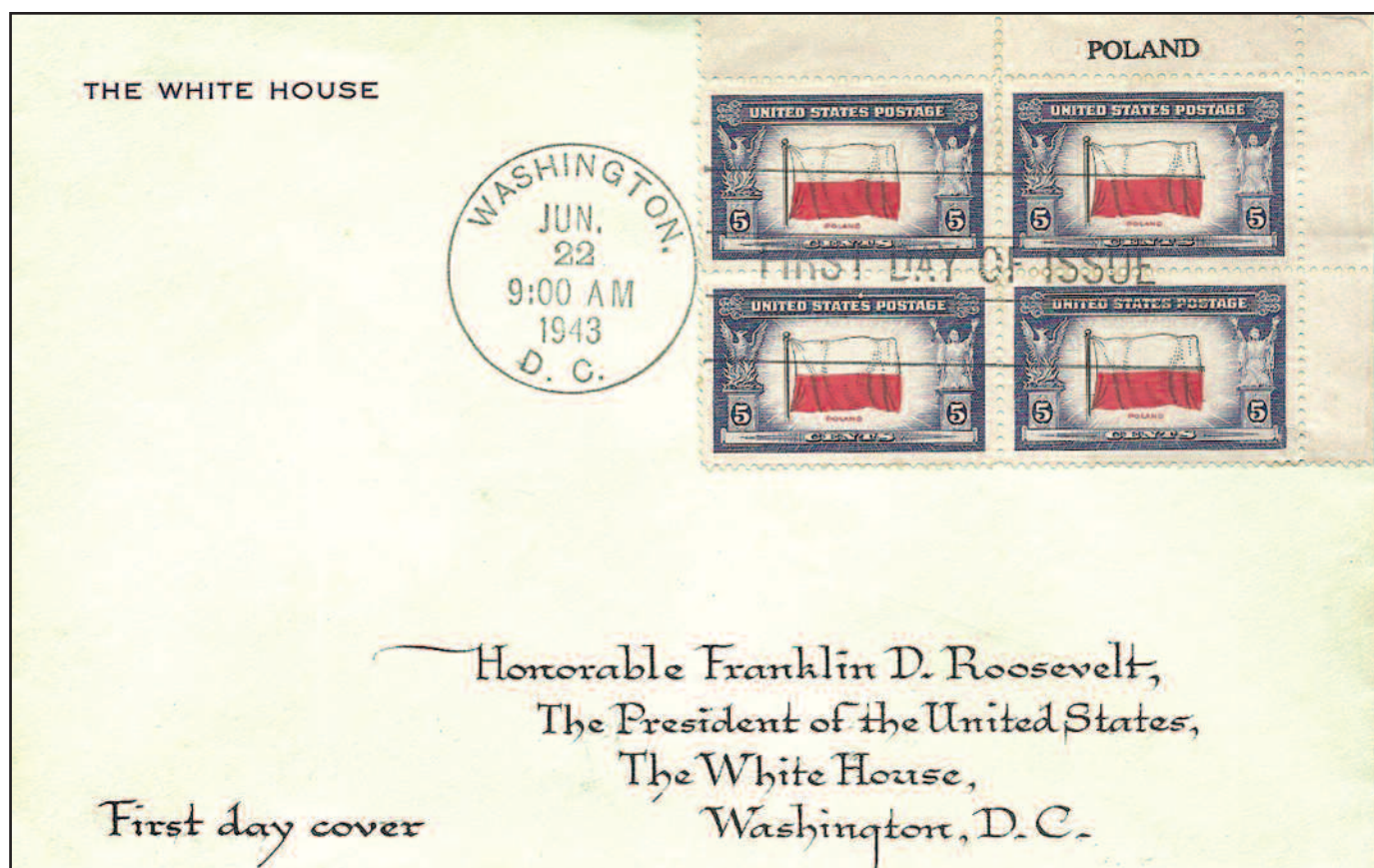


Figure 9: 33 mm Washington to Franklin D. Roosevelt

Development of Airmail Services in Poland (1929-1939)

Part 13 (2 of 2): LOT Polish Airlines: Joint Flights with Foreign Carriers to the Middle East and India

by Dr. Jerzy W. Kupiec-Węgliński



Figure 10

The covers shown as **Figure 10** and **Figure 11** feature different LOPP labels, i.e., 10 gr blue imperforate Warsaw 1925 issue and 5 gr orange perforated Warszawa 1928 issue (**Figure 10**); and 10 gr green Cracow 1929 issue (**Figure 11**). Prepared by Kazimierz Gryżewski and addressed to Tehran, both items are correctly franked with 20 gr foreign printed matter rate postage (10 gr per 50 grams) plus the air fee of 10 gr (one-time basic postage). While there is no doubt both were flown from Poland to Persia, they raise a number of questions and may have curious stories to tell.

The sender of **Figure 10**, postmarked in Warsaw on June 18, 1929, directed it be flown to Tehran with a typed endorsement: "Par avion Varsovie – Constantinople." The air equivalent of the Orient Express began operating October 5, 1922, when CFRNA completed its Paris – Strasbourg – Prague – Vienna – Budapest – Belgrade – Bucharest – Constantinople routing. In October 1925, the Paris – Constantinople service was extended via Aleppo to Baghdad. However, it was not until April 13, 1929, that mail from Baghdad could be carried to Tehran by the German



Figure 11



Figure 12

Junkers Luftverkehr Persien (Junkers Airline in Iran). Dispatched from Warsaw by CIDNA, this cover was transit postmarked in Paris and Constantinople before arrival in Tehran.

The cover in **Figure 11**, posted September 7, 1929, in Warsaw, is endorsed "Par avion Varsovie – Danzig – Moscow." It flew LOT to Danzig where it was transit postmarked the same day. The intention of the sender was to forward this cover from Danzig to Moscow by DERULUFT (Deutsch-Russische Luftverkehrs A.G, a joint Soviet-German enterprise) and then to Tehran by Junkers Luftverkehr Persien. Indeed, Junkers not only serviced the domestic and regional air network (since 1927), but in late 1928, it organized the first Iranian service to Europe (via Baku in Soviet Azerbaijan and Moscow).

Instead of flying DERULUFT to Moscow as intended to await a Tehran-bound Junkers connecting flight, this cover was transported from Danzig to Berlin (September 8, 1929, backstamp). We may only speculate on the way it reached Persia (there is a smudged "IX.29 Tehran" postmark on reverse).

Perhaps, upon receipt in Berlin, an alert clerk spotted the mistake in time to put the cover in another bag destined eastward by DERULUFT to Moscow, and then by Junkers to Tehran. Alternatively, it may have flown by

DERULUFT from Berlin to London to join the weekly Imperial Airways service from Croydon to Karachi (operational beginning March 30, 1929). This route was over the Italian territory to Athens, and then via Alexandria to Baghdad, from where there was a connection with Junkers to Tehran (since April 13, 1929).

The cover in **Figure 12** was posted on June 27, 1933, in Warsaw, a Polish acceptance for the extension of the Imperial Airway's (IA) route from Karachi to Calcutta. The early Indian mails to and from Poland needed to be superscribed "INDIA-GERMANY" and were transferred at Cologne. IA Flight IE 60 on May 17, 1930, from London, Croydon was the first to connect in Vienna with Warsaw – Vienna LOT service, continuing all the way to India. A special postmark on the reverse of the cover reads: "Karachi – Calcutta Jly First Airmail."

Transit canceled at Athens (July 1, 1933), the mails were picked-up by IA service IE 223 on the *Scipio* from Croydon (via Brindisi), flown via Cairo, Gaza, Basra and Sharjah on the *Hanno* to be taken over on July 7 at Karachi by the ITCA *Arethusa* for their first flight to Calcutta (cachet).

The cover arrived late on July 8, 1933, and was arrival canceled the next day. It was paid at the correct rate for a letter weighing less than 20 grams (0.60 zł surface plus 1 zł 30 gr air fee per 10 grams making 1 zł 90 gr). This rate went into effect March 7, 1933, and continued through January 15, 1934.

In June 1935, British Imperial Airways and LOT Polish Airlines introduced a new joint service from Alexandria to Warsaw via Sofia and Bucharest. **Figure 13** shows a preprinted cover (Par Avion / ALEXANDRIE – ATHENS –



Figure 13

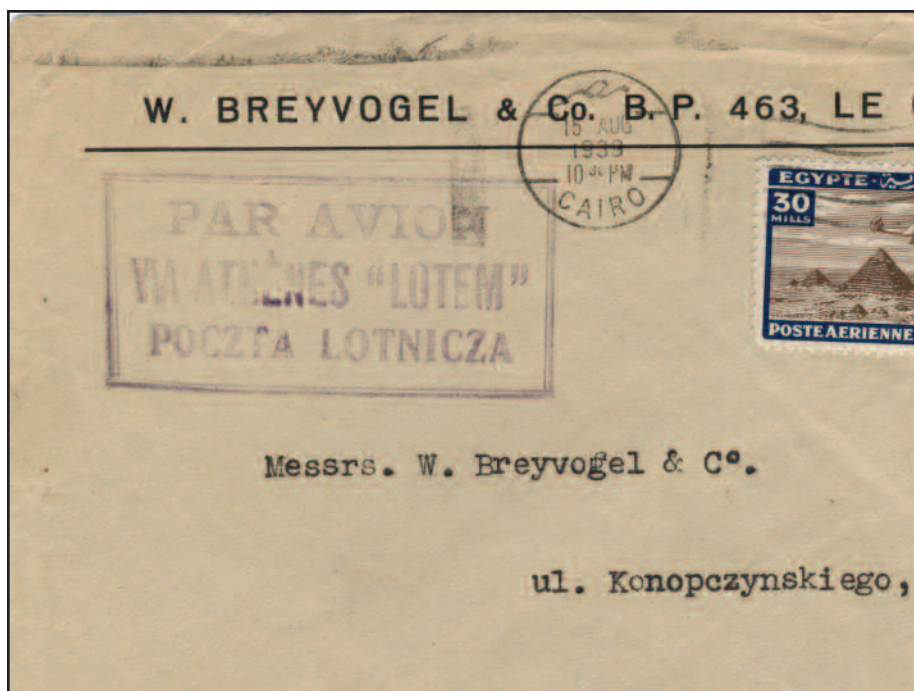


Figure 14

VARSOVIE) with rectangular magenta special cachet reading, "First Flight / June 4th 1935 / by / Imperial Airways and Athens – Warsaw Air Line / Egypt – Bulgaria – Roumania & Poland." Posted in Port Said on May 31, 1935, as registered and franked with a 50 mills "Poste Aérienne" adhesive (correct postage = 20 mills/20-gram + 25 mills air surcharge), this letter was forwarded to Alexandria where it was transit postmarked (May 31 and June 3, 1935).

On June 4, it was flown by Imperial Airways (Service IW 344) to Athens and transferred to the Polish LOT service from the Balkans, arriving at Warsaw on June 5, 1935. Unclaimed, it was returned to Port Said (June 19, 1935 arrival marking). It is remarkable that the British cachet refers to the national carrier of Poland as "Athens – Warsaw Air Line" (sic).

We Want to Hear from YOU!

The Polonus Bulletin is our member publication and we depend on our members to fill the pages.

*We encourage articles of any length with accompanying illustrations. You don't have to be a writer . . . that's what editors are for!
Just write what you know, send it along and we'll work together to make it a piece everyone can enjoy.*

**Submit articles or send questions to
Vickie Canfield Peters at
vcanfieldp@gmail.com**

There are less than 25 Warsaw-bound covers carried by joint Imperial Airways/LOT postal flight from Egypt in June 1935 referred to in the 2016 edition of the Polish Fischer catalogue as #123e.

The joint IA and LOT service continued throughout the late 1930s, evidenced by a commercial letter sent from Egypt to Warsaw barely two weeks before World War II started (Figure 14). Posted at Cairo on August 15, 1939, this cover bears a hand-applied three-line rectangular imprint (59 x 28 mm) in purple ink: "PAR AVION / VIA ATHENS "LOTEM" POCZTA LOTNICZA." This LOT cachet is scarce as only one other cover originating in Egypt with a similar marking is recorded.

Acknowledgements

Thanks to Zygmunt Kopel (London, UK) for sharing philatelic items from his collection (Part 13-1: Figures 6, 9 and Part 13-2: Figure 12).

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Dziennik Urzędowy Ministerstwa Poczty i Telegrafów / The Ministry of Post and Telegraphs Journal (1930)

Zbierski M: *Polskie Taryfy Pocztowe 1918-1939: Zbiór Tabel i Dokumentów / Polnische Postgebühren 1918-1939: Sammlung von Tabellen und Dokumenten / Polish Postal Rates 1918-1939: A Compilation of Tables and Documents. Poznań 2004; 561pp.*

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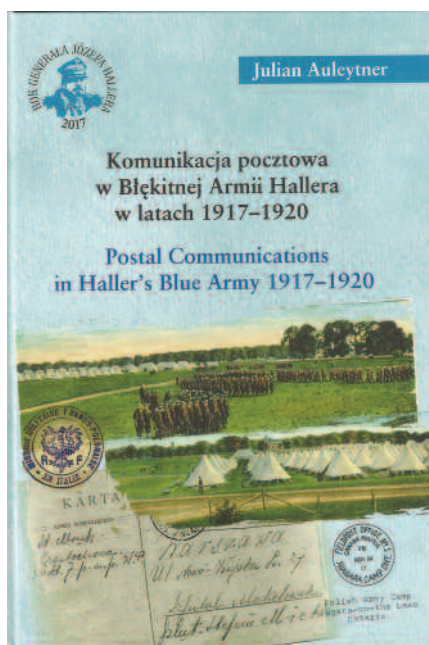


Postal Communications in Haller's Blue Army 1917-1920 by Julian Auleytner

Review by Dr. James Mazepa, RDP

We are privileged to have yet another major contribution by Professor Julian Auleytner, one of the most esteemed postal historians of the 1918 -1920 period in Poland. His study of the history and philately of Haller's Blue Army coincides with the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Blue Army and the Polish Senate's declaration that 2017 is "The Year of General Josef Haller."

While there have been scattered articles about the Blue Army, prewar politics and the post-war communist government were not favorable to an examination of the important contributions made by General Haller and his Blue Army in the formation of the Polish State. Professor Auleytner examines the political aspects and documents the formation of the army with philatelic elements, many of which have never been seen before.



The author reminds us that there were two categories of soldiers in the Blue Army. The first were Polish volunteers from around the world and the second were liberated prisoners of war from occupied Polish territories. We learn that the volunteers came from a multitude of countries: the United States, Canada, Great Britain, Brazil and Argentina, to name a few. The POWs came from internment camps in Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands and Greece in addition to many others.

Armed with this knowledge, much of which was not known prior to the author's research, a complex postal history of mail to and from Haller's Army is examined in detail. As a true researcher, the book abounds in original source material. Professor Auleytner enlisted the help of those who currently were studying the Haller Army and

synthesized a multitude of scattered information into a coherent volume which will be the standard reference for the postal history of Haller's Blue Army.

We can be especially thankful that the book is bilingual, Polish and English. The book is hard bound. There are 20 chapters in its 284 pages and includes an extensive bibliography. The book is printed on easy-to-read glossy paper and replete with color illustrations. This book belongs on the shelf of everyone interested in Poland's military history and the postal history of the formation of Poland's Second Republic.

Polonus has a supply of this book. It can be ordered by sending a check for \$39 (US), postpaid to U.S. destinations. Payment for purchase can be made by check (mailing to: Bill Williges, 570 Phelps Court, Benicia, CA 94010 or by PayPal (sending to: info@polonus.org). Refer questions to Bill Williges at billwil@znet.com.

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Gems of Polish Philately

The 'Massive Frankings' of Polish Hyperinflation 1923 - May 1924

by Dr. James Mazepa, RDP

After Polish Independence was established in November 1918, an immediate task was to avoid an impending economic crisis. The Polish mark was unstable because of constant wars and uprisings, especially the Polish-Soviet war. Most money collected went to the pay for the war efforts. To appease the elites taxes did not rise to offset expenses. To ease the creeping inflation an attempt to salvage the Polish mark was made in 1921 by Jerzy Michalski by raising taxes and reducing expenditures. His plan was accepted by the Sjem, but had only short-term effects.

In late 1923 the Polish economy, as well as those of Germany, Hungary and Austria, was spinning out of control. The exchange rate of the Polish mark to the American dollar went from nine marks for a dollar in 1918 to 6,375,000

marks by the end of 1923. In December 1923, Władysław Grabski became prime minister and nominated a new Sjem. Within six months Grabski introduced bank and currency reforms and introduced the gold złoty to replace the mark on May 1, 1924.

The Polish post struggle to keep up with inflation included issuing three sets of stamps: the first Large Eagles in 1921-1923 (Sc. #163-169B); the Provisionally Overprinted issues in 1923-1924 (Sc. 195-200), and; the second Large Eagle set in 1924 (Sc. 205-214). To make matters more complicated, the Polish post had various rates for internal mail, mail to its neighbors (Czechoslovakia, Romania, and Hungary), foreign mail to Austria and foreign mail to all other countries.

The post managed to use what stamps were on



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5

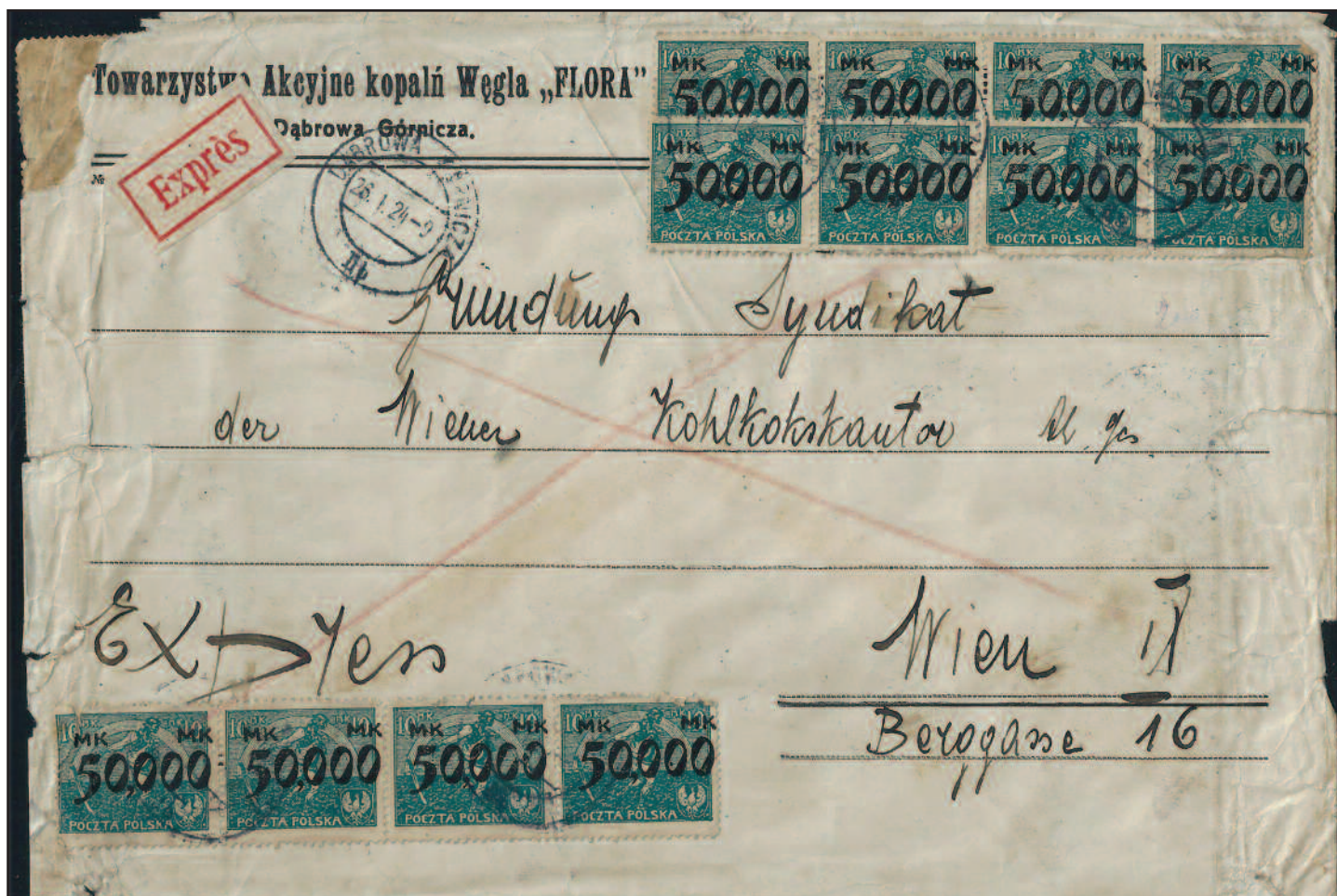


Figure 6, top; Figure 7, bottom.



Figure 8

hand. For example, the letter rate to Germany was 10 marks in 1918, but from April 1, 1923, to August 31, 1923, the rate increased to 1000 marks. **Figures 1 and 2** show a letter sent to Germany April 7, 1923, franked with 100 of the obsolete 10 mark stamps. (*Ed. note: The backs of the covers are reduced to facilitate layout.*)

The first Large Eagle set was issued beginning in late February 1923 to meet the demand for higher value stamps. But even these soon became obsolete. **Figures 3 and 4** show a registered letter from Biała, October 15, 1923, to Holland franked with 50 of the 500 mark first Large Eagle stamp. The 25,000 mark rate is calculated as 10,000 marks registry fee and 15,000 marks for a letter exceeding the first 20 grams.

Hyperinflation set in in the final months of 1923. To meet the need for increasingly higher value stamps, in late 1923 the post office recalled all lower value stamps from all post offices in the country to be provisionally overprinted with higher values. **Figure 5** is a registered letter to Germany sent January 11, 1924. This letter is similar to above registered letter to Holland, which originally cost 25,000 marks,

but subsequently rose to 800,000 marks.

Figures 6 and 7 show an express letter from Dąbrowa to Vienna sent January 26, 1924. The letter is paid with the 50,000 mark provisional. One can calculate the tariff as follows: the express fee is 1,100,000 marks, the first 20 grams 450,000 mark, and an additional 9 grams at 285,000 marks per additional gram for a total of 4,200,000 marks, a slight overpayment.

Between January and April 1924 the post office issued the Second Large Eagle set in new and higher values. **Figure 8** is a January 27 express letter to Vienna with a new 300,000 mark Large Eagle stamp. The fee: 1,100,000 marks for express service, 460,000 marks for the first 20 grams and 285,000 marks for each additional 8 grams for a total of 3,805,000 marks, a slight underpayment.

Needless to say, on letters with such massive frankings condition is often sacrificed as is an exact amount of postage. With such high rates, a few 10,000 marks one way or the other becomes insignificant! On May 1, 1924, the new gold standard came into effect which ended inflation and hyperinflation, at least for the time being.



Polonus Society News



Kościuszko Bicentennial Event Planned

October 15, 2017 marks the 200th anniversary of the death of General Tadeusz Kościuszko (1746-1817). A military leader and engineer, he fought for independence, democracy and equality, and is beloved in both America and Poland. In honor of his bicentennial, UNESCO declared 2017 the Year of Kościuszko.

On Sunday, October 15, the Polish Museum of America (PMA), located at 984 North Milwaukee Ave. in Chicago, opens an exhibit featuring an extensive collection of more than 50 original handwritten and signed letters by Kościuszko, President Thomas Jefferson, American Revolution generals and other notables of the time.

Polonus is participating in the opening with a philatelic exhibit featuring a Grand Award-winning exhibit of the United States 1933 5-cent Kościuszko stamp. An exact replica of the exhibit is being provided by Jay Stotts of Houston, Texas. Stotts is a well-known philatelic exhibitor and an APS accredited chief judge.

The exhibit focuses on all aspects of the 1933 Kościuszko stamp, but the emphasis is on the first day of issue cachets on envelopes. The exhibit also thoroughly treats the stamp production and contemporary commercial usages of the stamp. Stotts used extensive research in preparing the exhibit.

The United States issued a 5-cent stamp officially on October 13, 1933, to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the granting of U.S. citizenship to Kościuszko. This stamp became a reality through the efforts of the Polish National Alliance.

We expect a total of 16 frames of philatelic material, half displaying the Kościuszko stamp and the remainder displaying a Kościuszko-themed Polonica collection and related material.

The PMA, the crown jewel of the Polish-American community, was established in 1935 (four years before Polonus) and is one of the oldest and largest ethnic museums in the United States. It was the site of many POLPEX events in past years and serves as the Polonus archivist. We encourage our membership to attend this opening and/or



visit the museum for a tour between October 15 and 28 when the Kościuszko letters and the Polonus philatelic exhibit are on display. The PMA website (www.polishmuseumofamerica.org) has more details regarding museum hours, admission fee and tours.

2018 Dues, Donations and the New PayPal Option

by Bill Williges

The 2018 dues cycle begins in November when I send out dues notices. Though not finalized, we anticipate Polonus 2018 dues and donations can be paid directly on the website using PayPal.

With the November dues notices I will include step-by-step instructions on how to pay your dues and/or donation on line with PayPal. I'd hoped the PayPal option would be implemented by the time of this article but, typically, programming changes take longer than anticipated.

Last year we implemented a multiyear dues option along with life membership. Paying for more than one year of dues is an easy way to insure that your membership does not lapse.

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1866 - Kenneth Solak

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1868 - Aaron Kline, 2427 Bauer Road, Eden, NY14057

1869 - Mieczysław Maciejowski, 734 Ashbourne Drive, Sunnyvale, CA 94087

1870 - Allan Hayes, 6 Bloom Lane Apt. 6208, Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

1871 - Stephen Czyrko, 9 Ty Draw, Little Mill, Pontypool, UK NP4 0HR

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New Issues

Canonization of Father Stanislaw Papczyński

This 3.70 zł stamp honors Father Stanislaw Papczyński (1631-1701), born of humble background in the village of Podogrodzie, Lesser Poland, near Stary Sącz. He served as a member of the Piarist Order at the monastery in Podoliniec beginning in 1654 and became a priest there in 1661. In 1670 he left the Piarist Order and founded the Marian Order, the first Polish religious order for men. He is widely remembered as a prolific religious writer. His most famous work was *The Mystical Temple of God*.

In 2007 he was beautified by the church and in 2016 Pope Francis approved a miracle attributed to him, which allowed for his canonization by a consistory of cardinals at Vatican City.

Date of Issue	June 5, 2016
Sheet Format	Single in pane of 9
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Marzanna Dąbrowska

450th Anniversary of Birth of Jan Jessenius

This 6 zł stamp celebrates the birthday of Jan Jessenius (1566-1621), the Slovak, Polish, Bohemian, German physician, politician, diplomat, author and philosopher. He was born in Breslau (now Wrocław) of the House of Jeszenszky, an old Hungarian (Magyar) noble family. He called himself *eques Ungarus*, the Hungarian knight.

He served as physician to the Prince of Saxony and taught anatomy at the University of Wittenberg. Later he served as professor and anatomical consultant to Rudolf II, King of Bohemia and Holy Roman Emperor. In 1600 he performed a public autopsy in Prague.

The stamp shows an image of him from a copperplate representation by Matthaus Merian (1617) and the attached tab shows the cover of his book of anatomy. He was arrested in 1618 and held in prison wherein he predicted the death of Emperor Mathias and a horrible death for himself.



Both predictions came true as Emperor Mathias died in 1619 and Jessenius was executed in 1621. This stamp with tab is part of a joint issue of stamps with similar designs from Hungary, Slovakia and the Czech Republic.

Date of Issue	June 22, 2016
Sheet Format	Single with tab in sheet of 20
Printing Method	Photogravure & Steel Engraving
Designers	Vladislav Rostoka, Anieszka Sancewicz and František Horniak



Clouds

These four stamps with tabs illustrate four different types of clouds (*chmury*): two of the stamps, each denominated 2.50 zł, show cumulonimbus capillatus (bright white)

and *cumulonimbus mamma* (orange) clouds; the other two stamps, each denominated 2 zł, show *cirrus uncinus* (streaked white) and *cumulonimbus-praecipitatio arcus* (gray) clouds. The tabs attached to each stamp reveal an abbreviated short-hand description of each particular cloud type. In addition, the selvage of the pane lists the names of 10 types of clouds.

Date of Issue	June 15, 2016
Sheet Format	Pane of 4 with different stamps with tabs
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Marzanna Dąbrowska

Warsaw NATO Summit 2016

This 5 zł stamp recognizes the 27th formal meeting of the NATO heads of state held in Warsaw at the National Stadium on July 8-9, 2016. Polish President Andrzej Duda hosted the summit (*szczyt*). Some of the important outcomes of the meeting included: four battalions of NATO troops to be stationed in Poland, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania on a rotational basis beginning in 2017; a NATO Ballistic Missile Defense System will become operational to counter threats from Iran and North Korea; and cyber defenses will be strengthened under NATO auspices. The stamp depicts a scene of the Old Town Square in Warsaw. The next major NATO meeting will be conducted in Brussels in 2017, followed by a meeting in Istanbul in 2018.



Date of Issue	June 24, 2016
Sheet Format	Single in pane of 9
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Agata Tobolczyk



Polish Olympic Team in Rio 2016

These four stamps, each denominated 2 zł, portray symbolic athletes in action in a few of the events at last summer's Olympic Games: cycling, discus or hammer throw, tennis and windsurfing. Poland's 243 athletes competed against 11,000 competitors from 207 nations. The final results

had Poland winning two gold, three silver and six bronze medals. In the Women's Hammer Throw, Anita Włodarczyk won the gold with a record throw. In the Women's Double Sculls Rowing, the team of Magdalena Fularczyk and Natalia Madaj won gold. The three silver medal winners were Piotr Maśachowski (Men's Discus Throw), Maja Włoszczowska (Women's Cross Country Mountain Cycling) and Marta Walczykiewicz (Women's K-1 200 Meter Canoeing).

Date of Issue	July 8, 2016
Sheet Format	Pane of 4 different stamps
Printing Method	Photogravure
Designer	Agata Tobolczyk

Flowers and Fruits (Saffron)

One more in a series of stamps on flowers and fruits,



this colorful 20 gr stamp shows a close-up view of a saffron (*Szafran*) flower (*Crocus L.* from the *Iridaceae* family). The plant grows to 20-30 cm in height and bears up to four flowers, each with three stigmata, which are the distal ends of carpels. The styles and stigmata, called threads, are collected and dried for use mainly as a seasoning and yellow coloring agent in food. It is one of the most costly spices by weight and has been marketed for over four millennia. It is native to southwest Asia; Iran now accounts for about 90 percent of worldwide production.

Date of Issue	July 6, 2016
Sheet Format	Single in sheet of 100
Printing Method	Photogravure
Designer	Marzanna Dąbrowska

Postcrossing

This 5 zł stamp recognizes the international postcard exchange program created by Paulo Magalhaes of Portugal in 2005. The program has been used by more than 643,000 individuals in 211 countries. The free online system (postcrossing.com) allows an individual to receive a postcard in the mail from an anonymous correspondent located elsewhere in the world.



The program encompasses a huge element of surprise, while also promoting a greater understanding of world geography.

To participate, one first contacts the website and requests an address and postcard ID; then he/she mails a postcard to that address and subsequently receives a postcard from another postcrosser. The postcard received is then registered in the system using the postcard ID and the process

may then be repeated. The stamp shows a red suitcase posted with various national decals. The selvage at the bottom of the pane depicts a flow chart showing a computer screen and arrow leading to a mailbox, and then another arrow leading to a delivery box.

Date of Issue	July 14, 2016
Sheet Format	Single in pane of 9
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Agata Tobolczyk

Flowers and Fruits (Lily)

This 6 zł stamp, another in a series on flowers and



fruits (*kwiaty i owoce*), depicts the Lily (*Lilia*) or specifically the *Lilium Liliaceae*, a genus of herbaceous flowering plants growing from bulbs. They are perennials, ranging in height from 60-180 cm. The flowers are large, often

fragrant, and come in a range of colors, including whites, yellows, oranges, pinks, red, and purples. The stamp shows a pink variety.

Date of Issue	July 15, 2016
Sheet Format	Single in sheet of 100
Printing Method	Photogravure
Designer	Marzanna Dąbrowska

Polish Regional Products (Honey)

This 5 zł stamp, another in a series on Polish regional products, recognizes honey (*miod*) production in the Kurpie region of Poland, *Podlaskie Voivodeship*, also known as the Mazovian Region (*Mazowsze*). The inhabitants of this somewhat isolated, forested



area have historically woven a distinctive culture of their own, including bee-keeping as an important and highly regulated commercial enterprise. The stamp shows a glass bowl of honey with wood dipper and smaller images of a beehive and bees. In addition, a semi-official souvenir sheet with obliterated value was issued for members of the Polish Philatelic Union, an organization that promotes Polish philately; this limited edition numbered pane was issued both perforated and imperforate.

Date of Issue	July 18, 2016
Sheet Format	Single in pane of 9
Printing Method	Offset & Dry Pressing
Designer	Agnieszka Sancewicz

Army of Anders – Trail of Hope

This 2.50 zł issue honors the Army of General Władysław Albert Anders. He was commander of the Nowogrodzka Cavalry Brigade during the German invasion of Poland in September 1939, and took part in the Battle of Mława and other actions. Subsequently, Anders was captured and imprisoned by the Soviet Union. After the launch of Operation Barbarossa and the signing of the Sikorsky-Malsky Agreement, Anders was released by the Soviets with the aim of his forming a Polish army to fight alongside the Red Army against the Germans. Anders chose instead to form the Polish 2nd Corps, which became a major tactical and operational unit of the Polish Armed Forces of the West. As commander of the corps, during the Italian campaign, his Army captured Monte Casino in 1944. Following World War II, he was denigrated by the Soviet-installed Communist government of Poland and remained in Great Britain where he died in 1970. His 1949 book, *An Army in Exile*, outlined his activities in the war. He is buried with many of his former soldiers at the Polish War Cemetery at Monte Casino in Italy.



Date of Issue	July 21, 2016
Sheet Format	Single in pane of 12
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Maciej Jędrzyk

Flowers and Fruits (Iris)

The iris (*Kosaciec*) is shown on this colorful 2 zł



stamp in the continuing series on this topic. The iris is a genus of 260-300 species of flowering plants in the family *Iridaceae*. The name derives from the Greek word for a rainbow and the Greek goddess of the rainbow. The plants are commonly referred to as

flags. As perennial plants, nearly all the species are found in the temperate Northern Hemispheric Zone, from Europe to Asia and across North America. The plants are extensively grown as ornamentals. The Polish Post issued a 3.40 zł stamp showing the iris in 1964.

Date of Issue	July 22, 2016
Sheet Format	Single in sheet of 100
Printing Method	Photogravure
Designer	Marzanna Dąbrowska

Madonnas of the Eastern Borderlands

These four stamps, denominated 2.50, 3.70 and 6 zł,



recognize a few of the more famous religious icons depicting Mary with Jesus from areas along the eastern fringes of Poland (*Madonny Kresowe*).

The 2.50 zł stamp shows the Mother of God of Fraga (*Matka Boża z Fragi*) framed in purple or mauve. The village of Fraga is now located in the northern Ukraine near the city of Lviv (formerly Lwów). The Madonna dates to the 17th cen-

tury. A copy of it is housed at St. Boniface Church in Warsaw-Czerniaków.

The 3.70 zł stamp shows the Madonna of Żółkiew (*Matka Boża Żółkiewska*) framed in olive green. The painting is now housed in the Church of St. Dominic in Warsaw-Służew. This Madonna, perhaps painted in Rome, was first referenced in 1588 in Żółkiew; the mother of King John III Sobieski, Theophilus Sobieska, reportedly prayed to the Madonna. The old village of Żółkiew is now called Zhovka and is within Ukraine, near the city Lviv (formerly Lwów). The official first day covers for these first two stamps are postmarked in Warsaw.



The first of two 6 zł stamps in the set honors the Madonna of Białokamińska (*Matka Boża Białokamińska*) framed in light Prussian blue. The painting is now located at the altar of the Church of St. George of the Rosary in Wałbrzych-Biały Kamień in the Lower Silesian Voivodeship. The official first day cover for this stamp is postmarked Wałbrzych (formerly German Woldenberg).

The second 6 zł stamp recognizes the Madonna of Lewacze (*Matka Boża Królowa Korny Polskiej Lewacze*) or Mother of God Queen of the Polish Crown – Lewacze. This stamp shows the Madonna framed in green. The Madonna of Lewacze is placed within a



symbolic nationalistic tapestry that was made in 1928 for the altar of Our Lady Queen of Poland Church in Lewacze by Adela Rudnicka, a descendant of the founder of the village in the 18th century; this village is now Volyn in Ukraine. Today the tapestry with Madonna is located at the Church of St. Martin in the Ukrainian village of Barkowie. The official first day cover is postmarked Zmigrod (formerly German Trachenberg) in the Lower Silesian Voivodeship.

The three villages of Fraga, Zolkiew and Lewacze were once eastern borderland villages within the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, but are now located in Ukraine.

Date of Issue	August 30, 2016
Sheet Format	4 stamps, ea. in pane of 9
Printing Method	Photogravure
Designer	Agnieszka Sancewicz

Fish Threatened with Extinction

These four stamps portray four different fish species



whose existence is threatened by man's activities: a 2 zł stamp showing the *Rhodeus sericeus* (*Różanka pospolita*); a 2.50 zł stamp showing the *Carassius carassius* (*Karaś pospolity*); a 3.70 zł stamp showing the *Eupallasea*

percnurus (*Strzebla błotna*); and a 6 zł stamp depicting the *Acipenser oxyrinchus* (*Jesiotr ostroń* – *bałtycki*).

The *Rhodeus sericeus* or Amur bitterling is a small fish (3-4 inches long) in the carp family (*Cyprinidae*) that usually resides in lake areas with dense plant growth.

Their native range extends in a discontinuous distribution from France eastward to Asia Minor and into northern China.



The *Carassius carassius* or Crucian carp is a medium-size fish, also in the carp family, that grows typically to 6 inches in length. It occurs in northern Europe, from England to Russia, and from as far north as the Arctic Circle in the

Scandinavian countries to central France and the region of the Black Sea. It's habitat includes lakes, ponds and slow moving rivers.

The *Eupallasella percnurus*, known as the lake minnow or swamp minnow, is a Eurasian species of small freshwater carp. A recent research study on this critically endangered species identified 12 distinct populations in lakes in Poland (Kaczmarczyk and Wolnicki).

The *Acipenser oxyrinchus* species is subdivided into two anadromous subspecies in the world: the Atlantic sturgeon and Gulf sturgeon. In Europe there have been some landlocked populations reported, but the species is generally considered to be near extinction. All four stamps are shown on a single numbered pane of four with denominations obliterated, in perforated and imperforate formats.



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Date of Issue	August 31, 2016
Sheet Format	4 stamps, ea. in pane of 9
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Agata Tobolczyk



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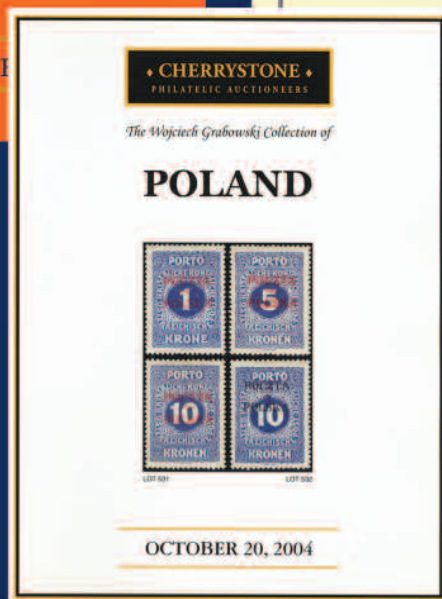
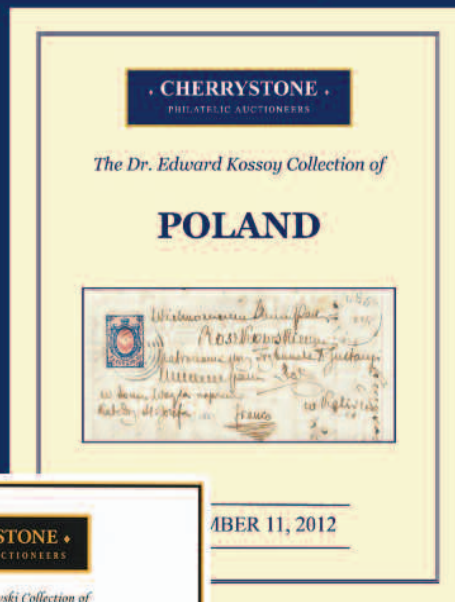
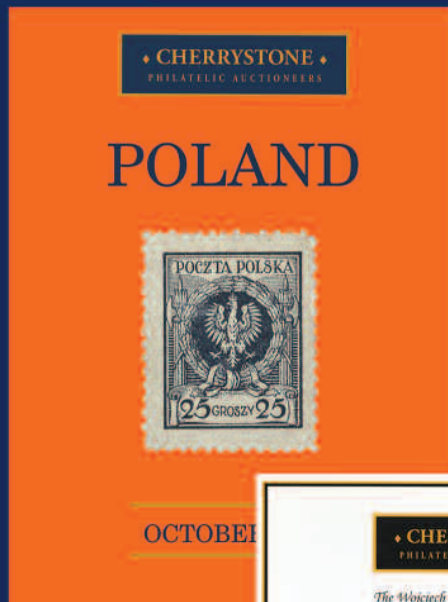
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