

BULLETIN OF THE POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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THE POLPEX AWARDS PRESENTATION BANQUET

Everything at POLPEX 83 was elegantly done and on a grand scale. So it was with the traditional banquet, or "BEEBA" as long time Polonus members prefer to call it, where collectors, dealers & friends of Polonia gather to share a meal and to applaud the winners. Nearly 90 attended the banquet and enjoyed a truly gourmet meal.

In the banquet hall were Polonus members from the Chicago metro area and contingents of collectors from Buffalo, New York, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Virginia and California. The banter and laughter gave a light air to the evening.

As the diners polished off a dessert of superb strudel, topped with a cream sauce, Dr. Wenceslaus Wagner, Professor of Law at the University of Detroit began the program. Dr. Wagner, with his sense of humor, love of Poland and its people, and a philatelist himself, did an exceptional job as master of ceremonies for the evening.

Dr. Wagner interspersed his comments and introductions with poignant and humorous stories of current conditions in Poland. Each comment and each story left the dinner guests with a new perspective and appreciation for the strength and humor of the Polish people.



Main Speaker, Aloysius Mazewski

Dr. Wagner introduced Aloysius A. Mazewski, President of the Polish National Alliance and Polish American Congress, who is also a philatelist and long time member and supporter of Polonus. Mr. Mazewski spoke most eloquently of the spirit, strength and courage of the Poles. Illustrating his speech with numerous examples and historical events, he described up to the present day, how Poles have fought not only for their freedom but for the freedom of other peoples and nations. He pointed to the POLPEX exhibit as a special example of that which he described. Touched by his presen-

tation, the audience soundly applauded him.

Dr. Wagner then introduced Dr. Edward C. Rozanski, Chairm. of the P.A.C. King John III Sobieski 300th Anniversary Observance Committee. Like Mr. Mazewski, Dr. Rozanski is also a philatelist & long time member & supporter of Polonus. Dr. Rozanski gave an emotionally charged speech which recounted in detail the battles for freedom in which Poles have participated, particularly at Vienna in defense of Christendom in

1683. He related the numerous celebrations of the great Vienna battle which will be held not only in the U.S.A., but in Europe as well. He expressed hope that some of the exhibits at POLPEX 83 could certainly be a part of these celebrations. The audience heartily endorsed all he had to say, as they strongly applauded his presentation.

Dr. Wagner then introduced Dr. James Mazepa, who made the awards presentations.

—Thomas Gobby

IT WAS POLONUS' GREATEST EXHIBITION EVER!



The early bird crowd on Saturday morning. Standing (left to right): Michael Melnichak, Roman Strzelecki, Dr. James Mazepa, Joe Bieniecki, Henry Bieniecki, Mrs. J. Oster, Mike Lubinski and Leon Kawecki. Seated: Mrs. Melnichak, Mrs. Bieniecki, Chester Mikucki and Roman Reinowski.

POLPEX 83, held March 18-19-20, at the prestigious Palmer House Hotel in Downtown Chicago, the first philatelic event of the season in Chicago, was a huge success! The historical theme and the most unusual exhibits indicated that POLPEX 83 was going to be the biggest exhibition in our history. It certainly was one of the most interesting. The weather was not up to our expectations. This year, Chicago was blessed

with an unusually mild winter, but in the three days of the POLPEX we had a sunny day, a rainy day and a winterstormy day.

The exhibition consisted of 250 large international size frames (16 pages) and was truly a treat to the visitors. Material shown was of exceptional philatelic and historic value. The whole show featured all phases of Militaria Philately. The majority of the exhibits consisted of

covers, postal cards and some documents, all emphasizing various periods and places in history. There were 51 exhibits and two Courts of Honor with a most interesting exhibit from the National Postal Museum of England. Entries were received from Canada, England, Germany, Australia, France, Switzerland and the United States.

The Exhibition Commissioners were:

Dr. Miet Kamieński, Canada
W. Z. J. Nowicki, England
R. K. Jablonski, Australia
J. Borkowski, France
S. Petriuk, Germany

The five member Jury had their hands full and they deliberated and argued for many hours.

The opening ceremony held on Friday, was attended by invited guests and a group of members who came from many different States.

The weekend was also a time for several other philatelic societies and study groups to meet, discuss and naturally swap some extra material.

The Grand Prix of POLPEX 83 was awarded to Dr. Joseph Kuderewicz of Manchester, NH, for his excellent collection of *Polish Militaria from 1784 to 1848*.

The Reserved Grand Award was



Judges: Dr. Miet Kamieński, Dr. James Mazepa, Werner Gruenbaum, Bud Hennig, Paul Larson with Polpex Chairman Alfred Szebel.

received by James Duffy of Chicago for *German Military Mail 1939-45*.

The President's Award went to Marian Dabrowski of Kent, England, for *Polish Government in Exile in England*. The Bieniecki Award (for outstanding 20th Century Poland) went to Stefan Petriuk of Germany for his *Warsaw Locals 1915-1919*.

Due to very high quality of exhibits, medals were awarded in five levels as follows:

GOLD MEDALS:

Dr. J. Kuderewicz, Manchester, NH,
Polish Militaria
M. S. Dabrowski, Kent, England,
Polish Government in Exile, Eng.



Polpex Chairman Alfred Szebel cutting ribbon at the official Opening Ceremony of POLPEX 83.



Bieniecki Family from Granite City, IL.

excellent collection of Polish Militaria from 1784 to 1848.

S. Petriuk, Germany

Warsaw Locals, 1915-19.

L. W. Draeger, Arlington, VA

Woldenberg "Oflog" 11c, issue.

W. R. Pawlowski, Ingelwood, CA

Stamps issued in four POW camps

M. L. Kalawski, Worcester, MA

Woldenberg POW Camp

D. R. Opperman, Urbana, IL

U.S. Intervention in Siberia, 1917-22.

David Dixon, Ontario, Canada

Canadian War Tax Stamps and their usage on covers.

James Duffy, U.S.A.

German Air Mail, 1930-45.

Janet S. Kohn, South Holland, IL

A Study of Censor Marks

VERMEIL MEDALS:

C. Kulpinski, Feasterville, PA

Polish Fieldpost, 1941-47.

W. Poniecki, Chicago, IL

History of Polish Fieldpost, 1916-44.

F. E. Wolosewick, Chicago, IL

Philatelic History of Warsaw, 1807-1945.

C. P. Straub, Columbia Heights, MN

Study of Censor Marks in German Occupied Poland.

George Schild, Berne, Switzerland
Franco-Prussian War, 1870-71.

P. Felix Ganz, Chicago, IL

Swiss Military Mail, 1830 thru World War I.

R. K. Eadie, Ontario, Canada

Swiss Soldier Stamps, 1915-18.

R. K. Mallott, Ontario, Canada

Canadian Ail Letters, 1940-1980.

Fred Szebel, Chicago, IL

German Navy in Spanish Civil War of 1936-39.

Fred Blau, Chicago, IL

Military Mail in Palestine in World War II.

Mrs. Judy Meadows, Queensland,

Australia. *Red Cross History, W.W. I and W.W. II.*

SILVER MEDALS:

D. Stefancic, Oak Creek, WI.

The Polish Legion, 1914-1918.

W. Gruszczuk, Downsview, Canada

The Polish First Corps in Russia

W. R. Pawlowski, Ingelwood, CA

The Local Delivery Post in Poland 1915-1918.

Anonymous, Chicago, IL

Eastern Silesia

Dr. G. Keins, Menlo Park, CA

The Ten Liberated Cities Issue

J. E. O. Hobbs, Sussex, England

War and Philately.

George Schild, Berne, Switzerland

Prisoner of War Correspondence During Napoleonic Wars.

M. Lubinski, Ontario, Canada

Russian Military Censor Markings, 1914-17.

Andrew Cronin, Toronto, Canada

Polish and Russian Military Markings.

P. F. Ganz, Chicago, IL

Switzerland's Soldier Stamps of World War I.

Ch. A. Tuteur, Chicago, IL

Wartime Mail in Cologne

J. Czyl, Posen, IL

Military Phantoms of Philately

SILVER BRONZE MEDALS:

- M. Lubinski, Ontario, Canada
Polish Legion Unit Marks on Correspondence of 1917-18.
- R. Lapas, Melrose Park, IL
Polish Fieldpost in Ethnographic Lithuania, 1919- 1922.
- B. C. Johnson, Oklahoma City, OK
The War in Poland, 1939-45.
- L. A. Sawicki, London, England.
Examples of Pre-Philatelic Covers
- P. S. Madej, Toronto, Canada
Selection of Censorship Markings in Poland.
- A. Borucki, Victoria, Australia
Selection from a Comprehensive Collection of Upper Silesia.
- R. Schaelchli, Millerton, NY
Swiss Soldier Stamps and Military Mail, 1870-1918.
- R. S. Winiarski, Victoria, Australia
Australian Military Post in W.W. I, Egypt, Gallipoli, France & Belgium
- K. Wacker, Anna, OH
The Zeppelin in Combat
- H. Gagnon, Vancouver, Canada
Liberation of France
- N. E. Koshnick, Park Forest, IL
United Nations Emergency Forces

BRONZE MEDALS:

- J. Grabowski, Lille, France
Polish Officers POW Camp "Oflog" 1939-45.
- Z. R. Bojakowski, Essex, England
Polish POW Camps in Germany, 1939-45.

SPECIAL AWARDS:

1. SPECIAL AWARD OF THE P.O.W. STUDY GROUP
- A - Gold Award: M. Kalawski, Worcester, MA
- B - Research Award: M. Kalawski, Worcester, MA
- C - Silver Award: W. R. Pawlowski, Ingelwood, Ca.
2. GPS MEDAL FOR AN OUTSTANDING GERMAN EXHIBIT
- Janet S. Kohn, South Holland, IL
A Study of Censor Marks



Wally Pawlowski and M. Kalawski holding their Special Awards presented to them by Chris Kulpinski of the P.O.W. Study Group.

3. HELVETICA SOCIETY AWARDS:

- Silver Medal: P. F. Ganz, Chicago, IL. *Swiss Military Mail*
- Bronze Medal: R. K. Eadie, Ontario, Canada. *Swiss Soldier Stamps.*

Certificate: P. F. Ganz, Chicago, Switzerland's 'Soldier Stamps' W.W. I

4. POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY - MEDAL

- G. Schild, Berne, Switzerland, *Franco-Prussian War*

5. WAR COVER CLUB AWARD:

- D. R. Opperman, Urbana, IL
U.S. Intervention in Siberia

LITERATURE CLASS:

1. *Polonus Gold Medal*
Best Article in *Polonus Bulletin* in 1982, R. Poddubiuk, Canada
2. *Gold Certificate:*
Stefan Petriuk, Germany, *Warsaw Locals, 1915-18.*
3. *Silver Certificate:*
George Migliavacca, Pavia, Italy
Polish Legion in Italy, 1797-1806.
4. *Vermeil Certificate:*
A: J. Kucharski, New York, NY
Postal History of Polish Field

Post Offices in the Holy Land.
B: G. Patak, Staten Island, NY
Romanian Philatelic Studies
—Roman Strzelecki

POLPEX PATRONS

M. LUBICZ-KALAWSKI
W. MIECZYNSKI
W. Z. J. NOWICKI
K. WŁOCH
B. O. WICKLINE

Leon Kawecki prepared a special Medallion for POLPEX 83, which is still available in limited quantities. The Gold plated medallion is available for \$50.00 from Stanley Rusin, P.O. Box 56148, Chicago, IL 60656.

Mail sales for all POLPEX 83 mementos are available from John Bartczak as follows:

1. Two souvenir sheets with a descriptive folder at \$1.00 per set. (One souvenir sheet shown below)



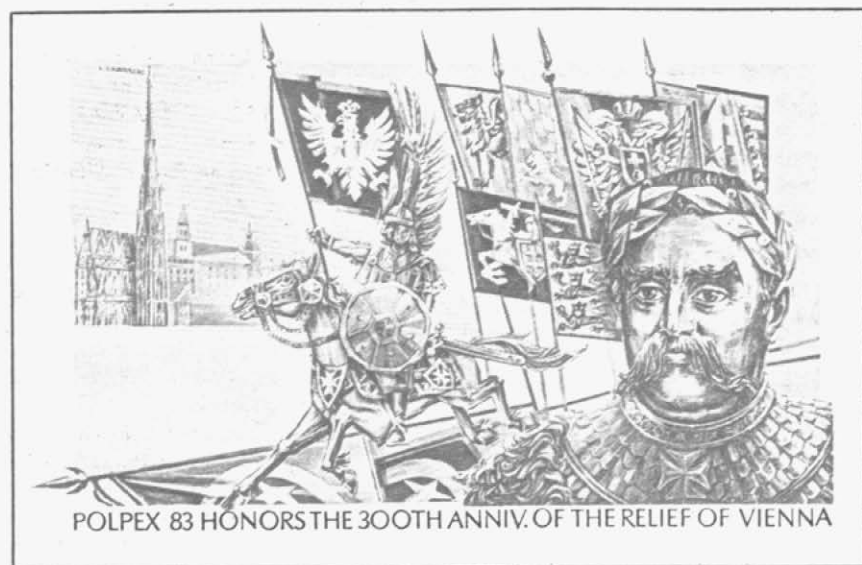
A limited amount of the Sobieski gold plated medallions are still available.

2. Three different day show covers, cancelled with a special cancellation at \$2.00 per set.
3. Special show card, mint at \$1.50 cancelled at \$2.00.
4. United Nations First Day Cover, with "Safety At Sea" stamps at \$1.50.

Return Postage: \$.75.

Mail Orders accepted by:

John Bartczak
10428 South Avenue "O"
Chicago, IL 60617.



IN OUR MAIL BOX AFTER POLPEX 83

Many thanks for such a wonderful week. I enjoyed everything immensely: the exhibits, the banquet & the seminar, but most of all, I enjoyed the chance to meet and talk to such nice people, which after all is what makes these kinds of functions worthwhile.

—Robert Bannan
East Olympia, Wash.

* * *

Thank you very much for your kind letter. If I had contributed to POLPEX 83 in some way, I'm pleased to have done so. Actually, I'm honored to have been on the Honorary Committee in the company of such distinguished individuals.

—Francis C. Kajencki
Col., US Army Retired
El Paso, Texas

* * *

We all had a wonderful time and we were very sorry we had to rush off . . .

. . . The show was a success for us and I hope we can attend more in the future.

—Joe Bieniecki
Granite City, IL

* * *

POLPEX 83 was quite an experience, at least for me. I was most pleased with the comments I received from both you and Dr. Kamiński as to my "Psychology" exhibit . . .

—Lawrence W. Draeger
Arlington, VA

* * *

Your First Day Covers and the rest of the material you put out for POLPEX 83/Militaria are very beautiful. In fact, I have most of your issues and think that this one is far the nicest you have put out.

—S. Kowalewski
El Paso, Texas

First, let me congratulate you and Polonus for a very fine show "POLPEX '83". Gene Wolosiewicz of the Milwaukee Club sent me the Program and all the labels and covers from the exhibition. J. Bieniecki also had nothing but praise for the show and bourse . . .

—Robert Konuwal
Chattanooga, Tenn.

* * *

First, I thought you would appreciate knowing that my Red Cross exhibit arrived home safely last Friday - had no trouble at all with Customs having done the right thing and had clearance forms done prior to sending the exhibit.

I am absolutely thrilled to bits with the Vermeil medal!!

—Judy Meadows
Brisbane, Australia

* * *

I was glad to meet you personally. Unfortunately you were very busy so we could not spend much time together.

POLPEX 83/MILITARIA was a show at a very high level, in my opinion, the best show ever held by Polonus!

—Marek Kalawski
Lister, Mass.

* * *

Thank you very much for your letter of April 28, with the report on 'POLPEX 83'. It certainly was an excellent show and I am sorry that I missed it, but that just could not be avoided.

—Dr. Stanley Kronenberg
Skillman, New Jersey

* * *

. . . łączę serdeczne pozdrowienia i gratulacje Waszego wielkiego sukcesu POLPEX 83, który jestem przekonany, był głównie Pańską zasługą.

Oddany,

—Gwinon Borucki
Melbourne, Australia

ANTI YALTA SLOGAN IN GREAT BRITAIN IN 1944

By JERZY KUCHARSKI

When the German Armies were only 20 miles from Moscow, and fighting in the suburbs of Leningrad in September, 1941, Russian propaganda was still claiming their rights to the Eastern part of Poland, which they occupied jointly with Hitler in September, 1939.

When the luck of war turned toward the Russians, and while the Teheran "Big Three" Conference was being held, they were coming closer to the Polish border of 1939. Their demands for Lwow and Wilno were claimed loudly and without any conditions. President Roosevelt was worrying how to tell Polonia leaders in USA that he has agreed to Stalin's demands on Poland.

At the end of 1944, when the Russians were already in part of Poland, they brought into Poland, a new government, whose leaders were educated in Moscow, and a new conference was set for Yalta in February, 1945 to decide the future borders in Europe. The Po-

lish Government in Exile in London had an option to withdraw the Armed Forces as no more were needed, or be disarmed. All diplomatic protests were calmed down in the name of Allied cooperation. Even a small protest of the Polish section in the British Home Postal Centre was prevented from spreading to the English speaking public. But it could be seen on the photo of the air letter with a slogan practically unknown to collectors; it was found accidentally by me in New York City.

The air letter shown below, duly paid 6 pence postage and was written Dec. 3, 1944 with a return address: P.O. Box 260/52 - London E.C. 1 (which was a Polish Army in Great Britain Unit). It was addressed to Polish Forces - C.M.F. 172 (Unit code for the Artillery Rgt. of 3 DSK in Italy). The letter was strictly personal, not philatelic like many illustrated Airgraphs.

This air letter was stamped on the



THERE MUST NOT BE A NEW PARTITION OF POLAND

and address:-

Reverse side of letter with slogan.

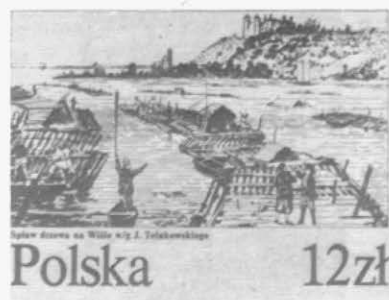
front Dec. 5, 1944 by the Home Postal Centre R.E. (No. 1 datestamp which was used in Nottingham) and "Polish G.P.O. / Censored" in the box 38 x 12 mm. On the reverse there is a three line slogan 60 mm. in length: "There Must Not Be/A New/Partition of Poland" in violet. The Polish G.P.O. was that time in Edinburgh, the Postal Centre in Nottingham (since 1942), which used 4 datestamps 1-4, which are quite

scarce (Crouch & Hill book, p. 40).

It was probably used in Nottingham as all G.P.O. stamps, markers, cancels, etc. are well known in Polish Philatelic circles (and abused on various souvenirs). It probably was soon withdrawn since it was anti the official policy of British Government. As the censor stamp is in a different color than this slogan, it could be more reasonable to locate its use to Nottingham.

POLAND'S NEW ISSUES

Old Town by the Vistula



Three post stamps were issued in November, 1982, presenting drawings entitled "Old Town by the Vistula River." This is a continuation of

the series "You Are Beautiful, Vislula River" commenced in 1981. Value: 12zł, 17zł, 25zł; size 31.25 x 25.5 mm; 2 FDC envelopes.

Environment Protection

To popularize the problems connected with the protection and safeguarding of the human environment from ecological destruction, a series of 6 stamps was issued in December 1982, presenting symbolically the flora and fauna under conditions of undisturbed biological equilibrium. Values: 5, 6, 17, 30, 31, and 38zł; size: 40.5 x 40.5 mm; 3 FDC envelopes. —ARS Polona



KING JAN III SOBIESKI IN POLISH PHILATELY

By FRANK WOLOSEWICK

- 1) JULY 1930 - 75 gr. - claret -
Scott #262



Stamp depicting front view of the King was engraved by F. Schrinböck issued to meet current postal needs with a total of 19,746,000 stamps issued. At the time of issue the stamp did not have any significant historical value.

- 2) SEPTEMBER 12, 1933 - 1 zł. 20 gr. - Indigo - Scott #278 and 286



This stamp was issued to commemorate the 250th Anniversary of King Jan III Sobieski's victory over the Turks at Vienna. The stamp was modeled from a painting of the famous artist Jan Matejko, which is of huge proportion, 30 feet in length and 15 feet in height. Matejko's painting of meticulous detail and superb artistic ability was presented to Pope Leo XIII. The painting has always been one of the main attractions in the Gallery of Modern Paintings in Vatican City. The victor, King Jan III Sobieski is shown on this huge painting entering the City of Vienna with his principal leaders and commanders. The stamp was printed in

sheets of 70 stamps on a ribbed yellowish paper and printed by 'Polska Wytwarznia Papierow Wartosciowych'. Total issue was 2,006,620 stamps and of this total amount, in October 1934, 1,182,000 stamps were surcharged in red with a new value of 1 zł. — Scott #286. The devaluation therefore reduced the original issue Scott #278 to only 824,600 stamps.

The stamp is considered to be one of the finest engravings as it is done very meticulously, with great precision — very seldom found in an engraving from a painting.

Upon a closer examination of the stamp with a magnifying glass one can find a masterpiece in miniature.

- 3) NOVEMBER 11, 1938 - 50 gr. - bright red and violet - Scott #327



A set of 13 stamps were issued commemorating Poland's 20th Anniversary of Independence of November 11, 1918. The engraving was shared between M. R. Polak, J. Piwczyk and M. Dutczynski and printing was done in the Government Printing Office.

In this historic issue, the 50 gr. value - Scott 327, is dedicated to the triumphant entry into the city of Vienna by King Jan III Sobieski in 1683. The scene depicts the populace, joyfully greeting their libera-

tor, the Conqueror of the Turks.
4) 1982 - 65 zł. Souvenir Sheet -



In connection with the International Stamp Exhibition in Paris, France, Poland issued a Souvenir Sheet with a high value of 65 zł. Designed by J. Brodowski, it was printed by the Government Printing Office. It portrays a painting of the Queen Maria Kazimiera Sobieska, who affectionately was called by the King "Marysienka."

Also in 1982 a set of stamps was issued in conjunction with the 110 Anniversary of the porcelain plate

works in Nieborow, Poland. The stamp with 5 zł. value shows a porcelain plate with King Jan III Sobieski.

5) POSTAL CARD ISSUE of 1971.

The Postal Authority in Poland each year customarily issues stamps and/or postal cards to commemorate Stamp Day (Dziś Uen Znaczką). In 1971, two postal cards with 40 gr. and 1.65 zł. values, were issued for Stamp Day. Both cards show King Jan III Sobieski with his wife "Marysienka". The stamp design was taken from a miniature by Sebastian Bonocelli the famous 17th century artist. A cachet in the lower left shows a fragment of the Wilanow estate of King Jan III Sobieski.

Both postal cards were prepared by T. Michaluk and printed in quantities of 500,000 of the 40 gr. and 200,000 of the 1.65 zł. denomination.

6) AUSTRIA

On September 6th, 1933, Austria issued a set of six stamps, Scott nos. B-112-117, in commemoration of the 250th Anniversary of the deliverance of Vienna from the Turks and in connection with the Pan-German Catholic Congress. The 40gr. value, Scott B-115, portrays the King of Poland Jan III Sobieski.

"Polish Postmarks of the 18th Century" Now Available

The classic work of Prof. St. Mikstein on the Polish postmarks of the 18th Century is now available. The book was translated by Ryszard Podubiuk and edited by Dr. James Mazepa. The book is in an 8½ x 11 format, spiral bound with stiff cardboard covers. It is 180 pages long and follows the same style as the original Mikstein book. While some of the information is dated, this book up til now available only in Po-

lish if one could even find a copy, contains information which can not be found elsewhere. There are many illustrations of covers and postmarks and in many cases, the illustrations are the only remaining examples of the marks since many were destroyed in the Second World War. This is the second in the series of Polonus Handbooks, and has a very limited printing of 50 copies. Cost is \$12. plus \$1.25 for postage and packing, and is available from Dr. James Mazepa, Box 1217, Oak Park, IL 60304.

Polish Field Post in the Middle East During W. W. II

By CHRIS KULPINSKI

Not much has been written about the postal activities of the Polish forces who fought under British command in the Middle East and the American 8th Army in Italy.

The Polish 2nd Corps was formed when soldier refugees released from Russia in 1941 met up with the Carpathian Brigade, stationed in the French mandated territory of Syria since mid 1940. With the capitulation of France, the Poles crossed over to the British controlled territories of Palestine. The Brigade was already well established by the time the soldiers from Russia arrived.

The troops were trained in the British mold, but since they retained their own identity, they were also granted their own postal stations, censor markings and the right to register mail. The postal system was set up within the British military postal system.

Each unit of brigade or larger, as well as certain special units such as hospitals, schools and internment camps were assigned field post numbers — POCZTA POLOWA — or GLOWNA POCZTA POLOWA if they were assigned to one of the two headquarters (one in Cairo, the other in Naples).

As was the practice, military mail was sent free, and only needed a field post cancellation, however, there was a fee for airmail as well as for registered mail. Troops stationed in any of the British territories could use stamps of that area to frank the mails. Stamps from India, Iraq, Iran, Egypt, and Great Britain can be found cancelled with a Poczta Polowa cancellation. While the 2nd Corps was in the Middle East, these stamps were valid for mail anywhere in the world. Sea and overland mail was free.



In Italy, the Polish 2nd Corps fought under the command of the American 8th Army. Ordinary sea and land mail was free, but a 6 cent airmail stamp was needed for mail to the United States or Mexico. British stamps would not do. Poczta Polowa cancellations are found on Scott C25 and air post stamped envelopes UC3/6, both bordered and unbordered.

Censor markings form an important part of any Polish field post collection. In many instances, they are the only means of identifying the cover, as well as the source and routing of the mailing. There is one basic censor mark, a circular rubber stamp, 34 mm. in diameter, with the words CENZUROWANO - EXAMINED BY CENSOR. In the center is a number, identifying the location of the censor station. One censor could serve a number of field posts. There are two varieties, a larger diameter censor #109 and a smaller double circled #53.

Numbered double ringed oval markings, 26.5 mm. across signify an individual censor. These numbers in my collection number as low as 524 and as high as 595. A group of these individual censor markings could service one censor post. The

example, numbers 532, 533 and 538 are found in conjunction with censor #52 in my collection. Knowing the location of the censor stations, and to which field post they were assigned, and which units they serviced is still not completely known. As the field posts moved, censor numbers did not necessarily always move with them.

This area of Polish military collecting is in its infancy. Covers, though difficult to find, are available, and those wishing to further pursue this area are encouraged to read Jerzy Kucharski's detailed booklet "Polish Field Post Offices in the Holy Land, 1940-1947", published by the SIP in 1981 and available from the Polish POW Study Group.

A CASE OF PRIVATE MAIL in 1945 POLAND-RUSSIA

By MIECZYSLAW PESZCZYNSKI

I spent two and a half years (1945-47) in Russian military prison camps (Stalinogorsk - Riazan - Griazowiec). Technically, we had been classified as "detained" and camp rules permitted us to send a letter to Poland once a month. None of my letters reached Poland.

Yet, there was an unusual instance of mail successfully delivered just at the beginning of my odyssey.

The Russians arrested me as a member of the Polish underground Army (A.K.) in the fall of 1944. After a few days I was incorporated into the Polish Army under Russian Command (Berling's Army). In December, 1944, I was re-arrested and kept in a military prison camp at Skrobów (near Lublin, Poland).

In mid-April, 1945 we were loaded into cattle wagons and after several hours of maneuvering the train in some railway stockyards, we realized that we were being shipped eastwards — into Russia. My mind was on notifying my family in Marki, six miles east of Warsaw, about my fate.

I wrote a short letter hastily and attached it to a bundle of Polish banknotes. We knew that Polish money would be of no use to us in Russia. The wagon had a latrine hole cut in its floor. Loose paper was common along railway tracks

and could draw attention only if attached to money. And so the bundle went through the latrine hole.

In Russia we were unloaded near Stalinogorsk (some 70 miles south of Moscow) on May 9, 1945.

In the middle of our first night in barracks we were awakened by loud shouting. The lights came on and a drunken Russian officer told us: "The war is finished. Hitler has been killed."

By then my letter, which was thrown out of the cattle wagon earlier on my trip, did reach my family with the help of Polish railroad workers.

—Mieczysław Peszczyński
1920 Breckenridge Dr.
Atlanta, GA 30345

NEW MEMBERS

Frank W. Slowik, Jr.
10 Robinhood Dr.
Fallsington, PA 19054

Marian Mizera
2197 Gascon Ave.
Montreal, Can. H2K 2W3

Michael Kawaler
Rt. 1, Box 357
Hope Valley, RI 02832

Peter W. Baranow
920 O'Brien St.
North Bay, Ont., Can. P1B 5X1

BOOK REVIEW

The Russian Post in the Empire, Turkey, China, and the Post in the Kingdom of Poland, compiled by S. V. Prigara, translated by D.M. Skip-ton. Published by Rossica, Society of Russian Philately, 5118 Duvall Dr., Bethesda, MD 20816. 196 pages, hardbound. \$40 (Rossica members, \$35).

A delight for those who reminisce and dream of the former tsarist empire, this book, with its purple cover and gold stampings, recalls the royal trappings and Byzantine wanderings of that monolith, made up of other monoliths, that once was Russia.

Its nearly 200 pages pack in a lot of information, historical dates and data, and provide collectors with a semblance of a chart with which to begin to navigate the philatelic seas of Imperial Russia. Any one philatelic facet, such as railway or ship post, represents a sea to be navigated, and this book offers a basic overview for use by the collector just testing the water. The deeper waters of specialization will require something else altogether, to point out all the reefs and shoals.

Definitely not a book to while away a leisurely weekend, this volume is like a royal meal, to be digested a course, or section, at a time. Helpful is a little section on transliteration of the old alphabet, which, as with so much else associated with the Imperial past, underwent some revolutionary changes.

All in all, a good, solid foundation work for beginning collectors. The first five chapters deal with the state, city, railway, ship, and field posts. The stamps and entires of the period receive treatment in depth, and cancellations get a dou-

ble dose of textual description and illustration.

Individual sections deal with the posts in Turkey, China, and Poland — all countries that never particularly enjoyed the "Russian Experience," tsarist or otherwise. There is a great deal of strong, useful data for the collector who cares not an iota for past or current politics.

The original Russian version of the handbook emerged forty-one years ago, and this first translation has made no effort to incorporate recent information or correct some of the errors and omissions; as the translator reminds, it is a translation and not an update or re-write. A second bibliography has been added to this edition to help the reader go about filling in the holes and patching up the mistakes. Sixteen pages of black and white illustrations of entires, stamps, postmarks, and cancels supplement all the listings and statistics.

—Thomas J. Gobby

Reprinted from *The American Philatelist*, Oct. 1982 - 953.

POLONUS EMBLEM PINS

Because of the many inquiries received for the Polonus emblem pin, we are including this notice that there is a small amount of the pins still available. A beautiful thing in red, gold and white enamel. Members may purchase them at \$4.50 each - plus 50¢ postage from John Bartzak, 10428 So. Avenue "O", Chicago, IL 60617.



BRING IN A NEW MEMBER!

DOUBLE PRINTS OF THE POLAND 1919 LIQUIDATION COMMITTEE ISSUE

By STANLEY KRONENBERG

The first stamps of the Republic of Poland, which were not over-printed stamps, were issued in February, 1919. Their design is now the Emblem of the Polonus Philatelic Society. Besides the plentifully available printer's waste associated with this set of 11 stamps, some real and rare errors also occur. For example the denominations of 10 and 15 halercy exist in double print. One printing sheet consisting of a sector of 10 x 10 stamps and a sector of 10 x 5 stamps of each of these two values was fed twice through the lithographic press, thus the total was 150 for each of the two denominations. They were not noticed and were sold in a post office, probably in Kraków. Most of them were used on routine correspondence, became destroyed and few such stamps remain.



The figure shows these stamps. On the 10 halercy value, the two imprints are shifted in respect to each other by 0.5 mm to the east and by 0.6 mm to the north; the shifts on the 15 halercy value are 0.3 mm to the west and 1.6 mm to the north.

MEMBER TO MEMBER

Members may place an ad free of charge to buy, sell or exchange material. Please, no commercial ads. The Society assumes no responsibility for exchanges between members. Send your copy to the editor.

WANTED: Information and material pertaining to the Martial Law Period. What do you have? Joseph Michaul, 1425 Laurel St., Iowa City, Iowa 52240.

WANTED: Postal History material & Literature, will buy, sell & exchange. Ryszard Poddubiuk, 31 Trotter, Dollard des Ormeaux, Quebec, Canada H9A 2C8.

WANTED: Anything in Polish Air Mails to 1939, will buy or exchange. Especially interested in LOPPs and ANY literature on the LOPPs. James Mazepa, Box 1217, Oak Park, IL 60304.

WANTED: Material relating to the postal history of Warsaw and the Martial Law Censor Marks. Will buy or exchange. Fred Szebel, 9041 Emerson St., Des Plaines, IL 60016.

WANTED: Any material or literature relating to the Galicia area. John Bartczak, 10428 South Avenue "O", Chicago, IL 60617.

GEMS OF POLISH PHILATELY

During the 1920s and 1930s the local organizations of the National Air Defense League (LOPP) issued stamps in order to gain revenue to further the development of air communication in Poland. In 1929 the Krakow group issued a set of stamps which included a 20 groszy blue stamp (Ruch #29), picturing a gas mask. The quantity issued is unknown, but one block of 10 stamps from a sheet escaped perforation. This uncataloged variety remained in the collection of a French air mail specialist until recently, and now has been broken up. A block of four and single are in the hands of a U.S. collector, a block of four with a collector in Vienna, and a single with a collector in Canada. This variety is unlisted in Ruch, Sanabria and Silombria.

PROMOTING POLISH HISTORY & CULTURE THRU PHILATELY

Fred Szebel, with his knowledge of Polonia, involved in promoting Polish Philately in the U.S., was approached at POLPEX 83/MILITARIA by Dr. W. Wierzewski of PACH, (Polish-American Community Humanities Project), to join them in promoting Polish History and Culture thru Philately. Polonus has now a chance to go out on wider horizons thru lectures, slide film presentations and exhibits in public libraries in



Chicagoland, as well as in various communities throughout the United States. Fred attended a very fruitful meeting at the PRCUA on Wednesday March 30th, in the presence of Mr. W. Plonski of New York, PACH Director, (who received large U.S. Government grants for the project), prominent Chicago Polonia Community members and Miss Danielle Krol, Assistant Commissioner of Chicago Public Libraries. In a few months more information will be available, meanwhile, Polonus members at large (all over the U.S.), interested in taking part in this worthwhile project, should contact Fred Szebel at 312 - 299-2580.

In Memoriam

MATHIAS PRISTIKA
Chicago, IL

POLONUS MAIL SALE

The recent Polpex was a great expense to Polonus. To help defray the costs Joe Bieniecki offered to donate material for a Mail Sale. Tom Gobby volunteered to undertake this venture.

We appeal to members for donations of stamps and covers for this future Polonus Mail Sale. Send it to Thomas Gobby, 5713 W. Warwick, Chicago, IL 60634.

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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

— Annual Dues are \$10.00 —

(Please remit in U.S. Currency)

Stanley Rusin, Treasurer

P.O. Box 56148, Chicago, IL 60656