



BULLETIN OF THE POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Season's Greetings



"Limited Print Mini-Sheet Issued for XXI OWF WARSZAWA 2014"
Available for purchase from the Polonus Store - see Item 9, pg 24

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POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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The Polonus Philatelic 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 authors of articles appearing in the Polonus Bulletin do not necessarily reflect the views of the Polonus Philatelic Society. The Polonus Philatelic Society is Affiliate #119 of the American 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** or **Electronic Bulletin (via website)** are: **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 pro-rated for the time of the year application is submitted, i.e., for period **Jan – Mar 100%** of annual dues; **Apr – Jun 75%**; **Jul – Sep 50%**; and **Oct – Dec 125%** (to cover full payment for following year).

Dues and Changes of Address to be sent to: Polonus Philatelic Society, P.O. Box 60438, Rossford, OH 43460-0438.

Articles for publication to be sent to: Chairman of Publication Committee.

Membership queries to be sent to: Membership Chairman.

General Society matters and complaints to be sent to: President.

Bulletin Advertising:

Member to Member Ads – Members have the opportunity to post ads to fellow members **free of charge**. Limit of 500 characters, defined as a letter, space, number or punctuation mark. Member's name and address is not included in this limitation.

Dealer Ads – Dealers wishing to advertise to members have the following options:

Business Card Ad: \$50.00 annual fee for insertion in four issues.

Send ad copy to: Chairman of Publication Committee and make check payable to: Polonus Philatelic Society

Other Ads: Full page or insert ads for single copy available. Send e-mail with ad copy to: info@polonus.org for pricing.

Message From The President

By: Bob Ogrodnik

As our year comes to a close, I would like to extend to all my Best Wishes for the Holiday Season and for a Happy New Year 2015. In addition, I would like to thank Polonus members who have contributed with time, talent and/or treasure towards another successful year.

Frankly, I did not intend to be writing this "Message" for the December issue because I expected that we would have a new President performing this task. However, the Board has prevailed and I have agreed to a third term as your President. More details concerning the election results can be found in this issue, however, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our newest member of the Board, Dr. Edwin J. Andrews and to congratulate Dan Lubelski for officially being named the Vice President, Administration and Chair of the Membership Committee.

This issue has in-depth coverage of CHICAGOPEX 2014 and for those members who were unable to attend (over 50 attended) you missed a grand time. In just about every category of participation, Polonus proved to be the "Best in Show". Polonus members took the Grand and Reserve Grand awards; Polonus members took away 15 Gold, 6 Vermeil and 2 Silver Show Medals plus 15 of 31 Sponsored Awards; the Polonus Bulletin was awarded a Gold Medal; the Anniversary "BEEBA" Reception was a trip down "memory lane" and the social highlight; our Youth Program brought in 60 youngsters from a Polish Saturday School for a "seed-planting" session with Polish stamps; Polonus members delivered two presentations open to all Show attendees; and we welcomed 7 new members. If you could not attend, be sure to get a copy of the 52-page *Commemorative Catalogue*, which is available from the Polonus Store (see pages 23 and 24).

The "State of the Union" can be found in my President's Report on page 7. Thanks to the generosity of the membership we continue to thrive as a viable philatelic 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. However, we continue to struggle in finding both volunteers for the various functions that need tending. The next three years (new term) will be the "litmus-test" for our Society, i.e., can we find candidates for the next President, the next Board of Directors, the next

Committee Chairs and Members, etc. Something to think about and something to work on..... today.

This issue contains three feature articles, three columns, several New Issues, and the launch of the Bulletin version of the Polonus Store.

The seventh in a series of Annals of Polish Aerophilately titled "International Air Rallies via Poland" by the Kupiec-Węgliński / Kosmala team gives us some insight into the risks taken by the early aviators in their quest to break or establish records for distances and times. These rallies generated some very interesting covers, many with interesting cancellations. Niebrzydowski's feature article on "Poles in DP Camps in Germany – 1945-49" uses Stefania Bardziłowska's covers to identify the location of DP camps and postal history decipherable from the markings on the free postage mail. Earlier this year (4 June) Poland celebrated the 25th anniversary of first democratic election since WWII in which Solidarity (*Solidarność*) won, paving the way for the end of communist rule in the region. As is the practice with Poczta in remembering all significant milestones in history, a 2.35 zł Freedom (*Wolności*) was issued. Pay particular attention when reading "Celebrating Freedom Day 25 Years Later" as you may find a special offer waiting for you.

In the "Columns" category, you will find an interesting Gems of Polish Philately article on a Second Lublin "bisect". The Library Liaison (Robin Elliott) describes the library's holdings and how they may be found if you visited the library. I believe this library resource is underused and underappreciated. Hence, we will be encouraging virtual tours and virtual use of the library's Polish content in the new year. To round out our columns, Hank Bieniecki reminds us of a unique expertizing service offered by Polonus. Ours is the "only game in town" for expertizing Polish Philatelic Material.

Finally, I want to bring attention to the Polonus Store. Check out pages 23 and 24. Several items offered are souvenirs from CHICAGOPEX 2014 and others are Show Specials extended to members who could not be present for the Show in Itasca. Pay attention to "Item 9" as this is a special Polish mini-sheet (featured on Cover) that will increase in value with time and is offered on a first come – first serve basis. We hope you enjoy this issue. As usual, I will be grateful for your comments.

CHICAGOPEX 2014 Highlights

By: Bob Ogrodnik

More than 50 members were on hand to celebrate Polonus' Diamond Jubilee at CHICAGOPEX 2014, held at the Westin Chicago Northwest in Itasca, Illinois on 21-23 November 2014. Without a doubt, this was the finest show for Polonus and one in which Polonus had a major favorable impact as a "Convening Society". So much so that the show organizers (Chicago Philatelic Society) asked if Polonus would return to CHICAGOPEX 2019 for its 80th anniversary, to which we responded "yes".

The events of the week began with a dinner hosted by the Collectors Club of Chicago (CCC) in honor of Polonus' 75th anniversary on Thursday, 20 November. A total of 28 members and their guests attended and thoroughly enjoyed the historic home of the CCC, as well as the elegant meal.

Chuck Cwiakala, President of the CCC and Polonus member, served as MC and Jim Mazepa delivered a colorful history of Polonus.



Jim Mazepa addressing Members and Guests at the Chicago Collectors Club

Friday, 21 November began with a "ribbon-cutting" ceremony to officially open CHICAGOPEX 2014. A Proclamation from the Mayor of Chicago, Rahm Emanuel, proclaiming November 21-23, 2014 to be POLONUS DAYS IN CHICAGO, was read before an anxious crowd waiting for the doors to open. A copy of the entire Proclamation, in addition to several other congratulatory letters can be found in the *Commemorative Catalogue*. A copy of this special souvenir publication can be purchased – see instructions found on page 24.

One of the ways we promote Polish philately is by exhibiting and judging from the quantity and quality of exhibits at CHICAGOPEX 2014, Polonus' presence was felt.

- Polonus Exhibitors represented 110 frames or approximately 38% of the total number of frames exhibited at the show. This was the largest showing of Polish philatelic material on the continent, in recent times.
- Polonus members earned the top two awards: the Grand and Grand Reserve.
- Polonus members were awarded a total of 15 Gold Medals, 6 Vermeil Medals, and 2 Silver Medals.

In addition to the above, several sponsored awards were given to Polonus members, including the Polonus medals and awards. More details can be found on pages 8 & 9.



Al Kugel and Bob Ogrodnik officially opening CHICAGOPEX 2014

Polonus participated in the Literature Exhibition and was awarded a Gold Medal based upon a submittal of an annual set of Bulletins (#'s 552-555). This is only the second time (in my tenure) that we entered the competition, last year at NAEPEX 2013 when we received a Silver Medal and this time when we "struck Gold". Congratulations to the members of the Publication Committee, the Publisher, the Printer, and the contributors/authors of articles that constitute the journalistic substance for the Bulletin.

Another way in which we promote Polish philately is by making presentations at events such as Stamp Shows. Polonus members Robin Elliott and Jim Mazepa are to be commended for their presentations at CHICAGOPEX 2014. Robin presented "The

Polish Connection to *The Monuments Men*" and Jim presented "*Collecting Poland*". Both were Power-Point presentations and were well attended.

Election results for the Board of Directors and the ensuing election of Officers were priorities at the Annual Meetings. The eight candidates presented by the Nominating Committee and covered by the article, "Board Election Update" in the previous Bulletin issue, were unanimously elected. We welcome Dr. Edwin J. Andrews, who is new to the Polonus Board, and congratulate the incumbents who were re-elected for a three-year term ending 2018. In the ensuing election, the Board elected me as President for another term, Dan Lubelski for VP Administration, Roman Sobus for Secretary, and Bill Williges for Treasurer. In addition, a proposed amendment to the By-Laws was made, adding an Executive VP position among the Officers in order to prepare someone for the Presidency. This proposal is being worked on and will be enacted in the very near future. More on the elections can be found on page 10.



Deputy Consul General Robert Rusiecki and Bob Ogrodnik at the Society Table

The Anniversary "BEEBA" Reception, held on Friday, 21 November, was the social highlight of the show. Three "story boards" capturing the history of Polonus with photos and POLPEX memorabilia became the focus of attention as members and their guests arrived. These creations were the graphic art works of Chicago member, Adam Gigiel, who I wish to acknowledge and thank on behalf of all who attended. The food was traditional "BEEBA" complete with pierogi, gołąbki and kielbasa. Regrettably, some of our most senior members were unable to attend but Chester J. Mikucki Jr., son of the "founder" of Polonus, and Tina McKillip, daughter of Fred Szebel,

did attend and were duly recognized and warmly welcomed by the members. The evening's program included presentation of the Polonus awards, given that the judging had been already completed and the number of Polonus members receiving awards would become a time-issue at the Awards Banquet to be held on the following evening. The details regarding the awards and medals can be found on pages 8 & 9.



Annual Membership Meeting

The Annual Membership Meeting is always a highlight and this one was not an exception as approximately 28 members attended to hear the results of the election, the President's Report, and participate in some Q&A. The President's Report can be found on pages 6 & 7. The resulting critical actions from this report can be summarized as follows:

- Strengthen new member recruitment and turn around the declining trend.
- Populate the website and make it a "must visit daily" resource.
- Recruit an Editor for the Bulletin (volunteer or paid resource)
- Expand the volunteer participation and find a candidate for the Executive VP position.
- Launch the Polonus Store on the website.

One of the highlights at this show was the Youth Program on Saturday 22 November. It was headed by Robin Elliott, who was ably assisted by Mmes. Mazepa, Ogrodnik and Ginsburg. A "first for CHICAGOPEX", we had 60 students (grades 5, 6 and 7) plus 3 teachers show up for the Youth Program on Saturday morning. The students and

(Continued on page 10)



President's Report Polonus Annual Meeting – November 22, 2014 CHICAGOPEX 2014 – Itasca, Illinois

As we celebrate our Diamond Jubilee, we are mindful that this is only the 12th anniversary of our “Annual Meeting & Exhibition” format and, as your President for the past seven years I am pleased to report that Polonus continues to thrive as a viable philatelic 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Thanks to the generous response by our membership to the annual and ad hoc appeals for tax-deductible contributions along with dues payments, our “financial health” is good. However, the “organizational health” continues to be an issue. The good news, however, is that we have elected Directors for the 2014-2017 term, as announced earlier, and together with the elected Officers, are committed to expanding the “inner circle” of the Society. More on this later in my report.

A summary of the 2013 and 2014 year-to-date highlights follow:

- Our financial position declined in 2013 due to expense exceeding income by \$1,345.66 resulting in a year-end cash balance of \$12,519.29. We had one extra-ordinary expense, the purchase of exhibitor award medals for \$2,000 that will serve us for years to come. The Financial Report will be included in the Bulletin.
- Our financial position in 2014 has improved through September. However the impact of expenses from our participation at CHICAGOPEX exceeding income will not be felt until the final two months, which is projected to result in a year-end cash position of \$10,000.00.
- Contributions represented 37% of our income in 2013, with 47% of our membership participating. As a 501(c)(3) organization, contributions are tax-deductible. Acknowledgement letters are sent to donors and recognition is given with a listing of donors in our Bulletin.
- The Polonus Bulletin continues as one of the major benefits of membership and we deliver a quality publication reasonably on-time. Since launching a “digital version” accessible to **“Members Only”** on our website, 31% of the membership have opted for the “digital version” Bulletin. As reported in the June 2013 issue of the Bulletin, Polonus was awarded a Silver Medal in the literature competition at NAPEX 2013. We entered the CHICAGOPEX 2014 literature competition and were awarded a Gold Medal. This exceeded expectations and all who have a hand in the production of the recent Bulletins are to be congratulated.
- Membership as of this date totals 185, of which 44 are located in 9 countries outside the USA. In that same period of time, we experienced an attrition rate exceeding new members for a net loss of 22, the result of an aging demographic. We welcome your feedback and help to offset the attrition with addition of new members.
- During this past year, we introduced a new award, the Polonus Novice Award and I am pleased to announce again that Czesław Majewski was the winner with his exhibit, *“Polish Personalized Stamps”*. We hope this is an encouragement for more of our members to consider exhibiting in the future.
- Our performance as a “featured” or “convening” Philatelic Society at major stamp shows continues to be exemplary and our reputation among show organizers is excellent. This means we can enjoy the privilege of choosing the shows at which we are “featured”. I want to thank our membership for their support at shows, especially by their turn-out at this Show, CHICAGOPEX 2014. We have 26 exhibits with 110 frames of Polish philatelic material, the largest showing outside Poland.

- The Polonus library has been physically transitioned from Florida to the American Philatelic Research Library (APRL) in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania. However, we have very little evidence that our members are taking advantage of this resource. Our Library Liaison, Robin Elliott will continue to explain how this tremendous resource can be accessed, as well as illustrate some of the benefits of its use. In the interim, we encourage members to contact Robin in the event you may need help in navigating the APRL website and accessing the required research material.
- Our Study Group program continues to have mixed reviews. On the positive side, we are seeing a more articles on POW Camps and Aero-Philately. On the negative side, we have lost the Study Group Leader on DP / Intern Camps and Cinderellas & Labels. We are looking for volunteers to take the lead on these, as well as expand into other areas. I am convinced that active Study Groups represent a valuable benefit to our membership and could attract new members.
- Polonus provides the only professional expertizing service for Polish philatelic material in North America, another “value-added” benefit to Polonus members. Zbigniew Korszeń, expert of the Polish Philatelic Union and Polonus member, continues to serve as the primary expert in this program. Hank Bieniecki continues to serve as Chair of the Expertizing Committee and is your “go-to” person for expertizing.
- Plans for the website in the coming year include completing the redesign of the “Menu” on the Front Page for enhanced appearance and for implementing more “drop-downs” in order to combine related items under one header. We also plan to add a “*Polonus Store*” on the website for the sale of various items, such as POLPEX memorabilia, Polonus literature, etc. Other sections such as the Polonus Library will be modified, the Polish-English Philatelic Dictionary updated, and the Expertizing Services added.
- We may have turned to a new chapter in our “organization book” with a new three-year term for Board of Directors and Officers but the reality is still that not much has changed, i.e., where is our succession of leadership for the future and where are the volunteers for the various committees that provide the programs for membership? With the addition of Bill Williges and Ed Andrews, I believe we have strengthened our Board. Dan Lubelski accepting the role a Chief Administrative Officer and Membership Chair is also expected to have a major positive impact on the performance of the Society. However, more volunteers are needed for the Website, the Bulletin, Study Groups, Translation Services, Polonus Store Manager, etc. etc. We will attempt once again to identify and describe various volunteer positions with the intention of finding good fits for candidates willing to offer their time and talent as Polonus volunteers.

Finally, I want to acknowledge and thank the Board of Directors and Committee Chairs for their contribution towards the accomplishments reported and look forward to working with all towards meeting the challenges ahead, continued success and philatelic enjoyment.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert V. Ogrodnik, President
Polonus Philatelic Society

Polonus Exhibitors Exceed Expectations at CHICAGOPEX 2014

By: Bob Ogrodnik

The response from Polonus exhibitors and guests from Poland exceeded our commitment as a Convening Society and represented the largest showing of Polish philatelic material outside Poland: 26 exhibits; 110 frames; 23 exhibitors. These figures have been adjusted slightly from those previously reported due to a last-minute withdrawal. Nevertheless, we represented 46% of the exhibits and 38% of the frames. Now for the Palmares results:

Dr. Jerzy Kupiec-Węgliński received the Show Grand – President's Award and Show Gold Medal, the Polonus Multi-Frame Grand and Polonus Gold Medal, and the American Airmail Society Award for his exhibit, *"Air Mail in the Polish Territories (1914-1939)"*. This award qualifies Dr. Kupiec-Węgliński for the annual "Champion of Champions" competition to be held at the APS StampShow in Grand Rapids, Michigan on 20-23 August 2015.



Dr. Jerzy Kupiec-Węgliński receiving Grand from David Wenzelman, Awards Chairman of CHICAGOPEX

Robert Puchala received the Show Reserve Grand – Felix Ganz Award, the Show Gold Medal, and the Polonus Gold Medal for his exhibit, *"Cracow Issue 1919"*.

Sławomir Chabros received Show Gold Medals for his multi-frame exhibit, *"Correspondence of Polish Legions 1914-1917"*, and his one-frame



David Wenzelman awarding Robert Puchala with Reserve Grand

exhibit, *"Internment Camp's Correspondence of Polish Legionnaires 1917-1918"*. He also received a Polonus Gold Medal, the American Philatelic Congress – Best Polish Exhibit Award, and the Military Postal History Society Award. Sławomir, from Warsaw, Poland, attended the Show and became a new member of Polonus.



Sławomir Chabros receiving set of Congress Books from David Wenzelman for the "Best Polish Exhibit"

Marek Zbierski received Show and Polonus Gold Medals for his exhibit, *"Polish Postal Rates May 1924 – September 1939"*

George Zelwinder received Show and Polonus Gold Medals for his exhibit, *"Groszy' Provisional Issues of Poland 1950-52 and Their Use"*.

Gerard Menge received Show and Polonus Gold Medals for his exhibit, *"General Gouvernement Protectorate Semi-Postal Issues"*.

Alfred F. Kugel received Show and Polonus Gold Medals for his exhibit, *"Polish Forces in Exile During & Following World War II"*.

Ryszard Prange received Show and Polonus Gold Medals for his exhibit, *"Basketball Report – I Love This Game"*. Ryszard was also awarded the American Topical Association Medal.

Inger Kuzych received Show and Polonus Gold Medals for his exhibit, *"The Western Ukrainian National Republic, 1918-1919"*. Inger was also awarded the Ukrainian Philatelic Society – The Golden Trident.

Roman Sobus received Show and Polonus Gold Medals for his exhibit, *"Internal Camp Post at Offizierlager IIC – Woldenberg Between 1942-1945"*.

Wiesław Kostka received Show and Polonus Gold Medals for his exhibit, *"Kingdom of Poland – Study of Rates for Stampless Mail 1815-1871"*. Wiesław was also awarded the American Philatelic Society Pre-1900 Medal of Excellence and the Postal History Society Medal.

Jerzy Bartke received Show Vermeil Medals and a Polonus Gold Medal for his multi-frame exhibit, *"Austrian Galicia and Free City of Cracow – The Pre-Adhesive Period"* and for his one-frame exhibit, *"Use of Bisected Stamps on Polish Territories"*.

Frank Karwoski received a Show Vermeil Medal and a Polonus Gold Medal for his exhibit, *"Poland's 10-Mk, Sower Stamp (1921-3)"*.

Miłosz Rządkosz received a Show Vermeil Medal and a Polonus Gold Medal for his exhibit, *"Military Postal Censorship in 1939 in Poland"*. Miłosz also received the Polonus Novice Award and the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors Award of Honor.

Chester Majewski received Show and Polonus Silver Medals for his exhibit, *"Polish Personalized Stamps"*.

Robert Tatara received Show and Polonus Silver Medals for his exhibit, *"Poland's Millennium on U.S.*

and Polish Covers – 1959 to 1967". Robert also received the Women Exhibitors Sterling Achievement Award and the American First Day Cover Society Award.

Dariusz Grochowski received Show and Polonus Gold Medals for his one-frame exhibit, *"Essays and Proofs of the Post War Lublin Issue"*. Dariusz also received the Polonus Single Frame Grand Award and the Chicago Philatelic Society Novice Award.

Andrew Urushima received Show and Polonus Gold Medals for his exhibit, *"1944 Gross Born POW Olympics"*.

Andrzej Klamut received Show and Polonus Gold Medals for his exhibit, *"Enclave Jasna Góra"*.

Roman Okniński received a Show Vermeil Medal and a Polonus Gold Medal for his exhibit, *"Numerical Cancellation '1' in Warsaw 1858-1875"*.

Marcus Meyerotto received a Show Vermeil Medal and a Polonus Gold Medal for his exhibit, *"Poland Telegraph Receipt Rates 1918- 1924"*.

In addition to the competitive exhibiting, Polonus was honored to have two of its members exhibiting in the Court of Honor.

Dr. James Mazepa exhibited a multi-frame, *"Poland: 1918-1919 First and Second Warsaw Provisional Issues"* and a one-frame, *"The Poland Stamp of the U.S. Overrun Countries Series: 1943"*.

Jacek Kosmala exhibited a one-frame, *"Aerial Formations of the General Haller 'Blue' Army and the French Military Mission in Poland 1917-1923"*.

Overall, these results speak for themselves....Show Medals – 15 Gold; 6 Vermeil; 2 Silver.....Polonus Medals – 21 Gold; 2 Silver Sponsored Awards – 15 of the 31 offered. Congratulations to all exhibitors for exceeding our expectations at CHICAGOPEX 2014.

Board Election Results

By: Bob Ogrodnik

With a return of 109 completed ballots, the slate of eight (8) candidates for the Polonus Board of Directors presented by the Nominating Committee were unanimously elected to serve a three-year term (2014-2017). The elected Directors are: James Mazepa, Ph.D., Hank Bieniecki, Dan Lubelski, Roman Sobus, Paul Phillips, Ph.D., Robert Nowicki, Esq., William Williges and Edwin J. Andrews, VMD, Ph.D. Biographical sketches for the elected Directors can be found in Bulletin #556, pages 5 and 24.

The first order of business at the Board Meeting on 22 November was the election of Officers by the incoming Board of Directors. The results were:

- Chairman of the Board – James Mazepa, Ph.D.
- President – Bob Ogrodnik
- Vice President, Administration – Dan Lubelski
- Treasurer – William Williges
- Secretary – Roman Sobus

Acceptance of the Presidency for another three-year term was based upon the Board's approval to relieve me of the Editor function, by either a volunteer or paid contractor. A search has been initiated and if any member is interested in this position, please contact me immediately.

Another issue discussed by the Board was the lack of a back-up to the President with the elected Officers. The result was the decision to add an Executive Vice President position and the by-laws will be amended accordingly. Whereas this position will back-up the President, we do not have a candidate for this position. It will be listed as "open" until such time as we have a qualified candidate. Here is another opportunity to serve your Society. If any member is interested in this position, please contact Bob Nowicki or me immediately.

Membership Lapel Pin

Attractive red and black cloisonne lapel pin is now available for purchase. See Polonus Store on page 24, Item 6 for more details.



(Continued from page 5)

teachers were from the St. Blaze Parish, Polish Saturday School system in the Chicago area. The program included a brief presentation using a one-frame exhibit, "Collecting Poland with Topicals". The idea behind topical collecting is the tremendous educational value in understanding the person, place or thing represented by the stamp. Robin then gave a brief course on "How to collect stamps" and let the students roam through thousands of Polish stamps in search of a topical collection all their own. After a couple hours of intense stamps search, a raffle was conducted by Robin and many nice prizes were awarded the lucky ticket holders. Following their time in the Youth Room, the children strolled through the exhibits noting the more popular



Polish Saturday School students in the CHICAGOPEX Youth Room

subjects and then passing by the Society Table for the Polish sweet and a free packet of Polish stamps. I would be remiss not to mention that our Society Table was also a highlight. Many items were offered for sale, including a "Commemorative Shot Glass", ideal for Żubrówka, a new lapel pin, a New Members special, a deep discount for a complete set of Bulletins (1-556), Book Sale, POLPEX souvenir items, and much more. See Polonus store on pages 23 & 24. More than a "market stall" our Society Table was a meeting spot for members and guests throughout the Show. On a final note, I want to thank all who helped make our 75th anniversary celebration a success, either by your generous contribution for the Commemorative Catalogue, or for your attendance at the show, or for your volunteer time at the Society Table or the Society presentations, or just for your willingness to visit for a short time.

Financial Report for 2013

Cash Balance

As of December 31, 2012..... \$ 13,864.95

Income

Membership Dues	\$ 5,638.75
Donations	\$ 3,350.00
Sales.....	\$ 148.50
	\$ 9,137.25

Expense

Bulletin Print & Prep	\$ 3,190.85
Website.....	\$ 1,052.50
Annual Exhibition (NAPEX 2013)	\$ 1,462.98
Membership Awards – Supply of Medals	
	\$ 2,000.00
Membership Related	\$ 202.36
Postage for Mailings	\$ 922.00
Library – Relocation of Materials	\$ 605.95
Software	\$ 302.89
Office Supplies & Services	\$ 77.48
Fees (Bank, P.O., Box, et al)	\$ 169.00
All Other.....	\$ 129.67
	\$10,115.68

Net Income \$ (978.43)

Deferred Income / Expense \$ (367.23)

Cash Balance

As of December 31, 2013..... \$12,519.29

New Members

We welcome the following new members who recently joined our Society:

John Dunn - #1765

History – VSU
1500 N. Patterson Street
Valdosta, GA 31698

Paweł Kawiak - #1766

14 Damson Place
Halifax, West Yorkshire
HX1 3PG United Kingdom

George Kurzatkowski - #1767

15003 Elrond Drive
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Robert Tatara - #1768

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Dundee, IL 60118

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Karmazynowa 34a
02 887 Warsaw, Poland

Mark Schroeder - #1770

905 George Street #200
De Pere, WI 54115

Wayne Kruzek - #1771

P.O. Box 2307
Oak Park, IL 60303

Wiesław Gogacz - #1772

344 Grove Street #201
Wood Dale IL 60191

Edward Cygan - #1773

9176 South Road Apt. B
Palos Hills, IL 60465

William Jusack - #983

235 S. Eastern Avenue
Manhattan, IL 60442

Polonus Members Excel at WARSZAWA 2014

By: Dr. James Mazepa

The Polish Philatelic Federation (PZF) sponsors a national philatelic exhibition once every three to five year period. This year the XXI National Exhibition was held on October 12-19th at the Olympic Center, a beautiful venue on the outskirts of Warsaw. About 110 exhibits were entered with almost all being Polish related. This exhibition was a treat for Polish collectors because every aspect of Polish philately was shown. The Court of Honor had six exhibits including one of the most complete Warsaw Uprising exhibits I have ever seen, and a magnificent Post-1939 exhibit of the Polish Army. The Official Class had rare items from the Postal Museum including a cancelled corner block of four of the inverted Boxer stamp.

The Competition Class had two divisions, the Master Class and Open Class. Of the eight Master Class Exhibits (Exhibits that have received **Gold Medals** in International Exhibitions) four were from Polonus members: Julian Auleytner (*Development of the Polish Post 1918-1920*); Jacek Kosmala (*Polish Air Mail 1914-39*); Frank Wiatr (*Cracow Postal History From the Middle Ages to the Postage Stamp*); and Robert Puchala (*Cracow Issue 1919*). All received the customary Large **Gold Medals**.

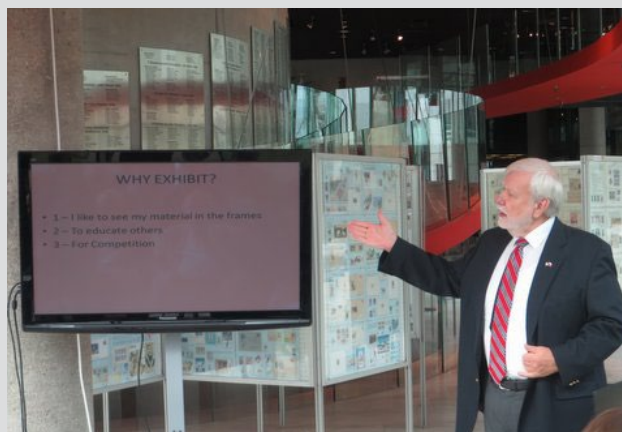
The Open Class was also well represented by Polonus members who did extraordinarily well: Jacek Kosmala (*Postal History of Warsaw*) received a **Large Gold Medal**; Wieslaw Kostka (*Kingdom of Poland-Study of Rates for the Stampless Period*) received a **Large Gold Medal**; Dr. Jerzy Kupiec-Weglinski (*Seige of Przemyśl*) received a **Large Gold Medal**; Jan Niebrzdowski (*One Polish Family WW II Ordeal*) received a **Vermeil Medal**; and Andrew Urushima (*The 1944 Gross Born POW Olympics*) **Honorary Gold Court of Honor**.

Polonus members took the top awards of the Exhibition: Robert Puchala received the **Grand Prix** in the Master Class for his "*Cracow 1919*" and Jacek Kosmala received the **Grand Prix** in the Open Class for his "*Postal History of Warsaw*."



Robert Puchala (on left) congratulating Jacek Kosmala (on right)

Dr. James Mazepa served as Polonus Commissioner to the Exhibition and was invited to participate in the "Symposium of Polish Experts." His presentation of "How to Win a Gold Medal in an International Exhibition" was attended by a standing-room-only crowd.



Jim Mazepa delivering at the "Symposium of Polish Experts"

Our thanks to the Organizing Committee chaired by Dr. Roman Babut and to the President of the PZF, Henryk Monkos, for the invaluable help they provided to Polonus so we could participate in this exhibition. We also congratulate the participating Polonus members for their outstanding achievements at WARSZAWA 2014.

Bisect of the Second Lublin Issue – 1919

By: Dr. James Mazepa

With the departure of the Austrian army and their administrators from Galicja at the end of WWI, the Polish employees of the post office continued to provide postal services. The earliest instruction we have regarding the post office is from November 5, 1918, which stated that existing stamps and postal forms were to be used. On November 7, 1918, a Provisional Government of the Polish People's Republic was formed in Lublin.

Existing stocks of Austrian and Bosnia-Herzegovina stamps were available to be used. On December 5, 1918, three Austrian Field Post stamps were overprinted into Polish stamps and are known as the First Lublin Issue. This issue was short-lived and letters with this issue are very difficult to find. Beginning on December 19, 1918 to January 8, 1919, the Second Lublin issue was made by overprinting existing Austrian Field Post stamps into Polish stamps.

The Austrian and Bosnia-Herzegovina stamps continued to be used due to the shortage of overprinted Polish stamps. Because of the shortage of stamps that conformed with existing rates, one finds letters that are either overfranked or underfranked by some small amounts. This was allowed by the postal authorities. However, the most difficult



Letter from Ożarów to Kraków with a "Second Lublin" bisect

examples occurred when existing stamps were bisected or even quadrased to meet or approximate the existing rates. While more common on Austrian stamps, these fractionals are very difficult to find on Polish stamps.

Shown above is a letter from Ożarów sent on February 11, 1919 to Kraków with a bisected 45/60 haller "Second Lublin" issue stamp. The stamp underpays the 25 haller rate by $2\frac{1}{2}$ hallers. The stamp is canceled by the provisional circular date stamp which has the Austrian "K.u.K. Etappenpostamt" removed. This is the only recorded fractional usage from Ożarów and a rarity of this issue.



Milosz Rzadkosz being congratulated by Jim Mazepa for receiving the Polonus Novice Award



David Wenzelman awarding Dariusz Grochowski the Polonus President's Award for the Best One-Frame

The Pioneer Period of Airmail Services in Poland (1918-1928) Part 7: International Air Rallies via Poland

By: Dr. Jerzy W. Kupiec-Węgliński
and Jacek Kosmala

PARIS – EUROPEAN CAPITALS AIR RALLY

Captain Ludovic Arrachart (1897-1933) was a French officer and pioneer of intercontinental aviation. Notably, he beat two world records, first flying 3,166 km (1,967 mi) from Étampes to Villa Cisneros, Africa in February 1925, and then flying 4,305 km (2,675 mi) from Paris to Basra, Iraq in June 1926. On August 10-12, 1925, Arrachart and engineer Carol successfully completed the all-around European capitals air rally (in a Potez 25 aircraft with a 450hp Lorraine-Dietrich engine). The flight of 7,700 km, which lasted 38 hours and 35 minutes, started in Villacoublay near Paris on August 10 at 4:50 AM. Then, via Belgrade, Constantinople, Bucharest, and Moscow, the aviators reached Warszawa at 3:30 AM on August 12. A few hours later, at 9:25 AM, they left the Polish capital and, via Gdańsk, Poznań, and Copenhagen, they returned to Bourget airport at 9:35 PM the very same day. Thirty-five individually numbered covers were carried on this flight, most of them signed, and with cancellations from the visited capitals. The **Figure 1** shows the front and back of cover #8, displaying the departure cancellation “8.8.25 20.40h” from Chaville-Seine et Oise; the arrival cancellation of “12.8.25 22h” from Bourget-Aviation/Seine; and all transit postmarks, including a Polish Eagle cancellation from the Warszawa Customs Office. In addition, there are cancels from Belgrade, Constantinople, Bucharest, Moscow, and Copenhagen. Records show that cover #27 was lost either in Moscow or Warszawa.

PARIS – WARSZAWA – PEKING FLIGHT

Captain Georges Pelletier-d'Oisy (1892–1953) was a French aviator and World War I ace. In April 1924, his attempt to fly around the world ended with a crash on a golf course in Shanghai. Soon after, in July 1924, he successfully completed the first flight from Paris to Tokyo in 120 hours, in air over 84 days.



Figure 1 - Both sides of one of 35 covers flown by Cpt. Arrachart in the all-around European capitals air rally (August 10-12, 1925). Transit cancellations from Warszawa and other stopovers are shown on the back of the cover.

In 1926, Captain Pelletier-d'Oisy and engineer Carol attempted to fly from Paris to Peking via Warszawa. Unfortunately, the first try in May 1926 was unsuccessful and the aircraft crashed near Warszawa. The cover shown in **Figure 2** is one of only 12 documented from that failed attempt, with „Chaville-Banlieue Ouest 24.5.26 17.40h” departure cancellation; „Warszawa 19 Port Lotniczy 25.V.1925” arrival postmark (1925 was placed in error); and signatures of both aviators. A special private cachet depicts the Lorraine-Dietrich logo, a French automobile and aircraft engine manufacturer, which produced the 12-cylinder engine for the Potez-Lorraine aircraft, nicknamed „Boby I” for that flight.

Annals of Polish Aerophilately (cont.)



Figure 2 - One of 12 covers from the failed attempt of Cpt. Pelletier-D'Oisy to fly from Paris to Peking (May 24, 1926).



Figure 3 - Both sides of one of 10 covers carried by Cpt. Pelletier-D'Oisy during successful Paris to Peking flight (June 11-18, 1926). Warszawa transit cancellation among others is shown on the back of the cover.

A few months later, Cpt. Pelletier-d'Oisy successfully completed the flight from Paris to China. Ten letters and 26 cards were flown. **Figure 3** illustrates both sides of an exceptional cover from that early aerial achievement using a Breguet-Lorraine aircraft, nicknamed „Boby II”. Postmarked “Chaville–Banlieue Ouest / 11.6.26 7.30h” it was flown to Warszawa (11.VI.26 cancellation), and then via Moscow, Kurgan, Krasnojarsk, Irkutsk, Czita, and Moukden. The Peking arrival was confirmed by the June 18 date stamp and special cachet from the French Military Mission. This cover, one of only 10 carried on that flight, has 1.25 Fr. postage affixed, shows all transit postmarks and has “Ateliers D’Aviation/Louis Breguet/11 Juin 1926” cancellation (26 cards have 0.75 Fr. postage and show instead the private date-stamp of Societe Lorraine Dietrich et Cie–Argenteuil-S et O).

PARIS – MOSCOW – PARIS EUROPEAN TOUR

On August 11, 1927, Major Pierre Weiss, the French aviator and commandant of Le Bourget military airfields, accompanied by Sergeant Jean Assolant, started their European tour, covering some 8,000 km in a little over 47 hours of flying time. They reached Moscow on August 15, calling on their way at Kraków, Odessa, Rostow and Kazan. On way back, their Breguet bi-plane fitted with a 450hp Lorraine-Dietrich engine, made intermediate stops at Warszawa and Poznań before returning to the



Figure 4 - This cover was flown by Maj. Weiss on Paris – Moscow – Paris tour (August, 1927). Transit cancellations are shown from Kraków, Warszawa, and Poznań.

Annals of Polish Aerophilately (cont.)

French capital. An unspecified number (few to several) covers were carried on that flight. **Figure 4** illustrates one of these covers, with departure "Bourget Aviation/Seine 9.8.27 4h" postmark, and Polish cancellations from Kraków "1-11.8.27", Warszawa "1-16.8.27", and Poznań "17.8.27", among the others.

ENGLAND – INDIA FLIGHT

On November 15, 1927, Bert Hinkler (1892-1933), the pioneer Australian aviator and inventor (first person to fly solo from England to Australia and across the Southern Atlantic), together with Captain Robert H. McIntosh, an Imperial Airways pilot, attempted a London - India non-stop record flight in a single engine Fokker VII A aircraft, nicknamed "Princess Xenia". After departing from Upavon

Aerodrome, near the ancient Stonehenge monument, they needed to fly over the Soviet territory, which was quite unpredictable, considering estranged British-Soviet diplomatic relations. When bad weather required an increased use of aircraft fuel while enroute over the

Black Sea, the pilots realized they would be unable to continue the flight without a forced stop-over in the Soviet Union. To avoid that, they decided to fly back some 1,800 km to the west and ultimately crash landed in Podhajce, near the Polish-Russian border. With the help of local police, both flyers arrived safely to Lwów. They carried 12 official envelopes of the "Express & Star" Wolverhampton daily, 9 of which were destroyed during the crash. The remaining covers, after receiving Polish postage, were mailed from the British Consulate in Lwów to Madras, India. Needless to say, with the international flair and obvious history behind, one of the three surviving covers, illustrated in **Figure 5**, from the abortive England-to-India flight, represents a true gem of world aerophilately. Originally acquired by

the late Alexander S. Newall, a British aerophilately scholar with Polish roots, this cover is now in the collection of a prominent Indian philatelist, Pradip Jain, whom the authors thank for permission to reproduce it.

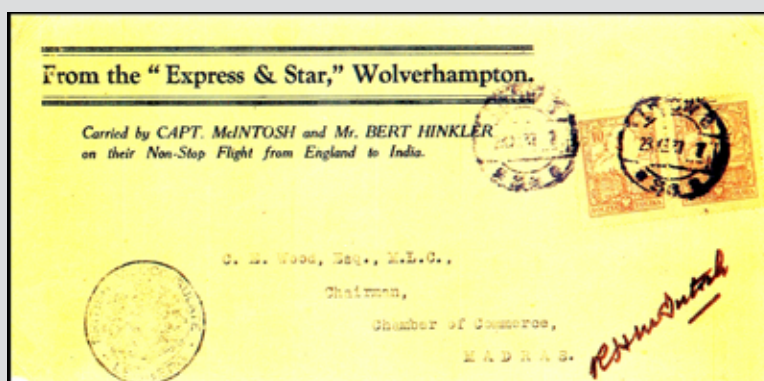


Figure 5 - One of 3 surviving covers from the abortive England-to-India non-stop flight by Hinkler and McIntosh (November, 1927), which crashed near Lwów.

Noe Heitlinger (1926 – 2014)

We were recently informed that Noe Heitlinger passed away on November 23rd at the age of 88. He was a long-time member of Polonus. Noe was born in Cracow, Poland and was a survivor of 10 concentration camps including Buchenwald and Auschwitz. He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Miriam. They came to the United States in 1951 as displaced persons and settled in Bergenfield in 1958. Noe was the Art Director of Gooden Products for more than 35 years.

For Sale

This new book, reviewed in Bulletin #556 (page 23), is available for immediate shipment from



Jan Niebrzydowski for the price of \$110 (includes shipping & handling).

Send orders to:

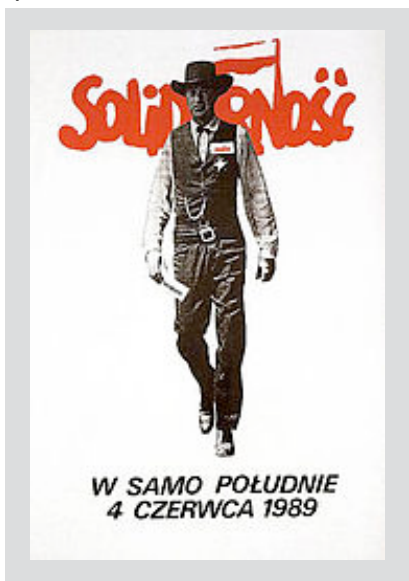
Jan Niebrzydowski
186 Smith Street
New Britain, CT 06053
Tel: (860) 225-7972

Celebrating Freedom Day 25 Years Later

By Bob Ogrodnik

On 4 June 1989 Solidarity (*Solidarność*) overwhelmingly won the first democratic election since the end of WWII in Poland, paving the way for the gradual end of communist rule in the region. On this day, Poles elected a new Sejm, known as the “Contract Sejm”, as the communist authorities only agreed for 35% of its members to be elected in fully free elections. The majority, representing the communists, had a guaranteed place (“a contract”) on the parliamentary benches. In spite of this arrangement the democratic opposition proved that it had overwhelming public support.

One of the most famous and powerful images of the Solidarity election campaign was the combination of the iconic American figure Gary Cooper, from the western movie “High Noon”, with Solidarity text and images. (shown below) Note that the image has Cooper wearing a Solidarity badge on his chest and carrying Solidarity ballot in his hand. The attraction of this figure lies in its ability to combine an American image, given all that “American” meant to Poland, historically and culturally, with the powerful Solidarity material. This poster hammered home the message that June 4 elections offered a stark choice between two opponents and would have momentous consequences for Poland.



Solidarity won all the “free” seats in the Sejm (33%) and 99 out of 100 in the newly created Senate. Hence, this day has been etched in the history of Poland as “Freedom Day” – the day Poles overthrew communism without bloodshed and transitioned

from the People's Republic of Poland to the Third Republic of Poland. Lech Wałęsa, a Solidarity

candidate, eventually won the presidency in 1990, becoming the first president of the Third Republic of Poland. The Solidarity movement heralded the collapse of communist regimes and parties across Europe.

This year is the 25th anniversary of this historic event and it is being celebrated by Poles worldwide. The past 25 years also represents the longest period of time that Poland has been free and independent since 1795.



On 28 May 2014, the Polish Post issued a 2.35 zł stamp commemorating the historic event (see below). Please note, the



Polish word “*Wolność*” is “Freedom” in English.

It is noteworthy to mention that after 10 years of democratic consolidation, Poland joined NATO in 1999, making this year the 15th anniversary as a member of NATO. In 2004 Poland joined the European Union (EU), making this

year the 10th anniversary as a Member of the EU. Poland has made remarkable progress on all fronts since regaining its independence and freedom. Democratic values are held high and the privilege of free elections has been demonstrated in the selection of four Presidents over the past 25 years. The future remains bright for Poland.

Footnote: Poczta Polska has issued a souvenir folio that includes the story behind the 4th of June 1989, in Polish and in English. It also includes the Freedom Day stamp and a First Day Cover. This folio will be shipped free of charge to the first member from the digital version group and to the first member from the printed version group to notify me that they have read this article, wish to receive the souvenir folio, and give the password “*Wolności*”. Contact can be made by phone (314-821-6130), fax (314-965-3728), or by e-mail (krpsl@earthlink.net).

Poles in DP Camps in Germany - 1945-49

By: Jan Niebrzydowski

At the end of World War II there were some 2.5 million Poles stranded in Germany. This number included forced laborers, prisoners of concentration camps, PoWs from the Warsaw Uprising, and former inmates of oflags and stalags. These “displaced persons” were housed in temporary camps. As a result of the Communist takeover in Poland, most of them were unwilling or unable to go back home.

The civilian camps received support from international aid organizations, such as the Red Cross or UNRA (United Nations Relief Agency). Significant resources were also provided by Polish organizations and private individuals in the US such as Mrs. Stefania Bardziłowska from Boston.

The oflags and stalags came under allied command. Over the next four years some of the Displaced Persons went back to Poland or ended up in various host countries around the world. The Polish Repatriation Mission in Germany was set up to help those who wanted to return to their home country.

Both civilian and military mail was sent free of charge. German post offices only accepted unfranked letters from Polish DPs if they bore the official cachet, either in Polish or in English, of the camp authorities. Every now and then a letter was additionally cancelled and dated by the local German post or censored by the British.

Quite a few letters addressed to Mrs. Bardziłowska have survived and many colleagues from Polonus have such letters in their collections. I have frequently referenced Mrs. Bardziłowska's correspondence in my earlier articles and would like once again to show six more covers as recognition of her generosity.

The first cover (**Figure 1**) is undated and sent from the Polish Study Centre in Hamburg, addressed to Mrs. Bardziłowska, and cancelled with a framed rectangular cachet DISPLACED PERSONS MAIL PAID making it free of charge. It was censored by the British, opened and resealed with a tape having the notation OPENED BY EXAMINER 9433, as well as the round cachet BRITISH CENSORSHIP GERMANY 2399.



Figure 1

The second cover (**Figure 2**) was sent by the rank-and-file formation of Polish ex-soldiers in Hamburg, cancelled with a round cachet having two lines in the middle, stating POLSKA POCZTA HAMBURG, and dated the 6th of February 1946.



Figure 2

Figure 3 is a cover sent from the Polish Military Center 121 in Fallingbostel near Hannover (Lower Saxony) cancelled with cachets URZĄD POCZTOWY OŚRODKA POLSKIEGO FALLINGBOSTEL and DISPLACED PERSONS MAIL PAID, dated 8 January 1946.

Poles in DP Camps in Germany - 1945-49 (cont.)



Figure 3

Figure 4 is a cover sent from the Polish Assembly Centre 1219 in Flensburg cancelled with four cachets: DISPLACE PERSONS MAIL PAID, URZĄD POCZTOWY LUBEKA, URZĄD POCZTOWY FLENSBURG (at the back), as well as a bilingual Polish-English framed cachet ODDZIAŁ POLSKIEJ MISJI REPATRIACYJNEJ LUBEKA.

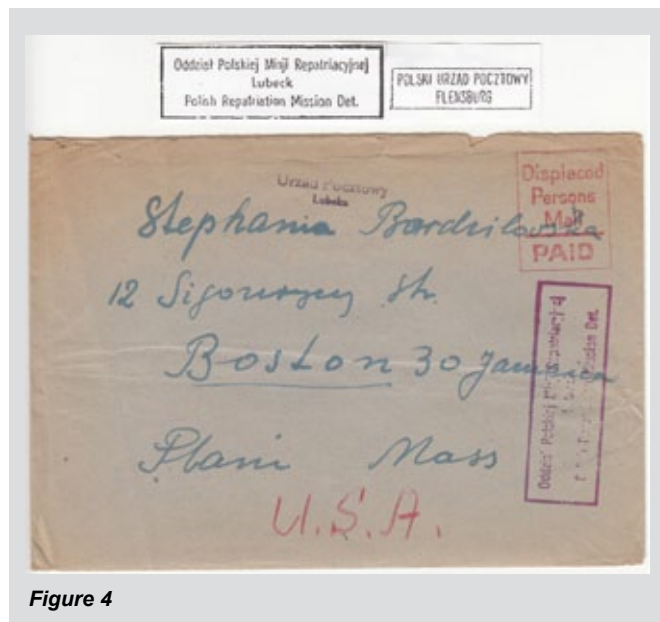


Figure 4

The fifth cover (**Figure 5**) was sent from the 1st Polish Army Assembly in Lubeck-Wakendorf in the British occupation zone, dated 14 June 1946, and cancelled with four cachets: a faint DISPLACED PERSONS MAIL PAID; two liner MAIL OF RECOVERED ALLIED MILITARY PERSONS; OFLAG XC

BAOR (British Army on the Rhine); and a British Censor's round cachet MILITARY CENSORSHIP CIVIL MAILS 15350. The sender was incarcerated in this camp during the war.



Figure 5

Figure 6 is a cover sent from Polish Army Company in Achterwehr-Kiel cancelled with a two-liner cachet DISPLACED PERSONS MAIL PAID posted via German civil mail service and dated ACHTERWEHR HOLSTEIN 22 July 1949.

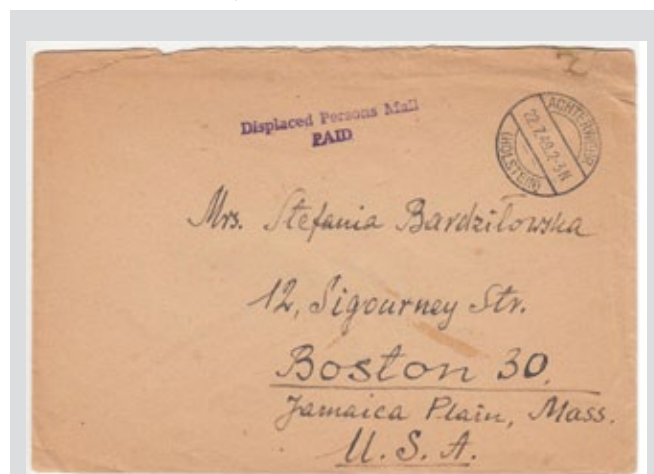


Figure 6

Bibliography:

[1] Barański, S. and Falkowski, J., *Korespondencja Obozowa w Okresie II Wojny Światowej*, Warszawa, 1993.

From the Library Liaison

By: Robin Gates Elliott

In my first column as the Polonus Library Liaison (Bulletin #553), I explained how to access the holdings of the American Philatelic Research Library (APRL) without visiting the library by using the on-line Philatelic Union Catalogue. In this column I am going to describe the library's holdings—what a visitor to the library would find—and how they relate to Polish philately.

In the library world, the APRL is called a “special library.” A special library is one that is devoted exclusively to the literature generated by a specific field (in this case, philately) and additional literature relevant to it. Therefore, a special library is not going to look like a local public library. It is not supposed to, because it serves a different function.

The majority of philatelic literature is published in philatelic journals, rather than monographs; so journals constitute a significant part of the library's holdings. The APRL receives journals issued by philatelic societies from all over the world (including Poland). Journals are shelved in alphabetical order according to title; for example, the Bulletin of the Polonus Philatelic Society is shelved under “B” for Bulletin rather than “P” for Polonus Philatelic Society.

Journals can be shelved in any one of five different locations (most of which are in the back section of the library), depending on format. There is a special section for recent issues of English-language journals (including the Polonus Bulletin). The rest of the journals are located in two different sections, depending on whether they are loose issues or bound volumes; so someone searching for a specific title needs to check both sections. Philatelic publications in newspaper format are shelved in a separate section for newspapers. If the library has just a few issues of a journal, too few to be shelved, they are kept on file and are available on request.

Obviously, articles on Polish philately are not limited to journals devoted exclusively to Polish philately (at last count, the Philatelic Union Catalogue lists 15 such publications in the APRL). Articles can appear in other journals as well, such as the *American*

Philatelist and publications of the various affiliates of the American Philatelic Society, such as COROS (Collectors of Religion on Stamps).

Indexes to philatelic journals vary. Some journals publish their own cumulative indexes, covering several years; Polonus issued such an index for its Bulletin in 1980. Others include annual indexes, while still others supply only a table of contents. In addition, there are indexes devoted to philatelic literature in general. One such is the Piper File in the APRL, an old-fashioned card-file index of articles from numerous English-language philatelic journals, through 1969. The file is organized in alphabetical order by country, and entries for each country are listed in numerical order by Scott numbers. Additional indexes to philatelic literature are listed on the APRL Website <http://stamps.org/About-the-Library>. The left-hand side of the Home Page has a column entitled “Services.” Indexes are listed under the entry “Library Collections” in that column.

The library's holdings do include monographs. Books about specific countries or regions are shelved according to the Library of Congress classification for geography: by continent, subdivided by country. The section for Poland, which includes Polish stamp catalogues, takes up about five shelves and contains, at last count, 185 titles.

In addition, the APRL has extensive runs of the major international stamp catalogues published in the United States (Scott and Minkus), Great Britain (Gibbons), France (Yvert & Tellier), Germany (Michel), and Switzerland (Zumstein). There is also a substantial collection of auction catalogues and a supply of foreign-language dictionaries (including Polish). Additional information about the library's holdings can be found on the library's Website, under the listing “Library Collections” on the Home Page.

I hope that this information about the APRL's materials on Polish philately will encourage you to try consulting them for your next research project. In my next column, I will build on the information from earlier columns and provide instructions on accessing the APRL holdings by using the Philatelic Union Catalogue. In the meantime, you can contact the

From the Library Liaison (cont.)

APRL directly with questions:

- 1) Go to the APRL website using the address given above. This will take you to the Homepage.
- 2) On the Homepage, consult the list of Services on the left-hand side of the page. Under the sub-heading "Library", click on the entry "Library Services".
- 3) On the "Library Services" page, go to the bottom

of the page and follow the instructions marked by the telephone icon to contact the library either by phone or online.

Alternatively, you can contact me if you have any questions or need further assistance in navigating the APRL website and/or the Philatelic Union Catalogue. I can be reached at rmgrge@gmail.com.

Fond Memories of CHICAGOPEX 2014



Bob Ogrodnik presenting Jacek Kosmala with Medal for his contribution towards the success of Polonus' participation in CHICAGOPEX 2014



Polonus members traveling great distances: l-r Miłosz Rządkosz (Canada), Sławomir Chabros (Poland), Jacek Kosmala (Poland) and Adrian Wortman (New Zealand)



Tom Malicki (Canada) and Ed Zamejc (Colorado) enjoying a walk down "memory lane" via Polonus story boards



Bob Ogrodnik presenting a Gold Medal to George Zelwinder (r) as Stephen Reinhard, President of APS looks on (l)

Polonus Offers Unique Expertizing Service

By: Hank Bieniecki

The Polonus Philatelic Society is the only organization in North America that offers expertizing (authentication) of Polish philatelic material by a Certified Expert of the Polish Philatelic Union (*Polski Związek Filatelistów*). Polish philatelic material submitted to any other expertizing service is usually returned without an opinion.

Poland had a tumultuous history after World War I which resulted in the production of a large variety of stamps being overprinted for temporary usage (Provisional issues), including the following well known issues: (1) First Warsaw issues (2) Germania issues (3) Lublin issues (4) Cracow (Kraków) issues (5) Poznań issues and the (6) Gniezno issues. All of these issues were subsequently forged during the time that they were postally valid, as well as after they were withdrawn from postal use and replaced by the first regular issues of Poland. While many of the greatest rarities of Polish philately arise from the production of the above referenced issues, there are numerous other forged or repaired issues of Poland frequently being offered to collectors on the basis of "Caveat Emptor" (let the buyer beware). Today it is estimated that 90% of the Krakow issues (Scott 41-60 & J1-J10) that are being offered for sale, either without the signature of recognized experts and/or Certificates of Authenticity, are in fact forgeries. Such forgeries abound on eBay and are frequently found in the stocks of dealers who do not specialize in Poland. This applies not only to stamps, but also to covers franked with these stamps.

2015 Dues Notices Mailed in December

Dues notices have been mailed out in December giving members the option of making a tax-deductible contribution for the current year (2014). We also remind you of "Matching Gift" opportunities from employers who may encourage contributions to 501 (c)(3) non-profit organizations. We ask for your cooperation in remitting your 2015 dues in a timely fashion, thereby eliminating the need for costly follow-ups. Thanks.



Example of the Expertizing Mark of Z. Korszen, PZF and it's Plate Position on the reverse of the Krakow 25h (Scott 58) illustrated above

Expertizing (authentication) of the stamps noted above, as well as many of the Local issues and modern errors, is a time consuming process requiring both years of training and extensive collections of reference material.

For more information on the expertizing facilities provided by the Polonus Philatelic Society and to obtain the necessary forms required for the submission of Polish philatelic material, as well as the costs associated with these services, contact Hank Bieniecki via [email at info@biistamp.com](mailto:info@biistamp.com) or write to Polonus X Services, P.O. Box 760, Maryville, IL. 62062. **Polonus members receive discounted fees for these services.**

Commemorative Catalogue

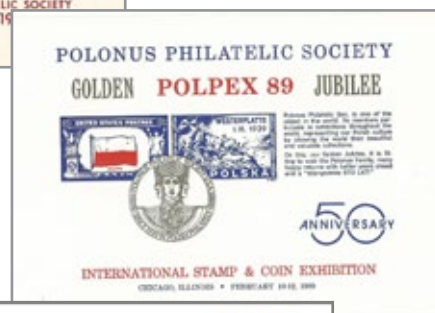


A great souvenir from CHICAGOPEX 2014 and Polonus' Diamond Jubilee celebration is available. See Polonus Store on Page 24, Item 1 for details.

Polonus Store

The Polonus Store will be featured on the Polonus Website shortly and provide visitors an opportunity to shop and purchase collectible items, many of which had been created in limited quantity. This page is a “menu” of this coming attraction.

- 1) **POLPEX Souvenir Sheets** – A set of two specially designed souvenir sheets had been designed and issued during the annual POLPEX exhibition. This practice began in 1940 and continued to 2002.
- 2) **POLPEX Show Cards** – Mint and cancelled show cards were issued beginning in 1976 and continued to 1993. These cards are similar to the B.E.P. cards.
- 3) **POLPEX Cacheted Covers** – Covers with cachet and special show cancellation, representing the theme selected for the particular POLPEX exhibition.
- 4) **Official Polonus U.S. First Day Covers** – Ignacy J. Paderewski - 4¢ and 8¢ Champion of Liberty issues; Poland's Millennium of Christianity - 5¢ issue.
- 5) **Polonus Monographs** – *Poland No.1* by V. Rachmanoff; *The Occupation of Russia by the Polish I Corps* by Dr. James Mazepa.
- 6) **Polonus Bulletins** – Complete set (557 issues through 2014); yearly sets; or individual issues.
- 7) **Polonus Bulletin Index** – Compiled by M.J. Dudek from 1940 to 1983, a tremendous help in finding any subject or article in the Bulletins.
- 8) **Polonus Lapel Pin** – Attractive cloisonné pin ($\frac{3}{4}$ in.) displaying the Polonus logo.
- 9) **POLPEX Program Catalogs** – Publications for POLPEX exhibitions usually describing the exhibits and schedule of events.
- 10) **Cacheted Covers** – Envelopes without stamps or cancellations, suitable for use in regular mail or in preparing special franking and cancellations.
- 11) **75th Anniversary Covers** – Available for purchase at this show @ \$ 5.00 per cover or three for \$ 12.00.



Polonus Store (cont.)

In addition to eventually having the Polonus Store on our website, we will feature select Items in our Bulletin. So consider this as the launch of the Polonus Store in the Bulletin. Most items listed below were featured at the recent CHICAGOPEX as “**Show Specials**”.

Item 1 –

Commemorative Catalogue.....\$2.00

A 52-page souvenir of the 75th Anniversary celebration at CHICAGOPEX 2014 in Itasca, Illinois. This publication contains Proclamations, Congratulatory Letters, Listing of Polish Exhibits and Exhibitors, History of Polonus, Timely Articles, etc. Pictured on page 22.

Item 2 –

Show Covers..... \$5.00 ea. / set of 3 for \$12.00

Cachet covers featuring Anniversary logo, Westerplatte, and Jan Karski with special personalized stamp issue and special show cancellation for each day of the show. Pictured on page 23.

Item 3 –

Cachet Envelopes..... \$1.00 ea. / 6 for \$5.00

Your choice of the three cachets available. Similar to envelopes used for Show Covers pictured on page 23.

Item 4 –

Personalized U.S. Postage (\$0.49).....\$1.00 ea.

Limited printing in two styles featuring the Polonus Anniversary Logo. Available as single stamps or in strips of five stamps. Pictured below.

Item 5 –

Complete Set of Bulletins (#1-556)\$300.00

This represents a 40% discount to the normal price of \$500. This price does not include shipping which will be passed on at the actual cost.

Item 6 –

Polonus Lapel Pin\$5.00

Attractive red, white and black custom cloisonné lapel pin 3/4 in. size with 8mm post and butterfly clutch. Pictured on page 10.

Item 7 –

Polonus Anniversary Shot Glass.....\$10.00

Perfect for toasting with Żubrówka. Supply limited and available on “first come – first serve” basis.

Item 8 –

Polonus Bulletin Index.....\$10.00

Compiled by M.J. Dudek from 1940 to 1983. An effective resource when searching for articles in past Bulletins.

Item 9 –

Limited print mini-sheet.....\$30.00

Poczta issued eight mini-sheets, each featuring a tropical fish and PZF for the XXI OWF Warazawa 2014. This offer is for the ninth mini-sheet printed in limited quantity (15,000) and featuring one each of the eight tropical fish featured on the eight mini-sheets. This item will be listed in Fischer at 100zł. We have an extremely limited supply (20 mini-sheets) and they will be sold on a “first come - first serve” basis. Pictured on the Cover.

With the exception of Item 5, listed prices include shipment to US destinations. Additional cost for shipment outside US destinations will be at incurred cost. Payments are to be made to: Polonus Philatelic Society via personal check or PayPal (info@polonus.org).

Orders are to be sent to: Bob Ogrodnik, P.O. Box 240428, Ballwin, MO 63024-0428 or via e-mail to: krpsl@earthlink.net

75th Anniversary Commemorative Stamps

A limited supply of personalized US postage stamps (two types) are available for purchase. See Item 4 above for details.





Date of Issue	June 27, 2014
Sheet Format	4 Stamps
Printing Method	Photogravure
Designer	Agata Tobolczyk

Outstanding Polish Coaches

These four 2.35 zł stamps recognize the accomplishments of Polish sport coaches Kaz Górski, Hubert Wagner, Feliks Stamm, and Henryk Łasak. Claudius Kazmierz ("Kaz") Górski (1921-2006) was a Polish football trainer who coached the national team. Hubert ("Cat") Wagner (1941-2002) played and later coached volleyball. He played for the AZS Poznań team, and later as a coach was known for being stern and very demanding of his players. Feliks Stamm

(1901-76) was a prominent Polish boxing coach, sometimes regarded as the "father of Polish boxing." Finally, Henryk Łasak (1932-73) was a road cycling trainer. Coincidentally, both Wagner and Łasak died in tragic car crashes.



Date of Issue	July 11, 2014
Sheet Format	12 Stamps
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Agata Tobolczyk

History of Polish Photography

These 4 stamps honor the Polish photographer, Henryk Poddebski (1890-1945), famous for his work documenting the industrial development of the eastern Polish territories, especially Lublin. He worked closely with another photographer Mieczysław Orłowicz. He died in the Nazi Veihingen concentration camp, near Stuttgart. The 4 stamps, denominated at 1.75, 2.35, 3.75, and 4.20 zł, show 4 photographs from his collection of over 20,000 now stored at the Warsaw Uprising Museum.



Date of Issue	July 18, 2014
Sheet Format	9 Stamps
Printing Method	Rotogravure
Designer	Agnieszka Sancewicz

Polish Regional Products

One more stamp in a series recognizing Polish regional products, the 5 zł stamp portrays a luscious red apple; more specifically, the Łąckie apple from the Łącko orchards, which have a long historic tradition dating back to the 12th Century when the fruit was transported to the rest of Europe via the Vistula (*Wisła*) River, Dunajec, and Gdańsk. The apples are characterized by exceptional juiciness and flavor, and now have a special government-protected status ("*Chronione znaczenie Geograficzne*").



Date of Issue	July 31, 2014
Sheet Format	Single in SS
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Marzanna Dąbrowska

Polish Birds

This colorful 5.50 zł stamp (one more in a series) in a numbered souvenir sheet depicts a Żołna Merops Apiaster or "European bee-eater." These birds, from the family Meropidae, have a bright green color, with a black beak, and brown and yellow upper parts. The birds eat insects, especially bees, wasps, and hornets, catching them in flight, and then removing the stingers

by beating the insects on a hard surface before eating them; they can eat about 250 insects per day. The birds nest in groups in the sandy banks near rivers.



Date of Issue	August 1, 2014
Sheet Format	Single in SS
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Agnieszka Sancewicz

70th Anniversary of the Warsaw Uprising

This 5.20 zł stamp in a numbered souvenir sheet commemorates the 70th anniversary of the Warsaw Uprising near the end of WWII in 1944. The Warsaw Uprising was a major operation by the Polish Resistance Home Army ("*Armia Krajowa*") aimed at liberating Warsaw from German occupation. It was timed to coincide with the Soviet Union's Red Army approaching from the east and the retreat of German forces. However, in a calculated move, the Soviets stopped their advance, enabling the Germans to regroup and demolish the city, while defeating the Polish Resistance over a period of 63 days. The Uprising was the largest single military effort taken by any European resistance movement during WWII. An estimated 16,000 Polish Resistance fighters were killed and 6,000 badly wounded. In addition, over 150,000 Polish civilians were killed, mostly from mass executions. The stamp depicts a resistance fighter carrying weaponry, and the official first day cover shows an old photograph of troops marching.

New Issues



Józef Piłsudski

This 8.50 zł stamp in a numbered souvenir sheet honors the great Polish military hero and statesman Józef Piłsudski (1867-1935). The stamp portrays him in uniform and appearing pensive. Piłsudski believed that Poland's independence would need to be won by force of arms – thus during WWI he organized the Polish Legions, fighting in conjunction with the Austro-Hungarian army. He supported “Promethiasm” which aimed at breaking up the Soviet Union; and he favored the “Intermarium” federation, comprising Poland and several of its neighbors. He believed in a multi-cultural Poland to include all its ethnic and religious nationalities, not favoring any one. After WWI and the creation of a newly independent Poland, he served as Chief of State from 1918-22. On the battlefield against the Soviets in 1921, he successfully fought the Battle for Warsaw, routing the Soviet army in the “miracle on the Vistula (*Wisła*).” Because of internal dissention in the government, he later returned to rule Poland in 1926, essentially as a dictator. Although still considered controversial, he is held in high esteem in Poland today. In addition to the souvenir sheet, a numbered black print was issued with the value obliterated; also an official first day cover with a photo scene showing the Polish Legions.

Date of Issue	August 6, 2014
Sheet Format	Single in SS
Printing Method	Rotogravure
Designers	Karol Tabaka & Piotr Krajewski



Madonnas of the Eastern Borderlands

These 2 stamps, valued at 1.75 and 4.20 zł, were issued in 2 separate panes. The 2 historic art pieces shown each portray the Madonna and Child (“*Matka Boża*”): (1) a 1.75 zł stamp showing the Madonna of Drohozyczka, and (2) a 4.20 zł stamp portraying the Madonna of Kochawińska.

Date of Issue	August 14, 2014
Sheet Format	9 Stamps
Printing Method	Photogravure
Designer	Agnieszka Sancewicz



Mushrooms in the Polish Woods

Another in a series of stamps recognizing the many different wild mushrooms of the Polish forests, these 4 stamps, with values of 1.75, 2.35, 3.75, and 4.20 zł, each with adjacent tab, together identify 8 edible and poisonous “look alike” wild mushrooms; the 4 stamps portray edible species (“*jadalne*”) and the 4 adjacent tabs portray very similar but inedible species (“*trujące*”). Two official first day covers were issued for these stamps and tabs, with distinctive cancellations and colorful cachets.

Date of Issue	August 29, 2014
Sheet Format	4 Stamps with Tabs
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Marzanna Dąbrowska

New Issues



Date of Issue	August 30, 2014
Sheet Format	6 Stamps with Tabs
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Karol Tabaka

Men's Volleyball Championship 2014 in Poland

These 6 different colorful stamps show men in action playing volleyball, presumably at the 2014 FIVB Men's World Volleyball Championship held at various cities in Poland from August 30 to September 21, 2014. A total of 24 different national teams participated. The 2 stamps denominated 1.75 zł have adjacent tabs for Bydgoszcz and Gdańsk, while the 2.35, 5, 5.10, and 5.50 zł stamps have adjacent tabs for Katowice, Kraków, Łódź, and Wrocław, respectively. The cities on the tabs provided venues for the games. Three official first day covers were issued together with the stamps.



Date of Issue	August 30, 2014
Sheet Format	6 Stamps with Tabs
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Karol Tabaka

Smiling Cures

This 1.75 zł stamp, colored olive and red, depicts a doctor's stethoscope shaped as a smile, indicating that the act of smiling (or a "happy face") is beneficial to one's health, possessing significant healing power ("Uśmiech leczy").

More Fond Memories of CHICAGOPEX 2014



Members in conference at the Polonus Society Table



Dr. Kupiec-Węgliński and Kosmala offer a toast while at the home of the Collectors Club of Chicago