



Meets every 4th Friday at the Polish Youth Association Building,
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A POLONUS TRIBUTE TO JOHN PAUL II

An impressive sixty frame exhibition of postage stamps, souvenir sheets, commemorative postmarks, postal stationery and meter slogans issued by 117 countries honoring Pope John Paul II, from the collection of Arkadiusz Walinski, was shown October 16th and 17th at the Polish Scouting Center, 6434 W. Belmont Avenue in Chicago. In the collection were many unique items, hand made covers. Those who did not attend missed a real treat.

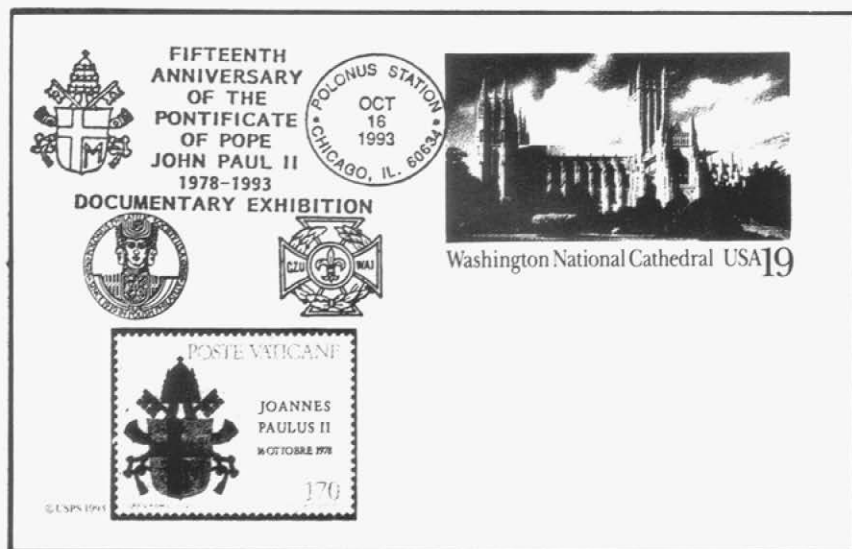
Highlight of the event was the appearance of our popular Chicago Bishop, Most Rev. Thad. J. Jakubowski, who officially opened the exhibition on Saturday. In gratitude, President Roman Strzelecki presented him with the Polonus 50th Anniversary medal.



ribbon cutting ceremony (left to right): Stanley Radlowski; Louis Koncza, PANA President; Roman Strzelecki, Polonus Rresident; Most Rev. Thad J. Jakubowski; Arkadiusz Walinski, Exhibition Co-ordinator; Ted Sokolowski and Fred Szebel.

The Polish American Numismatic Association participated with a numismatic showing of coins and medals issued by the Vatican during the Papacy of the Pope from the collection of Ted Maczynski.

The new Polish Scouting Center was an excellent setting for our Mini-Polpex. The venture was a combined effort of Polonus, PANA and the Polish Scouts. Polonus began the Mini-Polpex last year in conjunction with October as the Polish American Heritage Month. This year's effort was our small contribution to honor Pope John Paul II on the fifteenth anniversary of his pontificate.



Polonus issued a special postcard and cancellation for the event. Members wishing to receive this souvenir may get one by sending \$1.25 to Polonus, 7006 West 29th Street, Berwyn, IL 60402.



Honorary Member, Dr. Edward C. Rozanski, administers oath to Polonus officers for 1993-94. (Left to right:) Dr. Rozanski; Stanley Dobrzycki, Director; Stefan Czarniecki, Treasurer; Fred Szebel, Director; Arkadiusz Walinski, Director; Roman Strzelecki, President and Ted Sokolowski, Vice President. Not present: Chester Schafer, Secretary.

STAMP MARKET TIPS

By JOHN G. ROSS

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Poland is having a tremendous bout with inflation. When I visited Poland in May for the Polska 93 international stamp show in Poznan, the rate of exchange was 16,000 złotych for one U.S. dollar. Now I understand the rate is up to 17,500 zł. per \$1. One can easily be a złoty millionaire, but prices of almost anything are not cheap in Poland.



While there were very few dealer stands at the exhibition, there was a constant flow of full-time and part-time dealers at a nearby bourse.

Unfortunately, very few better stamps of Poland were for sale. I believe that more early issues of Poland are for sale in Chicago than in all of Poland.

Near the end of World War II, before the Soviets took political control of Poland in the late 1940's Poland issued a set of three stamps honoring its freedom fighters, Scott 341-43. Its issue date is September 7, 1944, during the period Soviet forces were attacking Nazi-occupied Eastern Europe. The 50-grosz shows a portrait of Gen. Kosciuszko, who immigrated to America and fought in the war of Independence against the British. He was honored by the United States with a 5¢ stamp issued in October, 1933 to commemorate the 150 anniversary of his being granted U.S. citizenship.

The famous Poles set had a printing of only 54,300. Times were uncertain in the late 1940's and people could not afford stamps for a collection. I believe at least half of the issue was destroyed.

Today this set has become scarce and difficult to find. The 1944 Scott catalog prices the unused, hinged set at \$122.50, unchanged for the 1993 retail value. I believe this set is scarce and worth looking for. Retail prices in the United States for this set are around \$100.00.

The Scott catalog notes that counterfeits exist. The ones I have seen are very crude and easily detectable. But whenever you buy this set, show it to an expert. Make sure you get a genuine set.

UKRAINPEX 93

The Ukrainian Philatelic and Numismatic Society held their Stamp Show on October 8-9-10 at the Ukrainian Village Cultural Center in Chicago. Their theme was: the 75th Anniversary of the First Ukrainian Stamps. Three different cancellations were issued, one for each day. A most unusual cacheted cover was printed in six colors with gold stamping. Polonus was invited to have a table at the show. Roman Strzelecki manned the table displaying our bulletins, Polpex covers, sheets, etc. He reported that attendance was very good.

For information on their Bulletin and activities write: UPNS, P.O. Box 11184, Chicago, IL 60611.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Sir: Your reprint from "Topical Time" - "The Forgotten Olympiad" by Ghiozzi (Polonus Bulletin 1993, 459 - p. 9 and 10) covers a very popular subject. The POW Olympiad issues are eagerly collected, especially during Olympic years.

Ghiozzi gave a good review of the Polish POW stamps. At the end he mentions Polish postal cards. It would be nice to have those described and shown.

Some minor corrections would improve the article. On page 9: "... were confined to OFLAG (Officers Concentration Camps)" should read: "OFLAGs (Officer POW Camps)".

In the same sentence, the author states: "... Woldenberg IN Dobiegniew" and "... Gross-Born IN Sulimowo..." It should be "... Woldenberg (Polish name Dobiegniew) and Gross-Born (Polish name Borne-Sulinowo and Borne-Nadarzyce, generally known now as Kłomino).

The next sentence "... communications between their prison shelters." I suggest: "... internal camp communications."

Further, under 1): "... to distribute mail among the various camp shelters." I suggest: "... to distribute mail within the camp."

The clear reproductions of illustrations is a great help to the collector.

-E. D. Wolski



Exhibition cover from the National Philatelic Exhibition held October 16-26th at Warsaw on the 15th Anniversary of the Pontificate of John Paul II.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

Polonus will host PANA members at our annual Christmas Party on Friday, December 16th at 7:00 p.m. at the Polish Youth Association Building, 6434 W. Belmont Ave., Chicago. Donation \$5.00 per person.

Krakow Postal History Before 1918

By JANUSZ ADAMCZYK

(Translated from Polish by Stanley Kronenberg)

(CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS ISSUE)



The post of F.C. Kraków suffered a more serious loss when on February 1, 1817 the Austrians moved their postal route which ran from Lwów to Vienna through Mogilany and Wieliczka to run through Podgórze. Thus the post of F. C. Kraków ceased carrying travelers to Mogilany or Wieliczka where the Lwów-Vienna stops were located losing a serious part of its income.

The final damage from the Austrians to the post of F.C. Kraków was the establishment of an Austrian post in Kraków on May 16, 1818 for the collection of letters (Briefsammlung) which was dedicated exclusively to the dispatch of letters.

Due to its non-profitability, the Kingdom of Poland closed on January 1, 1818 the post in Olkusz through which previously the route from Kraków and Sławków to Prussia and to Częstochowa had run. Similar action was taken with the mail on the Lublin track from Kraków through Cło to Brzesko (currently Nowe Brzesko) which caused the closing of the postal dispatch in Cło, an establishment there of only a postal stop. The postal dispatch in Krzeszowice was changed in 1820 within the reorganization of the mail in F.C. Kraków into a "summer" season mail for the convenience of the inhabitants of Kraków, who visited the contemporary resort there. Between June 1 and October 1, this mail assured a weekly (Wednesday) horse coach service.

The most favorable relationship of F.C. Kraków developed with the Kingdom of Poland which was reflected in the mutual cooperation of the posts. Between Kraków and Warsaw, a 302 kilometer long route operated coaches. This route was subdivided into two parts: from Kraków to the border it was served by the post of F.C. Kraków and from the border to Warsaw by the post of the Kingdom of Poland. Over the years the routing was subject to changes which caused the necessary moving of border post offices of the Kingdom of Poland. The first border post office was located in Iwanowice; in 1826 it was moved to Wilczkowice and in 1833 to Michałowice. The coach left Kraków on Sundays at 9:00 a.m. and arrived in Warsaw on Tuesdays at 4:00 p.m. Courier wagons were later introduced which ran daily except Sundays between Kraków and Warsaw which required 22 hours, 17 minutes to travel the distance of 41 miles.

To assure its statehood and sovereignty, the Free City of Kraków had to maintain a well organized administration within its territory which in turn, required well working communications. This important mission was entrusted to the Main Post Office in Kraków which on June 18, 1834, presented the proposal to the Senate for the establishment of a walking mail carrier service connecting Kraków with Chrzanów and Cło. This project was accelerated by an event described in the book by Władysław Namysłowski entitled: "Pocztą Wolnego Miasta Krakowa" (Kraków 1913, p. 31):

"On July 28, 1834, the Senator (Felix) Grodzicki met in the hall of the government building of the Collegiate of St. Peter, a peasant boy in tears who asked him to point out the offices to which the papers of the district should be delivered. The senator outraged by the behavior of the elder of the village, transferred the boy to the directorate of police to obtain information from the boy in order to prosecute the guilty party. It came out that while the boy worked in the fields during harvest time, there came riding on a horse, the elder of the village of Toń, throwing the folder with papers at the boy, ordering him to proceed instantly to Kraków and deliver the papers wherever they were supposed to go."

On September 2, 1834, the Senate of F. C. Kraków issued the decree No. 4883 (Dziennik Rządowy W. M. Krakowa i jego okręgu, No. 42 of September 20, 1834), which empowered the Main Post Office in Kraków to open three dispatches of messenger post: in Krzeszowice, Chrzanów and Cło. The station in Krzeszowice served the communities of: Krzeszowice, Młoszowa, Pisary, and later: Czernichów, Poręba and Lipowiec. The station in Chrzanów served: Kościelec, Bobrek, Jaworzno. The station in Cło: the community of Kościelniki. The walking mail carriers received their equipment which consisted of brass plates with the coat of arms of F. C. Kraków and the symbol of the post (posthorn), and leather bags for letters.

This mail was established to carry official mail but it accepted also private letters. It operated only on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Furthest away from Kraków was Chrzanów (approximately 40 kilometers). This station forwarded letters only to Krzeszowice from where the post transported them by its carrier to Kraków. After delivering mail to the main post Office in Kraków the carriers collected mail addressed to places from which they came, delivering it on the same day. As the expeditor of the foot carrier mail in Krzeszowice, named was Dr. Józef Kwaśniewski; in Chrzanów it was the elder Adam Jadowski and in Cło, Józef Jaczkiewicz. They had the responsibility to lead the entire post and to maintain the foot mail carriers.

The post of F. C. Kraków, during the several years of its existence and certainly until 1830, did not use postal marks but this does not imply that mail from Kraków to the Kingdom of Poland did not have any

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WILCZKOWICE
18 MARTII



IWANOWICE
24 APRILIS



markings. The post offices on the border were required to imprint their marks when accepting (and forwarding) the mail of F.C. Kraków. Thus even if there is no mailing postmark of Kraków present on a letter addressed to the Kingdom of Poland, one can determine that it was expedited through the mail of F.C. Kraków when it has the postmark of a border post office imprinted (photograph 6).

From 1831 on, we find mailing postmarks on letters of the post office of F.C. Kraków. They are mainly known from letters delivered within the district of F.C. Kraków (most likely via the established foot carriers' mail in Kraków). In any case it is certain that these letters were dispatched on routes which at those times were not served by the mail of the Kingdom of Poland. The similar appearance of postmarks of F.C. Kraków and those generally used in the Kingdom of Poland is not accidental; nationalistic and political reasons could have called for the imitation of postmarks of the Kingdom of Poland.

In addition to mailing postmarks, the post of F.C. Kraków used a wax seal known on documents from the period when the postal director of F.C. Kraków was J. Gadomski (1833-1836) (photograph 7).

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The discussion of F.C. Kraków postmarks is necessary at this point because previous philatelic literature assumed that the F.C. Kraków post did not use any mailing postmarks. The documentation of the existence of these postmarks was done by the author of this article in 1985.

The F.C. Kraków post played an important role in the maintenance of connections of Kraków with neighboring countries. In the territory of F.C. Kraków it contributed to administrative activities and helped with the areas of economic development. Significant was also the income brought by this post as a result of its activity. In 1816-1817, when there was no competition by foreign mails, its net income was 18,887 Polish zł. Competition by Austrian and Prussian posts kept reducing the income of the F.C. Kraków post which was reduced in 1822-23 to 2,802 Polish złote.

In 1831-1936, the income of the post increased significantly, e.g. in 1833-34 it amounted to 17,690 Pol. zł. and during its last year of activities, 11,932 Polish złote. This increase of income was connected with the population increase in Kraków, the cultural progress and lively contacts with Warsaw in cultural areas. This is shown by the number of letters dispatched in 1833-1834 to the Kingdom of Poland which was 66,910 (average 185 letters per day). One should also remember that this was the only route served by the post of F.C. Kraków and the postage was very high. The postage for a regular letter within the F.C. Kraków territory or to the Kingdom of Poland was 4 groszy, for value declared letters and for parcels, the payment was 12 groszy. Kraków employed two mailmen who collected 4 groszy for the delivery of a letter and 8 groszy for a value declared letter.

For a return receipt of a registered letter or of a parcel the fee was an additional 8 groszy.

Toward the end of 1834, the Senate of F.C. Kraków was informed that Russia intends to open its post in Kraków analogous to previous actions by Prussia and Austria. In practice this threatened the existence of the F.C. Kraków post which would be left only with the service within its territory (which was subsidized by 2,000 zł. per year). After protests submitted to Petersburg did not help, the Senate of F.C. Kraków decided to choose the lesser evil and proposed to rent its post to the Kingdom of Poland whose king was the Tsar Nicolaus I. In the ongoing negotiations, Kraków was represented by the Senator, Priest Antoni Walczyński and the Kingdom of Poland by the state referee Antoni Nowicki. The result was the treaty of August 6, 1836; according to it, F.C. Kraków deeded the right of its own mail to the Kingdom of Poland.

After considering different propositions it was finally decided that the Kingdom of Poland would pay F.C. Kraków 12,000 Polish złote rent per year. In addition, the Kingdom of Poland obligated itself to maintain communications within the F.C. Kraków territory. To stress the sovereignty of F.C. Kraków, the postal officials of the Kingdom of Poland in Kraków wore uniforms of their country with two coats of arms: those of the Kingdom of Poland and of F.C. Kraków. F.C. Kraków transferred the postal building in Stradom to the Kingdom of Poland and obligated itself to guard it with its own militia and to provide reimbursable escorts for the post.

The urgency of the transfer of the F.C. Kraków post to the Kingdom of Poland is shown by the fact that notwithstanding the treaty of August 6, 1836 and its ratification by the Senate on February 18, 1837, already on July 1, 1837 the liquidation of the F.C. Kraków post was accomplished and in its place the "Main Foreign Post Office of the Kingdom of Poland" was established. This rush can be explained by the pressure exerted by Russia on F.C. Kraków in this matter.

Having more numerous and more modern means of communication available, the post of the Kingdom of Poland assured an improved service and in particular faster and more frequent connection of Kraków with the Kingdom of Poland. Some regression occurred in the territory of F.C. Kraków where after the liquidation of postal dispatch, official mail was delivered by mounted policemen.

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Stwiba Portowa



Interes Aradoury

(TO BE CONTINUED)

GRODNO CONNECTING MAIL IN 1919

By STANLEY KRONENBERG

Grodno is a town currently located in Bialorus, close to the Polish border. After the Armistice of November 11, 1918, Grodno became Polish. At that time large German armies were still occupying these areas and the German soldiers were being returned to Germany via Eastern Prussia. The Russian Red Army was occupying the vacated areas and in February, 1919 reached the line: Grodno - Brest - Kowel. On April 26, 1919, the Polish Army entered Grodno.

Polish citizens of Grodno prepared a 40 groszy denomination Polish stamps for this occasion, by overprinting Russian and Ukrainian stamps and gave them to the chief of the Polish field post office in Grodno, Mr. Listowski. He did not accept these stamps because a shipment of current Polish stamps was expected from Warsaw by May 1st, 1919 and in the meantime the Polish post office accepted cash payments for postage.

At that time the German Field Post still operated in Grodno, led by the German communications officer, Lt. K. Bauer. Bauer accepted fieldpost letters and civilian mail which was then brought with a truck operated by his sergeant to the town of Suwalki (currently in Poland), 75 kilometers due northwest of Grodno, where German, Polish and Lithuanian post offices were operating. These letters were then forwarded via the German Post.

The postage charged by Lt. Bauer was 40 groszy (= 40 pfennig) for regular letters and 2 Marks for business letters. He cancelled the stamps by writing his initial "B" in ink on each stamp.



FIGURE 1.

(Fig. 1): Polish overprint made by means of a metal stamp in violet or (rarely) in black. The overall dimensions are 14.2 x 18.5 mm.

(Fig. 2): German overprint made by the means of a rubber stamp in dull red ink. The overall dimensions are 17.5 mm. x 16.1 mm.

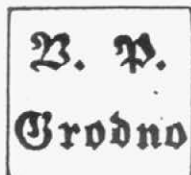


FIGURE 2.

The Polish and German overprints are shown in figures 1 and 2. The Polish overprints were made by means of a metal device and are imprinted very carefully. Most are imprinted in violet ink which soaked through the paper and shows on the reverse. The German overprints are made with a rubber stamp in dull red ink applied on top of the Polish overprints in random orientations and are carelessly made. Often the rectangular frame is only partially visible.

The Russian stamps used for overprinting were made in sheets of 10 x 10 stamps arranged in four blocks of 5 x 5 stamps with approximately 30 mm. wide margins. Some Polish overprints were made on these blank margins and later received the red German overprints. Thus a sheet yielded in some cases more than 100 stamps. These additional

stamps, which consist of two overprints on top of each other without a Russian stamp underneath, constitutes a separate variety.

The listing of "Grodno" / V.P." stamps is as follows:

Nr. 1. Overprints on 1 kop. perforated, orange Russian stamps, Scott number 73, overprinted into Ukrainian stamps. The Ukrainian stamps (Scott no. 3) have the Ukrainian overprint of the third Kiev type of 1918. The violet Polish overprints are inverted on all these stamps.

Nr. 2. Overprints on Russian 1 kop. imperforate, orange stamps, Scott no. 119. Polish overprints are in violet, inverted Polish overprints occur.

Nr. 3. Overprints on the Russian 2 kop. imperforate green stamps, Scott no. 120. Usually the Polish overprints are violet but some stamps are overprinted in black. Inverted Polish overprints occur.

Nr. 4. Overprints on the Russian 3 kop. imperforate red stamps, Scott no. 121. Normally the Polish overprints are violet but on some stamps they are imprinted in black.

Nr. 5. Overprint on Russian 5 kop. imperforate, claret stamps, Scott no. 123. The Polish overprints are violet.

Nr. 6. Polish and German overprints made on sheet margins of imperforate Russian Stamps. The Polish overprints are violet.

100 stamps each of those listed here as numbers 1 through 5 and an unknown but very small number of stamps listed as Nr. 6 were made. Approximately 70% of all these stamps were used up for postage but most of the covers franked with these stamps were lost. I have never seen an entire cover franked with the Grodno stamps.

Figure 3 shows the complete set of unused Grodno connecting mail stamps. The Connecting Mail of Grodno ceased its operation on June 17th, 1919, because on that day the German field post in Grodno was closed and Lt. Bauer returned to Germany.

FIGURE 3. The set of "Grodno Connecting Mail" stamps.



NO. 1

NO. 2
Inverted Polish Overprint

NO. 3
Inverted Polish Overprint



NO. 4

Polish overprint in black.



NO. 5



NO. 6

Forgeries:

Being very rare, valuable, historically significant, and sought after stamps, the Grodno overprints were forged repeatedly. In all cases which I have seen, the forgeries can be easily distinguished from authentic stamps.

Forged Polish overprints have often wrong dimensions, wrong style and details of lettering, and wrong details. For example: the four dots arranged vertically above the "r" of "Gr." are often missing. The violet ink differs from the ink of authentic overprints. It often does not soak through the paper and therefore does not show on the reverse as it does in authentic stamps. The black ink on some of the 2 kop. and 3 kop. authentic stamps is dull and grayish.

The ink of the authentic dull red German overprints does not show on the reverse. It is without gloss.

Many forgeries have only the Polish overprint while all authentic stamps are overprinted with both the Polish and German overprints.

Poorly fabricated covers with forged overprinted stamps occur.

While common forgeries can easily be identified, the expertization of these stamps requires a side by side comparison with stamps known to be authentic.

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POLPEX 94

To be held March 18-19-20, at House of White Eagle, in Niles, IL. Fred Szebel will be Chairman.

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