

BULLETIN OF THE

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



Meets every 4th Friday at the Polish Youth Association Building,
(Dom Harcerski) 6434 West Belmont Avenue, Chicago, IL

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TIME IS RUNNING OUT!

On March 19, 20, and 21, 1999, our Anniversary POLPEX will take place at the House of the White Eagle, 6839 North Milwaukee Avenue, in Niles, Illinois, just north of Chicago. The hours will be 10:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. on Friday and Saturday and 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. on Sunday. Set-up night will be on Thursday, March 18, from 6:00 P.M. until 10:00 P.M.

If you are interested in exhibiting contact me immediately by phone: (847) 437-1601 or by mail: 1615 E. Central Road, Arlington Heights, Illinois 60005.

Two historic events will take place on this our 60th Anniversary. Poland will become a member of NATO, and will observe the 150th Anniversary of the death of the world famous composer, Frederic Chopin.

Polonus will honor these events with show covers, souvenir sheets, and its exhibition catalog.

We are expecting visitors to our show from Sweden and Po-

land. If you plan to attend, the closest motel to the House of the White Eagle is ThriftLodge,

7247 North Waukegan Road (at Milwaukee Avenue), Niles, Illinois. For reservations call: (847) 647-9444 or Fax: (847) 647-7681. A double room is \$55.00 plus tax and a single is \$46.00 plus tax.

We appeal to out-of-town members and friends of Polonus for participation and financial help. Be a

Polpex Patron for \$10.00 or more, or a Well Wisher for a \$5.00 donation.

Plan to attend our 60th Anniversary Awards Presentation Dinner on Saturday, March 20. Tickets are \$20.00 per person.

Thus far, 55 frames of the 100-frames show are reserved. We will have some impressive collections including Postal History of Kraków, a Czesław Ślania Topical, and a Poland Airmail. We need more exhibits of 5 to 8 frames each. The cost is \$5.00 per frame.

-Fred Szebel



Frederic Chopin

NEW ISSUES PLANNED FOR 1999

Theme	No. of Stamps	To be issued
1. History of Armed Polish Navy	2	January
2. I Love You	2	February
3. Poles in the World	2	February
4. Easter	4	March
5. International Philatelic Exhibitions	1*	March
6. St. Mary patroness of Prisoners of War— Soldiers in the East	2	April
7. 50th Anniversary of European Council	1	May
8. Europa	1	May
9. Youth Sports	4	June
10. 80th Anniversary of Treaty of Versailles	1	June
11. Pope Visit to Poland	4	June
12. Insects	6	July
13. Marian Sanctuaries	2	August
14. 18th National Philatelic Exhibition Wałbrzych 99	1*	August
15. Polish-Ukraine Border Cooperation	2	September
16. Kings and Princes of Poland as portrayed by Jan Matejko	4	September
17. World Postal Day - (125th Anniversary of World Postal Alliance)	1	October
18. Frederic Chopin's 150th Anniv. of Death	1	October
19. Tragedies of Polish Hero Warriors	1*	October
20. Christmas	4	November
21. Polonica	4	December
22. Heroes of Sienkiewicz's Trilogy Film: "With Fire and Sword"	6	before premiere performance
23. Current Issues	5	as needed

— FILATELISTYKA Monthly



THE CZECHOSLOVAK Specialist



A bi-monthly journal is published by the Society for Czechoslovak Philately and is available to interested collectors. We received a sample edition which consisted of an impressive 44 pages with extensive illustrations printed in the

English language. There were articles by ten different authors.

A subscription costs \$18.00 per year. Write to the Czechoslovak Specialist, 2363 McCleary Drive, Chambersburg, PA 17201. Web Site: www.erols.com/sibpost.

The Truth About the Underground Polish Post

By MACIEJ PERZYŃSKI

A Member of the Experts Commission at the Scientific-Research Committee of the Central Board of the Polish Federation of Philatelists

In view of numerous inquiries coming from this country and from abroad about the source of many thousands of "Secret Polish Post" stamps on the market. There are also parts of stamps on letter-clippings postmarked with a lot of fantasy - the stamps are offered bisected crosswise, perpendicularly, askew and also divided into three parts horizontally. I have been requested by the Central Board of the Polish Federation of Philatelists to elucidate the matter.

In the American philatelic press an article was printed on July 11, 1961 written by Mr. Władysław Kolakowski. It was entitled "Postal Issue of Polish Underground" and was praising these "wonders." But the truth, unfortunately, is bitter. Perhaps several hundreds of our colleague philatelists have purchased not stamps, but labels that have no philatelic value whatever, and even no historic value.

The Military Underground Organization "Independent Poland" wanted to issue its own "stamps" in May, 1942. They were not to be used for postal purposes - but for waging "a war of nerves" against the occupying powers.

On May 16, 1942 a design was made and an order was issued to print the stamps. The stamps had also to be affixed on the underground weekly published by this organization "Jutro" (Tomorrow) and in "Information Supplement Tomorrow of Independent Poland."

The organization "Independent Poland" had its activity limited to the Łódź and Białystok districts of the General Gouvernement. Towards the end of 1942 it was merged with "Armia Krajowa" (one of the underground organizations in Poland).

The printing was ordered to be done outside the region of activities of "Independent Poland" because no suitable printing works could be found in the area. As far as I could establish the stamps were probably printed in Warsaw in the district delimited by Chmielna-Złota and Sosnowa-Żelazna streets.

In view of various difficulties, the printing-works executed the order only in the middle of 1943, i.e. in about six months after the Military Underground Organization "Independent Poland" had been dissolved and taken over by the military organs of "Armia Krajowa."

At that time the latter did not yet intend to organize any postal service so these stamps, or rather labels, were distributed among philatelists, and a part was set aside to be sent to German authorities in a war of nerves. In order to upset or frighten the occupying power the stamps on letters addressed to Germans and Volksdeutsch were cancelled with metal seals representing the Polish Eagle. They were manu-

factured from old seals of Polish State Offices. These were used some times in Warsaw post-offices, and particularly on General Gouvernement stamps depicting Hitler. The cancellations were made in the following colors: red, violet or black. This was going on in 1943.

The labels depict a black eagle (allegory of the occupying power) attacking the white eagle (allegory of Poland). The White Eagle is covering Warsaw (Heart of Poland) with her body. At the top there was an inscription: "Secret Polish Post," and at the bottom: "25 gr Defense of Warsaw" (Fig. 1).



Fig. 1

The labels were printed from zinc plates, a sheet containing 15 stamps (Fig. 2)

The sheets had on their left margin a note: "T.P.P. seria I N.1 V-19~W.P.R., I.T.R.O.P. "Serafin."

The right margins of the sheets were numbered from 001 to 500 with a hand-numbering machine in black ink, the height of the numbers being 4.5 mm. During the German occupation no higher nos. existed.

The labels were imperforate and line-perforated 11.5 only. The first part of the order was printed on white paper. The labels were pink-violet, and partly brown-violet. The ink varied from light to dark (intensive).

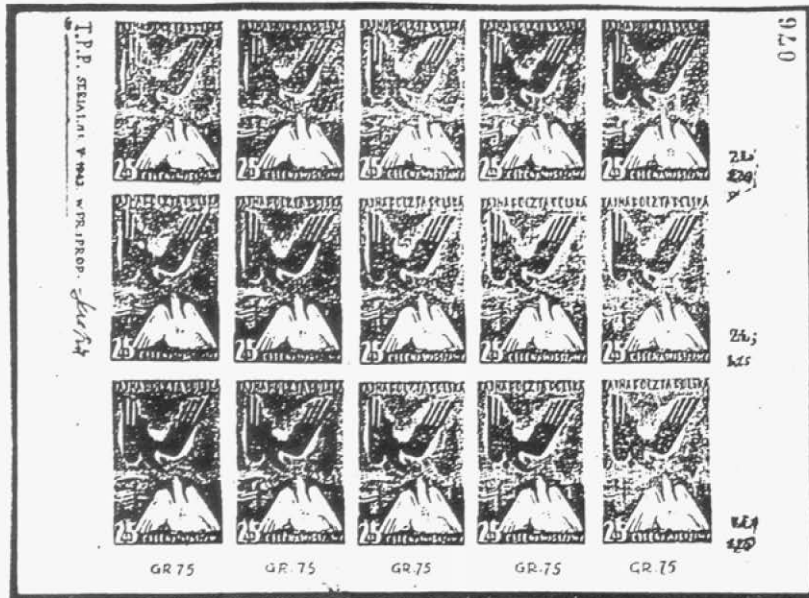


Fig. 2

For unknown reasons the further printings do not show the inscription "Serafin". It was removed from the stereo. The changed stereo was used to print labels in a grey-brown-blue (steel) color. These labels were also imperforate and line perforated 11.5. The perforation of all the labels and of the printing-waste was done by the same perforation machine.

An amount of printing waste was also manufactured probably only for philatelic purposes. This was printed on blanks from Health Service and State Insurance offices. The paper was blue, and on its reverse were texts in Polish and German. These labels are known only imperforate, their color being dark violet. In addition they were also printed on yellow coated glistening paper. Its reverse side was grey and coarse. The color of the labels was dark red. They were, like the previous printing, only imperforate.

Thus the official issues amount to less than 15,000 copies. The exact number ought to be 14,970. The sum of printing waste was 5,000.

The labels, as has been mentioned above, appeared only in the middle of 1943. They could not play the role they were meant for, i.e. they could not be used for "franking" or for sticking on the weekly "Tomorrow", since the organization "Independent Poland" had been merged with the military organ of "Armia Krajowa".

A vast majority of the labels was found by the occupying powers at the end of 1943, confiscated and destroyed. A number of them were burnt with the collections or in hiding places of Warsaw stamp collectors since they were distributed in Warsaw during the insurrection of 1944.

The stereos that were used for printing the labels were not destroyed, but were handed to former members of the organization together with the manufactured labels for safe keeping. The reason for that was that the printing works reckoned to be able to use the stereos for further printings. This was never done on account of the organization being disbanded along with its Secret Post.

This state of affairs lasted till 1947-48. In 1949 and in following years the labels began appearing in Warsaw and other philatelic centers but in new colors in various shades on different papers, but still in small quantities. About 1956, the labels began to flood the market in massive quantities in full sheets or even in sets of sheets. In addition, cancelled labels on white or yellow strips of paper made their appearance as well. While envelopes with impressed labels, and finally blue envelopes with wavy colored inscriptions and the labels made their appearance on the market.

After being closely studied they turned out to be printed from original stereos, but on other papers and with other inks (this is visible in the quartz lamp spectrum).

The labels on clippings and on entries bisected along, across, diagonally to the right, and to the left and cut into three parts each, one being stuck separately - were all cancelled with a round, metal one-ring

postmark of about 30 mm diameter bearing the inscription: "Tajna Poczta Polska"/"Sztab Kom. Gł.)/Org. "Polska Niepodległa" which means: Secret Polish Post - Headquarters - Organization "Independent Poland". No such postmark was ever possessed by the Military organization "Independent Poland". This postmark seems to be a post-war fantasy.

Some entries bear dates as old as 1942, i.e. when the labels were not yet issued, or dates in 1943 and 1944 when the Underground Military Organization "Independent Poland" existed no more.

Several hundred of labels and diverse clippings and entries with these adhesives-reprints, which I was able to inspect, were marked on the reverse side with experts' marks or with imprints indicating their origin viz.:

1. A monogram "WR", 3.5 mm high imprinted in sepia brown or dark-green ink. This mark imitates the expertising mark of Mr. Włodzimierz Rachmanoff who lived in Warsaw until 1944, and then emigrated to the U.S.A. This forgery has been known since 1943 to 1944 in the General Gouvernement, and is mostly seen on stamps issued by the 1st Polish Corps of Gen. Dowbór-Muśnicki. It must be stressed that Rachmanoff has never used brown or dark-green ink.
2. A monogram "SM", 3 mm high. Also imprinted with the same inks as before. This one imitates the expertising mark of prof. St. Mikstein. The latter had a similar expertising mark but it was always used jointly with a rubber stamp "Mikstein" (in italics) or with a metal stamp "S. Mikstein". Moreover this expertising mark was used exclusively on the more expensive stamps of the Cracow issue of 1919. This forgery has been known since 1940. Again it should be stressed that Mr. Mikstein has never used brown or dark-green ink.
3. An inscription "MIR" in a circle of 6 mm diameter usually in violet ink. This is a property mark identifying stamps coming from the collection of Mr. Wyslimir Francis Koprowski. "Mir" is an abbreviation of the ending of his first name: "Wyslimir".

It does not seem superfluous to mention an inexactitude in the photocopy of organizational order No. 16 A-42 of the Chief of Headquarters of Organization "Independent Poland" dated March 27, 1942, and signed by the Headquarters Chief, "Harpun", which used to be enclosed with larger consignments of the labels. Namely, according to historical data, compiled both in this country and abroad the pseudonym "Harpun" did not exist. The name and the pseudonym of the chief of Headquarters were quite different.

Summing up, it must be stated that the labels sold en masse do not come from the time of occupation. They are reprints of labels without any philatelic value. They are not even historical keepsakes from the times of German occupation. Only the few genuine labels may have a commemorative value.

In consequence, all these issues can not be included in collections shown at philatelic exhibitions, whether national or international.

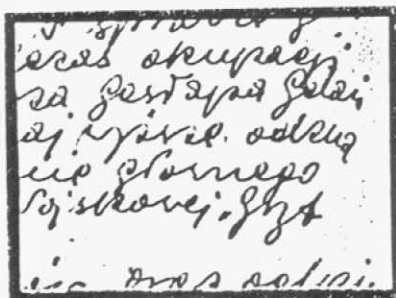
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THE POMERANIAN GRIFFIN SECRET MILITARY ORGANIZATION

By STANLEY KRONENBERG

Pomerania, the northwestern part of pre World War II Poland near the Baltic Sea became soon after the start of W.W. II annexed to Germany. Already in September, 1939, Poles in that area started a resistance movement against the Germans and in December, 1939 formed in Czarlin, district of Kartuzy "The Secret Military Organization Griffin of Kaszuby." Its founder was the teacher, Józef Dambek. After the start of the war between Germany and the Soviet Union, this organization was renamed "The Secret Military Organization Pomeranian Griffin."

Pomeranian Griffin issued its own postage stamps which had three purposes: To obtain funds for the organization, to make the German occupants nervous by stressing the fact that such an underground organization did exist, and to mail propaganda material through underground channels.



The stamps were made by the organization's postmaster L. Miotka, known as "Stal-Stalówka" (steel) or as "Póro" (pen). He cut in rubber the stamp designs and imprinted them on paper. He wrote an illustrated four page report about his postal activities which is dated Jan. 3, 1945.

There were five issues. The 20 złoty stamp illustrated here is of the third issue. It is imprinted in pale red on a paper with handwriting on the reverse. The inscriptions read: "Festival of the Sea, June 20, 1944, Field Post, Polish Underground Army, Griffin of Pomerania."

See: Maciej Perzynski, *Filatelista* 1966, p. 64.

Edmund Jakubiak, "Zarys Działalności Tajnej Organizacji Wojskowej Gryf Pomorski", *Najnowsze Dzieje Polski*, T.V., PWN, Warszawa 1961, p. 31.





Czesław Ślania (our honorary member) engraved souvenir sheets for the 17th Meeting of Polski Związek Filatelistów in Szczecin, Poland and the October 8th joint issues of Poland and Sweden for King Sigismund III (Zygmunt III Waza) Poland 1.20 zł. and Sweden 7 Kr. values.



KUNG SIGISMUND

FÖRSTADAGSBREV
FIRST-DAY-COVER



XVII Zjazd
Polskiego Związku Filatelistów



0000000

Polish Peoples Army Letters

By WINSTON GRUSZCZYK

A few years ago while visiting a philatelic exhibition in Poland, I was impressed by one exhibit showing a group of letters written by one prisoner of war in Germany to his family in Poland, originating from several camps where he was interned over a five year period. In this article I will try to follow a similar pattern in the life and postal history of a Polish soldier serving in the army formed by "Comrade" Stalin in 1943, and known in Russia as the "Polish Peoples Army."

From a postal history aspect, this army's activities are not a subject widely published in the philatelic press outside of Poland. The army

was under the subordination of Russia, with most of the staff officers transferred from Russian Army units. Even in present day Poland the postal history information on the early period of 1943 is limited.

Correspondence in 1943 and most of 1944 could travel only between the soldiers and families living in the part of the Soviet Union unoccupied by Germany. The families themselves were deported by Russia from Poland in the 1939-41 period and were living in substandard conditions either in camps or on state farms, barely surviving from day to day, and almost nobody was inspired to collect letters received



Figure 1. A Russian post card message from Jan Koziel, at Fieldpost Unit 21491 E, to his wife, mailed in October 1943, informing her of his assignment to duty at the front. The cancellation is from Moscow 88, with Russian military censor No. 21160 at top left center. (The illustration is of Field Marshall Alexander V. Suvorov 18th century military leader and strategist who commanded the Russian army that crushed the Polish rebellion of 1794, after the Second Partition. His tolerance of plundering of conquered territories by his troops led to the Russian military's bad reputation in Europe — reinforced in World War II.)



Figure 2. Russian fieldpost lettersheet sent by Koziel from Fieldpost Unit No. 64014J. It is marked with a Russian fieldpost cancel dated November 9, 1943, and Russian censor handstamp No. 08963. The three-word slogan at the top reads: "Death to the German Occupiers!" A patriotic quotation of Lenin's occupies the left-hand portion.

from relatives in the army.

The partition of Poland by Hitler and Stalin in September, 1939 left the eastern part of the country for Russia, and in the two-year period before the German attack on Russia in 1941, Stalin managed to deport more than two million Polish citizens deep into Russia. Later in 1941, after Germany invaded Russia, the Polish Army under Gen. Anders was formed in Russia under the command of the Polish Government-in-exile in London. However, Stalin could not long tolerate an independent Polish Army, and in late 1942 allowed this unit to leave the Soviet Union for deployment in the Near East under British command, and later in Italy.

The Polish Peoples Army formed at the same time in Russia was composed of part of the remaining deported Polish citizens in Russia

and was totally subordinate to that nation's goals. But the souls of the soldiers were Polish, and their correspondence reveals their desire to serve Poland, as well as deep religious feelings.

Since all fieldpost units were served by Russian Army staff, it is difficult to determine all fieldpost numbers used by the Polish unit known first as the "Kosciuszko Division" and later as the 1st Polish Army. The article published in the Polish journal 'Filatelista' of November, 1968 by the late L. Teter did mention many fieldpost numbers allocated to Polish units, but the listing was incomplete.

According to information from the Philatelic Research Center in Łódź, Poland, Mr. Teter had prepared another list for publication before his death; however we cannot expect its publication in the

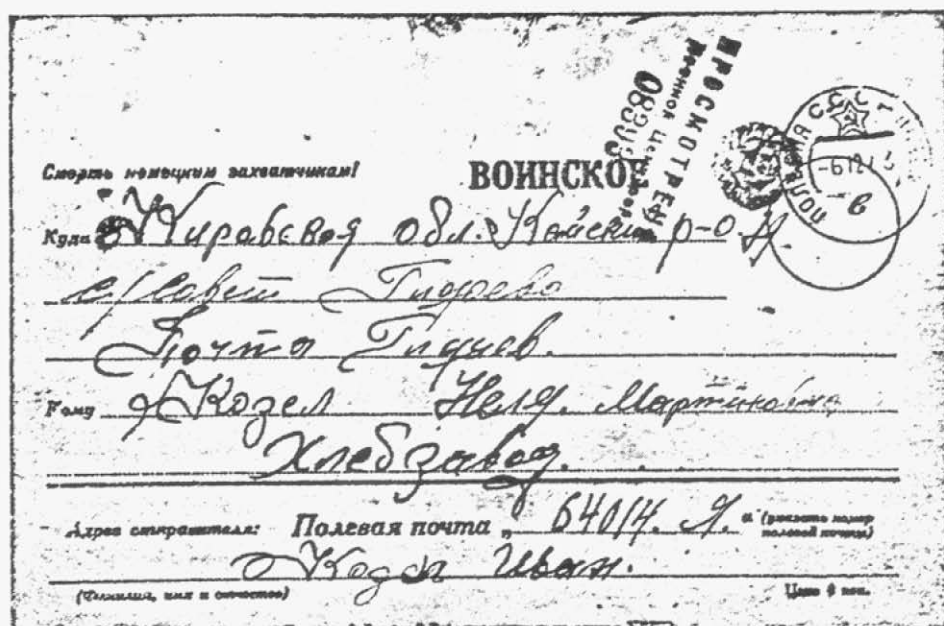


Figure 3. A Russian military war propaganda lettersheet with an illustration on the reverse commemorating the 26th anniversary of the Revolution. Sent by a Polish soldier from fieldpost unit No. 64014 to his wife living in Russia, it has a field-post cancel dated December 6, 1943, and Russian censor handstamp No. 08393.

near future. The F.P. numbers used to illustrate this article were not included in the Teter list.

All post cards and lettersheets were printed on very poor quality paper—one more reason why very few have survived to this time. It is interesting to note that the shortage of writing paper for soldiers to use was much more acute than for their families in sending replies. Any piece of paper was used, and if post cards were not available, a sheet of paper was folded in the form of a triangle and used instead of an envelope.

Polish soldiers serving in these units were permitted to write to their relatives only if they were living in areas controlled by the Russians. All such correspondence could be in the Polish language, but it had to be addressed in Russian. While there were censors who could read Polish, the same did not hold

true for employees in the postal system, who generally could read only Russian.

The story of Jan Koziel's "Soldier Letters" begins in September 1943, with a post card (Figure 1) to his wife, living on a state farm in Gidanov, near the town of Kajsk in the Kirov District, about 600 miles northeast of Moscow. This card informs her of his enrollment in the Polish Army. The subsequent letters of the 1943 period reflect Koziel's worry at not having replies to his many letters.

The initial fieldpost number of 21494 used in his letters changed in November, 1943 to 64014, allocated to the 2nd Infantry Regiment of the 1st Polish Division, and with this number he traveled from the induction camp near Sielsk deep into Russia, until his final letter, written from near Berlin in June, 1945 after the collapse of Germany. It is

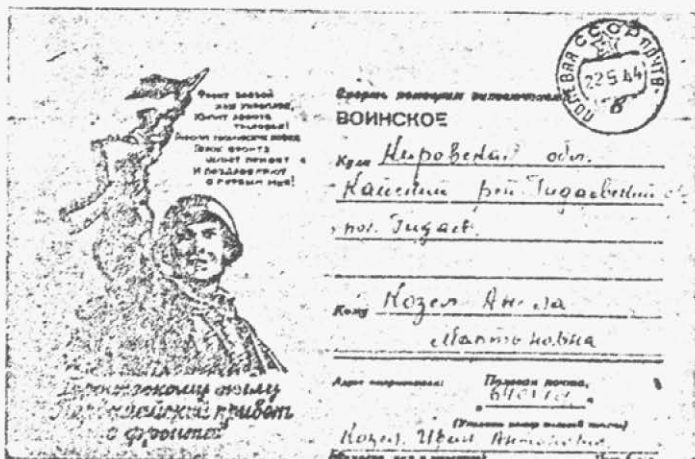


Figure 4. A Russian military lettersheet with an illustration of a soldier extending "May Day Greetings" from the front lines. It was sent from fieldpost unit No. 64014 JA and bears Russian fieldpost cancellation dated May 22, 1944. On the reverse is Russian censor handstamp No. 15384.

interesting to note in this group of letters that Polish censormarks started to appear in December of 1944, but the last letter written in Germany after the war once again carries Russian markings.

In order to broaden postal history information of the later war period, 1944-1945, when the Polish Army formed in Russia, was already fighting on Polish territory, I include illustrations of field post

cards and lettersheets printed in "liberated" Poland in the Polish language. Such items are considerably easier to find, as they all were addressed to families living in Poland.

The activity of the fieldposts in the Polish Peoples Army ended on September 15, 1945, by an order dated August 29, 1945, of the Supreme Commander of the Polish Peoples Army.



Figure 5. A pre-1939 Polish fieldpost card used by a soldier in Fieldpost Unit No. 83838 B, sent to Jarosław, a town already liberated in the eastern part of Poland by the Red Army. It bears a Russian fieldpost cancellation dated January 19, 1945, and Polish military censor handstamp No. 57.

Vienna Under Siege By The Ottoman Turks And Why A Polish King Appears On An Austrian Stamp

By IRVING WEINGARTEN, Ph.D.

On September 6, 1933, on the occasion of the Pan-German Catholic Congress, Austria issued a set of six semi-postal stamps (Scott B112-117) marking the 250th anniversary of the siege of Vienna in 1683.

In the summer of 1682, Sultan Mehmed IV made a momentous decision: to scrap an existing peace treaty with Austria and expand his empire by marching on Vienna, the gateway to western Europe. The sultan appointed his Grand Vizier, Kara Mustafa to lead his campaign. The Grand Vizier was second in authority and was outranked only by the sultan; in many areas he made decisions on his own. When commanding a military campaign, his powers were absolute.

No one knows for certain the size of the force that was marshalled. It is estimated at somewhere between 150,000 and 300,000 men. In addition to Turks, the army included conscripts from conquered lands in Asia, Europe and Africa. The Austrian force defending Vienna numbered 30,000.

When Austria's Emperor Leopold I became aware of the sultan's intentions he desperately tried to line up allies, impressing upon them the danger to western Europe if Vienna fell. Louis XIV of France was busy with his own aggressions against Flanders, Germany and Italy were not interested in helping Austria, nor were most of the other European monarchs with the exception of a couple of German states. Only one powerful sovereign, King John Sobieski of Poland (Fig. 1), recognizing the consequences if Vienna



Fig. 1

should fall, agreed to an alliance with Austria.

Defending Vienna, the principal players were Count Ernst Rudiger von Starkenberg (Fig. 2), military commander of the city; Charles V. Duke of Lorraine (Fig. 3), commander of the field troops outside the city; and John Andreas von Liebenberg (Fig. 4), mayor of Vienna, charged with preparing the civilian population for the siege. Not pictured in the set is Emperor Leopold who, together with his entire court, left the city for safer ground.

The assault began in mid July. Turkish guns created havoc inside the city. Besides casualties from the bombardment, the city was eventu-



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4



Fig. 5

ally plagued by disease, hunger and lack of water which the Turks had cut off from outside the walls. By the 22nd, the invaders had dug tunnels under the walls, set mines and exploded them, creating a breach in the wall. Soldiers would rush in and, after repulsing them, the defenders repaired the wall. Throughout the battle, military bands on both sides could be heard. One of the Turkish objectives was St. Stephen's Cathedral (Fig. 5) which was badly damaged but never taken. The losses were heavy on both sides with the smaller Austrian force less able to sustain them. The seesaw battles went on day after day with the Austrian civilian and military casualties so great that it seemed certain the city would fall. By early September, only 4000 defenders remained. Emperor Leopold urged them to hold out and that help was on the way.

Meanwhile in Warsaw, some 300 miles away, the Polish king began his plans for a relief army. Soldiers from around the country assembled



Fig. 6

In Kraków picking up additional recruits as they marched south. The king's rallying cry was that he was marching to defend Cracow and the women of Poland. The march from Cracow to Vienna was 200 miles.

On August 31st, King John's army, together with the forces of two German states met up with Duke of Lorraine's troops outside Vienna. The king was now commanding a force of 80,000 foot soldiers and 40,000 cavalry.

Because the Catholic church saw the invasion of the Turks as a major challenge to the church, Pope Innocent XI had more than a passing interest in the events around Vienna. He therefore sent his legate Marco D'Aviano (Fig 6) to bless King John, Charles and the assembled Christian force in its crusade against the infidels. It is interesting to note that 300 years later in 1983, Pope John Paul II, during a trip to Austria, visited the site and commemorated the event with a mass and blessing. This was marked by Austria on September 9 of that year with a stamp with the pope's likeness (Scott 1252). On the same day a souvenir sheet was issued commemorating the 300th anniversary of the Relief of Vienna (Scott 1253).

Thus on a September day, some 300 years ago, after a siege that lasted 60 days, the relief army attacked the Turkish line from behind as Starkenberg mustered his weary soldiers from behind the walls and pushed out from the front. The results were devastating for the Ottomans. Before the day was out they were defeated and fled in disarray leaving just about everything they brought with them behind. At his first breathing stop, Grand Vizier Mustafa executed many of his senior officers, using the traditional silken cord to strangle them. But

even before he reached Istanbul, the sultan had ordered a silken cord for his Grand Vizier.

The Ottomans made many mistakes: they underestimated the tenacity of the defenders and how long it would take to capture the city; they failed to fortify their encampments around the city; their observation of the surrounding countryside was poor; and even when they became aware of the relieving army, their effort was concentrated on Vienna.

The city was saved but at a cost. It is estimated 50,000 Viennese died, perhaps as many as half a million in all of Austria. It is interesting to speculate on the future of Europe had the Ottomans succeeded in capturing the gateway to the west. As it was, they never recovered from this loss and the empire's fortunes declined from then on as Austria's empire continued to expand - until World War I.

St. Stephens was repaired and a new 23-ton bell, forged from the abandoned Turkish cannons was hung in the steeple.

And even today, it is said, when Viennese children misbehave they are told, "Be good or the Turks will get you."

For those desiring more detailed information, an excellent book on the subject is "The Siege of Vienna" by John Stoy. For a general

history of the city, see "The Viennese, Splendor, Twilight and Exby Paul Hoffman.

(Dr. Weingarten operates Great Neck Stamps, is a specialist in the stamps of Austria, Bosnia & related countries.)

Reprinted from Global Stamp News

POLCAPEX 98

The Polish Philatelic Society of Canada held POLCAPEX 98 on November 15th at Saint Casimir Parish Auditorium in Vancouver, B.C. Forty frames made up the philatelic exhibit and four frames were with numismatic material.

Józef Podejko, president of the society, received the Grand Award for twelve frames of the First Issues of Independent Poland, Marshall Józef Piłsudski, Polish Soviet War of 1920 and the 25th Anniversary of Conception of the Polish Legions in 1939.

In the last few years the ranks of the society have been strengthened by new immigrant enthusiasts.

Show covers were issued in conjunction with the theme: The 80th Anniversary of Poland's Independence in 1918. Two different cancellations were made, one with the current Polish Eagle and the other with the Polish Legions WWI Eagle.

Covers are available from Józef Podejko, 510 St. George St., New Westminster British Columbia, Canada V3L 1L2.

The Polonus Philatelic Society is a Not-for-Profit Organization incorporated in the State of Illinois (1939). The opinions expressed by authors of articles appearing therein, do not necessarily reflect the views of Polonus Philatelic Society.

Annual dues, which include a subscription to the Bulletin are \$16.00 (U.S. currency only) and should be sent to the Polonus Treasurer, P.O. Box 458, Berwyn, IL 60402. Membership dues are payable by December 31st, for the next calendar year. New members will receive all the 'Bulletins' for the year in which they join. Changes of address, problems with receiving the Bulletin, should be addressed to: Polonus Philatelic Society, P.O. Box 458, Berwyn, IL 60402. General matters pertaining to the Society, contribution of articles for the Bulletin, complaints or other matters should be directed to the President.