



NEWS FROM 2nd NATIONAL POLONUS MEETING/EXHIBITION

by Hank Bieniecki

The 2nd National Polonus Meeting/Exhibition, held from 20-22 February in conjunction with ARIPEX 2004 in Mesa, AZ was a success on every level. This was evident from the fact that all the participating members left the show enthused and ready to participate in the 3rd National Polonus M/E which will be held from 25-27 February 2005 at Expo 2005 in St. Louis. *A detailed article on the 3rd National Polonus M/E will appear in the next Bulletin.*

Society Table:

Led by Chris Kulpinski, Erv Mrotek and Roman Sobus, Polonus members manned what was unquestionably the most active Society table at Aripex. In addition to offering information about and applications for our Society; which resulted in the acquisition of several new members; the table was also used for the following functions:

Meeting place and clearing house for all Society activities.

Sale of Polish philatelic literature.

Exchange and sale of Polish philatelic material between members.

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Society tables are typically located in a lobby area near the entrance to the Exhibition areas and offer high exposure to all those attending the show. Polonus will continue to improve the scope of the functions and products offered at it's Society table at future national M/E.



Members: (left to right) Erv Mrotek, Roman Sobus, Jerzy Kupiec, Hank Bieniecki, Chris Kulpinski, Jan Walukiewicz, Roy Koczarski, Ronnie Small)

Exhibitors & Awards:

Six members of Polonus exhibited their Polish philatelic material in open competition with 37 exhibitors of philatelic material from around the world. Aripex is an official APS exhibition and is judged by APS certified judges. The Polish exhibits of our members created significant interest among the judges and visitors, as this was the first time they had the opportunity to see this material. Immediately following this article is a full review, Polonus On Display by Erv Mrotek which details who exhibited, what was exhibited, and how our members faired in this open competition.

A Surprise From Japan:

Society members were delighted to find that Tustomu Yamamoto, President of the Polish Philatelic Society of Japan and a member of Polonus was in attendance and would participate in our

ARIPEX 2004

Annual Meeting. Yamamoto is an avid advanced collector of Poland and publishes a Bulletin in Japanese about Polish philately. At the Annual meeting Polonus granted Yamamoto the right to reprint articles from our Bulletin in the Japanese publication.



Tstuomu Yamamoto, President, Polish Philatelic Society of Japan and Hank Bieniecki meet at 2nd National Meeting.

Annual Meeting and Dinner:

On Saturday afternoon, Polonus held it's 2nd National meeting. to discuss a wide variety of issues regarding our Society. As our President, Chet Schafer and Secretary, Art Walinski were not able to attend, I chaired the meeting. Following are a few of the key topics of discussion and decisions that were made by the attending members:

Nomination & Appointment of Officers: The current officers served since the reorganization of Polonus into a national organization in 2000. While this continuity benefited the reorganization process, the attending members agreed that it was now the appropriate time to install new officers to continue their work and prepare for the 2007 National Meeting at the Pan Slavic Show in Chicago. The following individuals were nominated/volunteered, and have agreed to serve:

Chris Kulpinski	<i>President</i>
Erv Mrotek	<i>VP - Internet Functions</i>
Roman Sobus	<i>Secretary</i>
Hank Bieniecki	<i>Treasurer – Bulletin Editor</i>

The three new officers have all been active contributors to the Society, have participated in our national meeting, and are enthusiastic about bringing expansion and new ideas to our organization. I look forward to working closely with this team and seeing our organization achieve more of the objectives established since our reorganization. The term of office will be three years, and will run from 1 September 2004 to 1 September 2007.

VP – Internet Functions: While the Polonus Web Site has been a key factor in generating new members, due to a lack of time, it still lacks many features that would benefit the membership. Based on discussion at the meeting, Erv Mrotek has agreed to set up and serve as the Moderator of a Polonus Group. This will allow members who join the group to post messages, etc. and communicate easily with other members who join the group via email. This function is separate from www.polonus.org, which will also continue to be developed.

Future National Meeting/Exhibition Schedule:

2005: 3rd National M/E: 25-27 February at St. Louis Expo, St. Louis, Mo.

2006: 4th National M/E: (date & place to be determined)

2007: 5th National M/E: at Pan Slavic Exhibition, Chicago, IL.

ARIPEX 2004 – POLONUS ON DISPLAY

By Erv Mrotek

This year the Polonus National Meeting was held at the Aripex Stamp Show held in Mesa, Arizona February 20-22. Although St. Louis changed its stamp show date to the same weekend, Aripex still had approximately 240 exhibit frames and almost 50 dealers. Polonus member exhibits accounted for 15% of the total frames exhibited with 36.

These Polonus members exhibited their collections under the titles shown (the number of frames is in parenthesis):

Roy Koczarski (10) – Mail in Partitioned Poland 1772-1918

Chris Kulpinski (5) – Polish Displaced Persons – Germany 1945-1947

Chris Kulpinski (1) – Postal Evidence of the Russification of Poland 1815-1875

Conrad Straub (4) – Poland – Second Provisional Issue

Dr. Jerzy Kupiec-Weglinski (6) – Air mail in Poland 1918-1928

Ervin Mrotek (10) - Polish Prisoners of War Camp Posts



Smiling Award Winning Exhibitors: (left to right) Roy Koczarski, Jerzy Kupiec, Erv Mrotek, Chris Kulpinski

Awards given to above exhibits were as follows:

Vermeil

Mail in Partitioned Poland 1772-1918 (also awarded the Polonus Grand Award)

Air mail in Poland 1918-1928

Polish Prisoners of War Camp Posts (also awarded the A. A. P. E. Award of Honor)

Silver

Polish Displaced Persons – Germany 1945-1947

Poland – Second Provisional Issue

Bronze

Postal Evidence of the Russification of Poland 1815-1875

Dr. Jerzy Kupiec-Weglinski was a first-time ever exhibitor. He has wonderful material. Now that he has attended a judge's critique and understands some of the nuances of exhibiting, he is well on his way to earning a gold award.

Roy Koczarski has exhibited before (it was his Polish Prisoners of War Camp Posts exhibit at the Aripex 2002 show that lead me to become passionately involved with POW material), but this was the first time he showed this exhibit. It was fabulous and it also won the Polonus Grand Award, as selected by the judges.

Chris Kulpinski is an old hand at exhibiting, but it has been over 15 years since his last show. However, even after that absence, he was able to produce a great 5-frame exhibit on displaced persons that caused one viewer to comment "you can almost feel the ghosts of these people as you read through this exhibit."

Chris's one-frame exhibit was developed to encourage others to also create one-frame exhibits as a way of learning the joys of exhibiting, but with a minimum cost and time commitment. The more people

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exhibit, the more they learn about their collections, no matter how long they have been building them. Exhibiting also generates great relationships and encourages members to be more active in all aspects of their hobby.

Conrad Straub was not able to attend Aripex this year, but his exhibit was a great addition and was well received. Everyone was delighted that he took the time and effort to share it with the show attendees.

I have exhibited three times in the last 10 months. It has raised my interest in this wonderful hobby to new heights. Not only have I filled "holes" in my collection I didn't know I had, but I have learned more about my material than I ever thought possible. Most importantly, I have made new friends and strengthened existing friendships. These are all benefits of exhibiting.

During the next year Polonus will be encouraging people to submit exhibits (one or multiple frame) to St. Louis Expo (<http://www.mophil.org/stampexpo.htm>) on February 25-27, 2005 where the 3rd Polonus National Meeting/Exhibition will be held. We'd like at least 75 frames exhibited by Polonus members, roughly double what we had at Aripex. The more Polonus members we see "struttin' their stuff" in St. Louis, the more successful and fun this show will be. I'll be there. I hope you will be too.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW TO ATTEND

***3rd National Polonus Exhibition & National Meeting
25-27 February 2005***

at

**St. Louis Stamp Expo
St. Louis, Renaissance Airport Hotel, St. Louis, Mo
(Reservations: 314-429-1100)**

PROOFS OF THE LAST POLISH STAMPS PRINTED BY LITHOGRAFY

by: Zdzislaw Maka

*Translated from "Filatelista" (2001) No. 6, p.289,
by Stanley T. Wlodek*

On February 1, 1945, the Lodz area sub-directorate of Posts and Telephone took over the abandoned printing firm "Filip Grapow" at 887 Gdansk St. in Lodz [1]. It was re-named "Pocztowe Zakłady Graficzne" (The Postal Typographic Works).

On May 1 1945 (or April 12 1945) this facility was put under the control of "Główna Składnica Materiałów Poczty" (Main Warehouse of Postal Materials) which itself was started in Warsaw on March 1 1945. By June 1945, the "Pocztowe Zakłady Graficzne" employed 42 people. The technical facilities of this printing facility permitted the production of the first post World War II regular issue, produced, by lithography in multi-million quantities. This was the so called Lodz issue, Fischer 358 to 360 (Scott 365 to 367). The same technical procedure was also used to produce the first post-war series of postage due stamps, Fischer D100 to D103 (Scott J103 to J106).

Both stamp series have been the subject of only a few studies in the philatelic literature, and the consideration of proofs of these issues is not complete. This article intends, at least partially, to fill these gaps.

PROOFS OF THE REGULAR ISSUE **Fischer 358-360.**

1. **Proofs of Fischer 358** (Scott 366), in a larger format (22 by 33 mm), and in purple, olive or red [3], exist as single impressions of this stamp on pre-gummed paper, Figure 1. The main identifying characteristic of these proofs is the lack of the letters "Lodz" {in the area just above Poczta Polska that depicts factories}. These proofs are rare. In addition, I have only seen one other copy in olive and one in purple, but these were cut back in size

PROOFS

to the stamp margins.

2. **Color Proofs of Fischer 359** (Scott 367) both perforated and imperforated were produced in sheet form. This is illustrated in Figure 2 by the presence of the standard marginal markings with which this stamp was printed. These proofs exist in different colors and on various papers, with and without gum [3, 6]. It is not clear whether they were printed in sheets with one or four sectors. As proofs printed in sheets must exist in quantities of at least 100, they are encountered fairly often in the philatelic market.



Fig 1. Proof of Fischer 358 (Scott 366)
exist in green, blue, red and purple



Fig 2. Proof of Fischer 359
(Scott 367)

Color Proofs of Fischer 360. Imperforate sheet proofs of this stamp are relatively popular in the definitive red color. I have found such proofs printed on gummed paper, 0.10 and 0.20 mm thick (Figure 3). A greater puzzle arises from proofs in blue or olive, which in "Polskie Znaki Pocztowe" [3] are mentioned only with the following comment: "Proofs of the 5zl exist in blue and olive. Whether these are sheet proofs or single plate printings [4], I cannot currently ascertain. There is some suspicion that the blue and olive proofs were printed singly and the much wider margins were cut off.



Fig 3. Proof of Fischer 360 (Scott 367) known to exist in red, olive and blue

PROOFS OF THE POSTAGE DUE STAMPS Fischer D100 to D103 (Scott J103-106)

1. In Volume III, page 688 of "Polskie Znaki Pocztowe" [3] there is the statement: *"Imperforate proofs exist consisting of all four values in one block. In addition, horizontal, imperforate pairs are known of the 1zl + 2zl and the 3zl+5zl, that are divided by a central strip. This indicates that the form used to produce the proofs consisted of four sectors, one for each nominal value."*

A block of this type, consisting of four stamps, each with a different value, is shown in Figure 4. The arrangement of the block indicates that in addition to the previously mentioned horizontal pairs, imperforate vertical pairs of the values: 1zl+3zl and 2zl+5zl are possible. Any mention of such pairs is lacking in the literature. The remaining sheets of individual sectors contain imperforate proofs for each of the four nominal values, 90 for each printed sector.

2. Figure 6 illustrates a hitherto undocumented block, similar to the one described above, but consisting of single images of all the values. The features that differentiate this proof are wide margins around each impression and a different arrangement of the stamps from the one shown in Figure 5.



Fig 4. Postage Due Proof Fischer D100 to D103 (Scott J103-106) in block format



Fig 5. Previously undocumented Postage Due Proof of Fischer D100 to D103 (Scott J103-106)

The choice of the proofs discussed here, from other existing types, was due to either their complete omission from existing catalogs

PROOFS

[5,6} or their pricing in a manner that did not reflect their rarity.

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The Polonus Philatelic Society is a Not-for-Profit Organization which was incorporated in 1939 in the State of Illinois. Its objective is to promote Polish philately via the dissemination of Polish philatelic information in English. The opinions expressed by authors of articles appearing in the Polonus Bulletin do not necessarily reflect the views of the Polonus Philatelic Society.

Members receive the Polonus Philatelic Bulletin quarterly, have full access to www.polonus.org and participate in the events and activities of the society. Annual dues are payable in US funds before the end of March of each calendar year. Membership categories are as follows:

Regular Member: \$25.00 payable in US funds

Retired Member: (retirees with restricted incomes) \$15.00

Junior Members: (under age 16) \$10.00

Charge Card Payments: Members that pay their annual dues using a charge card will be assessed an additional \$4 banking fee.

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Exhibit Synopsis Writing

Your Opportunity to (Legally) Influence the Judges

by: Erv Mrotek

I recently exhibited my "The Polish Prisoner of War Camp Posts" collection at the Mid-Cities Stamp Show (www.mid-citiesstampclub.com/stampshow.htm) in Grapevine Texas, the location of DFW Airport. While at the show, I attended a seminar on exhibit synopsis writing conducted by Jay Stotts, an APS-certified judge. It was so helpful that I want to share what I learned.

A synopsis is a way to educate judges by proving them with specific information that will help them understand your exhibit. When you write a synopsis, imagine you are pulling the judges aside and talking to them as they are about to evaluate your exhibit.

The synopsis is submitted with your exhibit application several months before the show. It usually contains information that's not in the exhibit and should focus on *your exhibit*, not the *subject* of the exhibit. The judges are (or should be) experts on the *subject* of your exhibit, but they don't know anything about *your exhibit*. Before a show, judges often don't even know how many frames your exhibit contains, unless you've told them in your synopsis.

Some exhibitors send in their title page and consider it a synopsis. While both briefly describe the exhibit, the synopsis should be more pointed and focused on the details the judges need to know about your exhibit. Conversely, the title page is for the general viewer.

For example, here are some items included in the synopsis that typically aren't on a title page:

- "A discussion of the "challenge factor."

ABC's

- Research conducted (stick to primary research, not secondary or tertiary research).
- Explanation of why certain items aren't included.
- Explanation of distressing environmental conditions or circumstances, if they pertain.

Some essentials that should be included in a synopsis are:

- A statement of purpose: What is the goal of assembling and exhibiting this material?
- Some clear indication of the scope of the exhibit (dates, geographic coverage, etc.).
- A clear statement explaining the organization of the exhibit.
- A list of key items (use restraint because key items are relevant to your exhibit, not all philately).
- A bibliography with best references in the primary language of the majority of the judges.

Conversely, some things that shouldn't be included are:

- A lengthy explanation of the issue, the history, the postal history, the country, the war, the occupation, the animal, the plant, the expedition, the military aspects, the culture, the intern-ees, the hardships, etc. Show some discipline and try to limit this to one paragraph.
- A frame-by-frame annotation.
- Past awards won by the exhibit.

Keep the synopsis to a page or two. Use a font of size 10 or larger.

Below is a checklist Mr. Stotts handed out at the seminar. Remember, a synopsis is a critical stepping-stone on the path to a gold award. Use it to your advantage!

Checklist for a Useful Synopsis

<i>What to do</i>	<i>Example of Good Practice</i>
Put the word "Synopsis" at the very top of the page	
Prominently display the exact title of the exhibit	
Tell the size of the exhibit	Use terms like "single frame", "5-frame", "10-frame", etc.
Indicate the Division of the exhibit	"This is a 5-frame Revenue exhibit."
Indicate the Exhibit Type	"This Cinderella exhibit features promotional material."
Include a statement of Purpose	"The purpose of this exhibit is to show the operation and extent of the traveling post office."
Incorporate a statement of Scope	"The Chinese National Currency was introduced in September, 1945, and remained in use for 36 months."
Incorporate a statement of Organization	"The 19 Traveling Post Offices are shown in numerical order."
Include a statement on Challenge Factor	"Only 21 of the 1 Peso stamps received the overprint."
Statement about Presentation or Treatment	"Issues are identified by their popular names, which generally reflect the name of the printer."
Explain any Original Research	"I made many trips to the U.S. State Department Archives in College Park, Maryland, to extract information on the exchange ships and Japanese POW mail."

ABC's

Explain New Discoveries	"The exhibit contains a number of plate varieties that I have discovered."
Point out New Additions since the last showing	"The unique artist's drawing for the U.N. 1 cent stamp of 1951 was acquired in the 2003 Manning sale of the U.N. archives and has been added to the exhibit for Mid-Cities 2003."
List of Key Items (use restraint)	"Two cards written on consecutive days showing the continuation of a message verifying that internees were only allowed one message card per day."
Statement of Items Not Included	"The Canal Zone overprints are not shown because they were not valid for postage in the U.S."
Statement on material Condition	"Military campaign mail was frequently folded and pocketed until the next opportunity to add a few lines to the letter back home."
English language Bibliography	Choose the five (or less) best



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New members will receive all the "Bulletins" for the year in which they join. All memberships are based on the calendar year.

(1) Dues, (2) Article for publication, (3) Changes of address, (4) Inquiries regarding and Applications for memberships, (5) General matters or complaints pertaining to the Society should all be sent to:

Polonus Philatelic Society, P.O. Box 2, Maryville, IL 62062

LESŁAW SCHMUTZ ACCEPTS HONORARY MEMBERSHIP IN POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

by Hank Bieniecki, Jerzy Kupiec and Jerzy Walocha

I am very pleased to announce that Lesław Schmutz, the foremost Polish philatelic expert in Poland, has agreed to accept honorary membership in the Polonus Philatelic Society. He is revered in Poland and the rest of Europe for his prodigious Polish philatelic knowledge and for his prolific production of research articles and books on Polish philately. Mr. Schmutz has kindly given our Society permission to translate and to reprint in our Bulletin his research articles that are published in Przegląd Filatelistyczny.

Following is a biography of Mr. Schmutz prepared by Dr. Jerzy Walocha, Krakow and translated by Dr. Jerzy Kupiec.



Lesław Schmutz was born near Lwow, Poland back in 1934. In 1939, when Nazi Germany and then communist Soviet Union attacked Poland, his father, a freedom fighter, was captured by the Soviet forces and subsequently murdered in 1940. 7 year old Lesław and his mother were detained by the Soviets and sent to a labor camp in Siberia, some 3000 miles from their home. Miraculously they both survived the hard regime of the labor camp, and after 6 years of imprisonment they were released when the Second World War ended.

Mr. Schmutz's interest in stamp collecting was fully developed by

the time he was a freshman in high school. At that time he already had a significant collection of Polish stamps, mainly from 1944 to 1950 era. For his first exhibit at the VI Polish Philatelic Show in 1955 he received a Diploma of Participation. Mr. Schmutz gradually enriched this collection, and in 1987 he was awarded the Grand Gold Medal at the XV National Philatelic Exhibition. In 1995, Mr. Schmutz participated at the World Exhibition in Helsinki, Finland, where he received a Vermeil Award for his 1919 Krakow post card collection. In 2003, the same collection received a gold medal at the annual Polish Philatelic Exhibition. He also received two Grand Prix Awards. First, at the Polish Stamp Exhibition in Walbrzych for his specialized 1919 Krakow issue collection (the same collection was awarded Vermeil at the "Polska 73" World Exhibition). Second, at the National Stamp Exhibition in Katowice for his specialized Polish 1944-1950 collection.

Since 1960, Mr Schmutz has been a member of the Expert Commission of The Polish Philatelic Society, the Krakow branch, and since 1971 has been duly appointed Expert of all Polish postal stamps. Mr. Schmutz owns a significant research collection of Polish and European postal stamps. His vast philatelic holdings also include specialized exhibits that once belonged to famous collectors, such as Jozef Tislowitz, Aleksander Roszkowski, Antoni Gromski, Stanislaw Mikstein, and others. For a number of years he has cooperated with well-known stamp experts in Poland and abroad, including Kazimierz Sztaba, Mariusz Kalinowski and Henryk Monkos. Mr. Schmutz is a recipient of numerous awards for his books and seminal philatelic research articles, which have had a significant impact on the Polish stamp collecting community world-wide. He is an active member of a recently established Polish Philatelic Academy, and a recipient of a prestigious Jan Witkowski Award given by the Board of The German Philatelic Society. Mr. Schmutz's prime philatelic interests include: the Krakow and Gniezno issues, PP/GGW, Goznak, plebiscite issues, detention camp stamps, and City of Gdansk (Frei Stadt Danzig) issues.

DEATH OF A FATHER END OF AN ERA

by: Hank Bieniecki

On 15 May 2004, my father, Joseph Bieniecki died at age 85 in his Granite City home surrounded by family members. No Docs, no tubes and no drugs. In the grand scheme of life, it was a good death. His passing marked the end of the first generation of Polish stamp dealers in America who helped to create and support our Society. In addition to myself, he is survived by his wife of sixty plus years, Anna, daughter Gloria, five grandchildren and a great granddaughter all of whom reside in or around Granite City. He is also survived by his sister Regina, Granite City, and brothers Henry, Tucson, AZ and Edward, Atlanta, GA.

He was born on 21 September 1918, in St. Louis, the first son of Stanley and Stella Bieniecki. His parents had immigrated to America from Poland prior to WW I, and met and married in Taylor Springs, IL. Dad started collecting stamps as a young boy when he answered a Liberty Stamp ad he found in a copy of Boy's Life at the library. From that point forward, philately was an integral part of his life.

Dad founded what was to become Bieniecki Int'l, Inc in 1945 after returning from military service in the 20th Armored Division in Europe during WW II. In the early 1950's, Roman Burkiewicz and his wife Anna immigrated to Granite City from England. Roman joined Dad in the business and they worked together until Roman relocated to Chicago to accept a job there. In that period few dealers relied exclusively on stamp sales to earn a living and raise a family. From age of 17 until he retired at age 57, Dad worked as a metal pattern maker at American Steel, in Granite City.

Dad was fluent in Polish and established a large number of contacts in Poland after WWII. Given the conditions in Poland



*Photo of my Father and I taken by Fred Szebel
about six months before his death.*

after the Russian occupation, Dad refused to do business with any official agency. Instead he communicated via snail mail with his contacts and received hundreds of letters per month at multiple boxes in Granite City and the surrounding towns. Today at stamps shows and dealer's bourses around the country it is not unusual to find commercial covers from Poland addressed to Dad or one of his pseudonyms.

He paid for the material he received with dollars in registered letters and more importantly in goods that were in short supply in Poland during the soviet occupation. As a result he was not only supplying stamps to collectors in the USA, but he was also helping to improve the lives of his partners in Poland. I have meet and had contact with several of these people and learned first hand what a positive impact his activities and assistance provided to them.

Most people are not lucky enough to find something they enjoy doing as a boy, and then continue doing it for the rest of their lives. Over the course of his prolific philatelic career the accolade he valued most was his reputation as a scrupulously honest and fair dealer of Polish philatelic material. The icing on the cake was the life long friendships he formed with members of Polonus and others he met as a result of his avocation. I feel most fortunate not only to carry on the business he created, but also to continue many of those same friendships.