

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



Meets every 4th Friday at Polish American Congress, 5844 Milwaukee Ave., Chicago

Issue No. 436

Price \$2.00

July-August, 1989

POLONUS OFFICERS for 1988-89 INSTALLED

At the June 23rd meeting, the new administration was installed. Acting as the installing officer was long-time member, Joseph Janecka, who is also President of the First Czechoslovak Philatelic Club. He used the same installing procedures as those of the Czech Mushroom Pickers Society, another club he is a member of. Shown on photo: (left to right):



Ted Kwiecinski, Secretary; Art Walinski, Vice President; Roman Strzelecki, President; Joseph Janecka, Installing Officer; Al Rybarski, Treasurer; Stanley Dobrzycki, Chester Schafer and Alex Juskowicz, Directors.

An excellent program meeting followed the installation. Monte Cassino veterans Stanley Dobrzycki and Walenty Poniecki, who just returned from the 45th anniversary ceremonies held at Monte Cassino, Italy, presented a lecture and showed color slides of their trip. All present at this well attended meeting were treated to "paczki" and liquid refreshments.

Postal History of the Polish Army in Russia

(1941-1942)

By JERZY KUCHARSKI

1. Historical Introduction:

Soon after the war between Germany and Russia started on June 22, 1941, General W. Sikorski renewed diplomatic relations with the USSR on July 31, 1941. They were broken after Russia occupied the Eastern part of Poland on September 17, 1939. A military agreement was signed on August 14, 1941, establishing Polish Forces in the USSR (Armia Polska na Wschodzie - A.P.W.) — up to 44,000, under the command of Gen. W. Anders, to fight Hitler's Armies together with the Russians. The volunteers for this APW were to come from about 1.5 million Poles, who "happened" to be in Russia, after the occupation of the Eastern part of Poland. Among them were: about 200,000 POW's taken by the Red Army, and about 250,000 arrested by the NKVD, such as policemen, judges, government workers, etc., considered as "unsafe element", working for pre-war Poland. Also over a million of civilians, members of these families, who were deported soon to the Central Asian Republic. Even over 200,000 Jews from Western Poland, who tried to escape Hitler, also were sent to work in Central Asia. All these fell under the so-called "amnesty" given by Stalin. Volunteers for APW were directed to "Pryvo" (Volga Military District) where the APW was organized in the following places:

- Buzuluk (Czkalowska Obl.) - H.Q. of the Polish Army.
- Tatiszczewo, near Saratow - 5 Inf. Division
- Tock (Czkalowska Obl.) - 6 Inf. Division
- Tock (Czkalowska Obl.) - O.O.A. - Army Org. Center, later 7 Inf. Div.

September 1, 1941 was set as the date of the starting of APW and the number of 50,000 men was reached by the end of October, 1941.

After Gen. Sikorski's visit in December, 1941 to Moscow, Stalin agreed to increase APW by three Infantry Divisions, and to transfer all APW to a warmer climate, which was necessary to improve the physical ability of the ex-prisoners. During February, 1942, all APW's were transferred to Savo (South Asian Military Distr.) were formed since Jan., 1942.

All APW Units were located then:

- H.Q. of APW in Yanghi Jul (near Tashkent)
- 5 Infantry Division in Dzalal Abad (Kirgiz SSR)
- 6 Infantry Division in Schahrizjabs (Uzbek SSR)
- 7 Infantry Division in Kermine (Uzbek SSR)
- 8 Infantry Division in Czok Pak (South Kazakhstan)
- 9 Infantry Division in Gorchakovo (Margelan Obl.)
- 10 Infantry Division in Lugovoye (Dzambul Obl.)
- O.O.A. in Gusar (Uzbek SSR) - Army Org. Center)
- C.W.A. in Vrevskoye (Uzbek SSR) - Army Training Center
- 1st Uhlan Rgt. in Otar, South Kazakhstan.

"PRYVO" DATESTAMPS



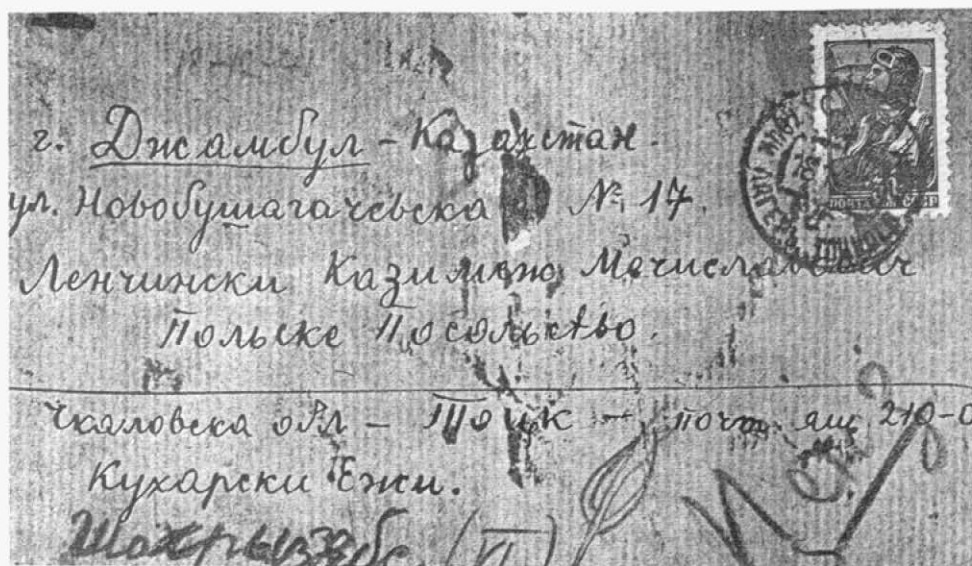
Busuluk



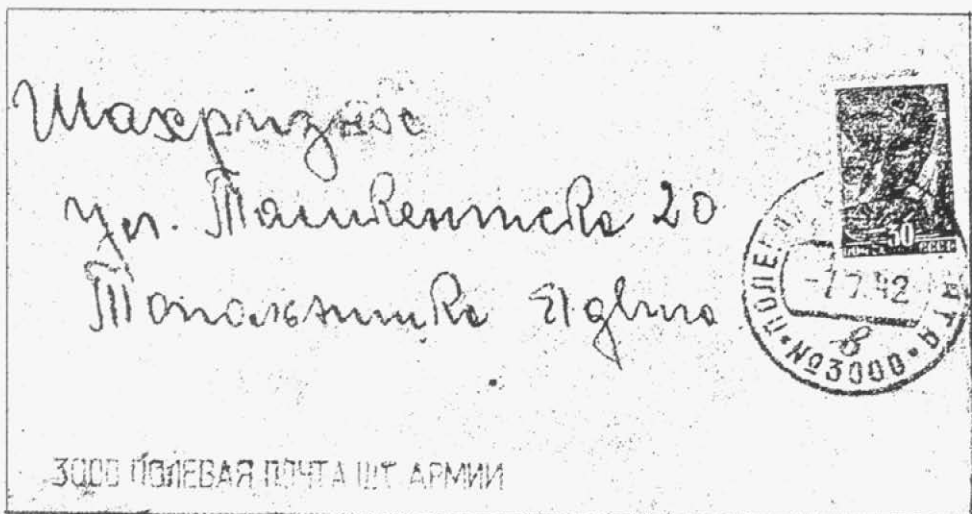
Tatischevo



Tock Lager (b), (v)



Author Letter mailed from TOCK CAMP "b" 18.1.42 P.O. BOX 210.0 to JANGI JUL.



Polish Army Command FP 3000 "b" to a soldier in the 6th I.D.

The 10th Infantry Division was almost completed, the 8th and 9th were only partly organized because many Poles could not reach APW in time, as they were kept in distant camps in Siberia. About 14,000 Polish officers were kept during the winter of 1939-1940 in POW Camps of Kozielsk, Starobielsk and Ostaszkow, never joined the APW and could not be accounted for. As the supply of food and arms was very limited by the Russians, the transfer of the last three divisions (28,000 soldiers) and volunteers for the Polish Navy and Air Forces, also 12,000 dependents, it was decided to have them go to the Middle East. It was the first evacuation. After five months, the second one started, and by the end of August, 1942, all APW left Russia, and the Polish-Soviet relations deteriorated. Altogether, 140,000 Poles left Russia in 1942, and immediately Russians started to form another Polish Army under Col. Berling, who was more acceptable to Stalin.

When in April, 1943, Germans discovered in the Katyn Forest, graves of 3,100 Polish officers from the Kozielsk Camp, and accused the Russians for the crime — the Russian Government then broke off all relations with the Polish Government in Exile.

2. The Postal Service:

The history of Polish FPO's is divided into two periods:

1. From September 1, 1941 to May 5, 1942;
2. From May 5 to the end of August, 1942.

FIRST PERIOD. In "Pryvo" only local datestamps were used, but to camouflage a military address, each Division and H.Q. had a P.O. Box Number (Pocztowy Yaszczyk) and code letter for the Unit:

- H.Q. APW - P.O. box #82 for private mail to Staff,
- 5 Infantry Division - P.O. box #65
- 6 Inf. Division - P.O. box #210 ("o" Bat. Roz. "Lvov") - 18 Rgt. - "e"
- 7 Infantry Division - P.O. #215 (#10 - volunteers to England).

Mail to H.Q. of APW was addressed: "Sztab Pol. Army", or "D-two Pol. Army, Yangi Yul". Address to the Russian Territory had to be in Russian only — to the Polish Units and abroad, it could be bilingual. After the transfer to Savo, some P.O. boxes were changed: H.Q. APW to #14; 5 Infantry Division to #22; 7 Infantry Division became separated from O.O.A. and received new #35. Mail to or from the 8th, 9th and 10th Division is very scarce, as they left Russia by the end of March, to merge with the Carpathian Brigade in Palestine. It had return address: "Polski Garnizon" and local P.O.

SECOND PERIOD, much shorter but more interesting started with the Order of the Chief of Staff APW from May 2, 1942, to organize Polish FPO at H.Q. - to simplify the handling of mail, according to Polish regulations. Rubber stamp function of G.P.O. started May 5, 42, and stamped on the handwritten instruction. But normal function of the P.O. started May 15, 1942, as it took some time to print the necessary forms for Registration and Money Orders. Part of 4 receipts for letters of May 15 are known, and a photo is in my collection. Naturally the Russians objected,

and in one week (in time of war!) opened their own #3000 "Polewaya Poczta" in the vicinity of the H.Q. of APW on May 22, 1942, the date seen often, as mail was held up till the dater arrived; later more P.P. were opened according to the Order #7071:

- P.P. #3001 at 5 Inf. Division on June 1, 1942, known letters "a", "b"
- P.P. #3002 at 6 Inf. Division on June 1, 1942 "a", "b"
- P.P. #3003 at 7 Inf. Division on June 1, 1942 "a", "b"
- P.P. #3004 at Osr. Org. Ar. on July 5, but never opened, such date stamp is not known.
- P.P. #3005 at Ctr. Wy. Art. on July 5, not known till August 29, "a", such cover addressed to Col. N. Sulik, not censored, was in an exhibit in the British Museum in London, when I saw it in 1976. When I was there in June, 1988, such cover was replaced with M.O. dated August 7, 1942.
- P.P. #3000 at H.Q. of APW had 3 datestamps: "a, b, v" - in Russian alphabet.

A.P.W. had no free mail privileges — all mail, private and official had to be prepaid — like civilian. If the stamp fell off (poor glue), the addressee had to pay postage due. Such cases are known, and a stamp "Doplatit" was used.

At the beginning of August, 1942, the second evacuation started in that order: Dependents and O.O.A., then 7 D.P. Kermine, C.W.A. Vrevskoje, 6 D.P. (12-18 Aug.), 5 D.P. and H.Q. APW - Aug. 21, 1942, all by trains to Krasnovodsk on the Caspian Sea, and by boat to Pahlevi, Iran. Later by trucks to No. Iraq. Liquidation groups from all D.P. left Russia by road and took late mail for APW, which was stamped Aug. 28, 1942, with P.P. 3000 (v) - which was the last day of APW in Russia.

3. Censorship:

This part of the Postal History is more interesting, as it requires some knowledge of the history of APW, names of its Commanders and units, and markings are in Polish not in Russian. Soon after arriving in Savo in February, 1942, all Divisions received for security reasons "code letters" which were taken from initials of Division Commanders, like:

- 5 D.P. - "B" from Boruta Spiechowicz,
- 6 D.P. - "M" from Michal Tokarzewski-Karasiewicz
- 7 D.P. - "Z" from Zygmunt Szyszko-Bohusz,
- 8 D.P. - "R" from Rakowski
- 9 D.P. - "J" from Jozef Boleslawicz, Col.,
- 10 D.P. - "S" from Schmid, Col.,
- 00A - "K" from A. Koc, Col.
- Centr. Wysz. Arm. - did not have a code.

All these codes were used for censor stamps except the 8, 9, 10 Division later.

The first Polish Stamp "Cenzura Wojskowa" in the frame 51 x 10 mm. is known only on two letters: 1) from Altajski Kraj 2-2-1942 to Busuluk (bstpd: 2-23-1942), delivered to Yangi Jul; 2) from Maryjska ASR

DATESTAMPS IN SAVO.



Janghi-jul:a,b



Dzalal-Abad. - b.w.



Shahriziabs



POCZTA "K" POL.



Czok-Pak. "a"



Margelan-v.



Lugovaya-a.



Gusar-a.



Vrevskaya-a



CENZURA WOJSKOWA

GŁÓWNA POCZTA POŁOWA
POL. SIK. ZBR. W. Z. S.R.R.

3000 ПОЛЕВАЯ ПОЧТА ШТ. АРМИИ

H.Q.A.P.



Cen Gusar (K)



Cen A.P.W.



Cen 5 D.P.



Cen 6 D.P.



Cen 7 D.P.



Cen O.O.A.



Cen Kurierska



P.P. 3000 (a, b, v)



P.P. 3001 (a, b)



P.P. 3002



P.P. 3003



P.P. 3005



Cen - APW



Cen 5 D.P.



Cen 6 D.P.



Cen 7 D.P.



Cen CWA

2-3-1942, also to Busuluk, no bstpd, dated in pencil 4-13-1942. received.

The other stamp is octagonal, with "K" between "Poczta Polowa", known on official announcement of Gusar Postmaster 2/ Lt. Roganowicz, dated 2-16-1942, also undated on local cover, probably CTO. After the War, the stamp was repaired but fixed wrongly, with "K" on the left side instead on the top (like the photo in P.Z.P., vol. IV, p. 133) probably bona fide. Also another correction for P.Z.P.: location of Gusar was printed as Ufa district, while it was in Uzbekistan in Savo.

The second censor stamp, also provisional, was used in Gusar: a triangle 33 mm. base, 35 mm. arms, inside B.C.K. and "dnia" which was 3-23-1942, it also did not satisfy the Russians, so the third type was introduced in May, 1942, for all Divisions: regular triangle 31.5 mm., in the apex a divisional code: C.B.M.Z.K. as was mentioned above, and letters Rej. (Region) B.C.W. (Biuro Cenz. Wojsk.) on the base. But even the three letters did not satisfy the Russians, and in the middle of July, 1942, a new type of censor stamps was now ordered: only 21 mm. regular triangle with #0 in apex, for G.P.P. 3000, and No. 1, 2, 3, 5 for the others F.P.O. — and only B.C. (Biuro Cenzury) on the base. These stamps are very rare, especially #1 or 5.

Three unique postal markings are known to have been used for specific reasons:

- 1) 34 mm. triangle in 3 lines: Cen (Traln) B.C.W. on the base, used for the mail, carried by Polish couriers;
- 2) in line head stamp in Russian: 3000 Polevaya Poczta Szt. Armji on cover fr. Bureau of Polish Welfare to Szachrizjabs, dated P.P. 3000 - 7-7-1942 and censored with Russian censor mark BJa/17.
- 3) Skladnica Pocztowa Nr. 1 - Kitab, the last station R.R. to the 6 Inf. Division, where the letter written in Pavlodar, had to be delivered to a Captain in the 18th Regiment.

All three markers are unique.

STAMP OR LABEL ?

Research is being conducted re-



garding the illustrated stamp or label in order to ascertain its origin, purpose and utilization. Any information relative to this stamp would be appreciated.

Write to:

Dr. K. W. Franzmann, 6 Northstead Rd., London SW2 3JW, England.

—Edward T. Superson

Thanks to the POW Study Group

Some time ago I was approached by R. Bannan of Olympia, Washington. Upon the disbanding of the POW Study Group, the members voted that its library and some funds be transferred to Polonus. Recently, I received and transferred to the treasury a check for \$636.90. The library will find a home in a most deserving place at the Collectors Club of Chicago. This transfer will be made in the fall.

Our sincere gratitude to the POW Study Group members for the confidence shown to Polonus.

—Fred Szebel

PAPAL CANCELLATIONS

By STEFAN CZARNIECKI

KARTKA POCZTOWA



KARTKA POCZTOWA



The Polonus Bulletin of June, 1984 printed a detailed story of special cancellations used by the Polish Post during the second Papal visit to Poland in 1983. Only recently had I the chance to present the remaining cancellations, also used by Post Office Kraków I on June 22, 1983 to commemorate the outdoor Mass, during which the beatifications of Rafał Kalinowski and Adam Chmielowski took place. Both took part in the Polish Uprising of 1863 against czarist Russia, and after release from Siberia, moved to Kraków, (then in Austrian Galicia) and joined religious orders.

1. Rafał Kalinowski, after military service and Siberia, spent his pious life in Czerna near Kraków in the Carmelitan Order. He was buried there.

In the cloister's hall, I had the privilege of seeing a very bold display of his experiences as a Polish patriot who, with others, was forced to march on foot to Siberia where they encountered rough conditions of hard labor.

This is a remarkable exhibit sheltered till today by the sanctuary of the cloister.

2. Adam Chmielowski 1895-1916 — renowned Polish artist and painter soon became known as Brother Albert since his establishment of the new order of St. Albert that takes care of poor and destitute people. He took part in the Polish Uprising in 1863, then settled and died in Kraków. His likeness was shown on Polish stamps in 1947 (Scott 397).

The two different cancellations are clearly visible on postcards commemorating the Pontiff's visit in 1983.

IN OUR MAIL BOX

Drogi Panie Szebel!

Po dwóch prawie że miesiącach jakie minęły od czasu wystawy to jednak nadal przyjemnie ją wspominam, a zdjęcia jakie przesyłam przypominają jak przyjemnie wszyscy spędzali tam czas.

E. W. Neumann
Hope, B.C., Canada

**EVERY MEMBER BRING IN
A NEW MEMBER TO THE MEETING**

Szanowny Fredku!

Przyjemnie było Ciebie poznać na Polpex 89. Szkoda tylko, że tak mało było czasu aby się więcej zabawić. Z wystawy myślę że jesteś zadowolony, gdyż była naprawdę dobra i należą Ci się słowa uznania.

W lipcu jedziemy z połowicą na małe wakacje do Polski, więc zobaczymy się w Warszawie.

A. Roszkowski
England

A "WINDOW" OVERPRINT

By STANLEY KRONENBERG

Figures 1 and 2 show the front and the reverse of a block of four of the stamp of Poland, Scott number 292. Its third stamp was missing in the sheet before the overprinting and a stamp was added in this place. It was mounted by means of gummed strips of paper obtained from sheet margins of these stamps.



FIGURE 1.

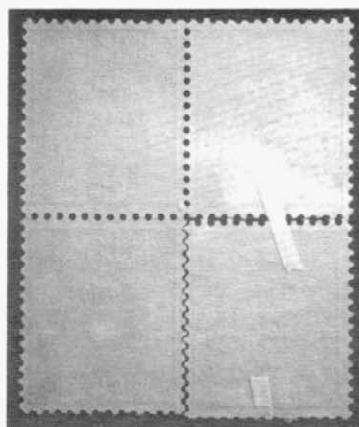


FIGURE 2.



FIGURE 3.

Figure 3 and 4 show a similar case where the center stamp in the block of 3 x 3 stamps was missing and was added in this field. Having been

mounted upside down in the sheet it received an inverted overprint.

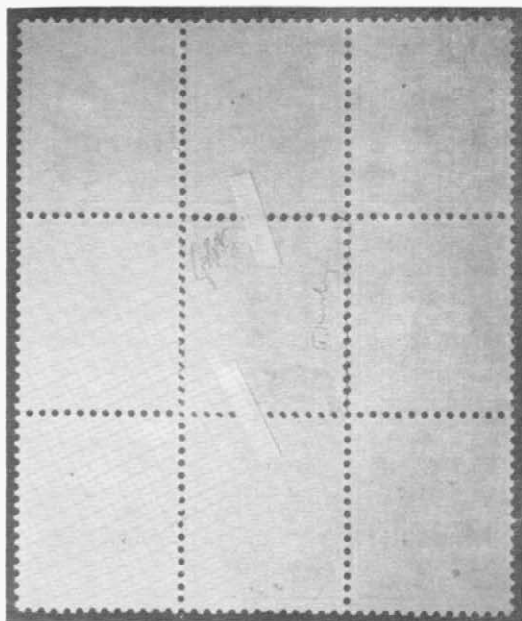


FIGURE 4.

THE RARE POLONUS SLANIA ESSAY SHEET

Czeslaw Slania, world renowned artist and engraver to the Royal Court of Sweden, etched a very rare essay sheet for the Fiftieth Anniversary of Polonus. The execution of the project met difficulties. Due to personal problems, Slania was unable to print the essay by himself. Because it is a complicated process, printing one at a time, it had to be done by the banknote printing shop in Sweden. This process is very costly with a high percentage of waste.

Early in February, upon his return from Poland, Slania signed a small quantity of the essay sheets and mailed them to Fred Szebel. They arrived on the last day, too late for distribution at the Polpex.

Members may purchase this rare and only engraving of Czeslaw Slania for Polonus. It was originally designed by Leon Kawecki. Both are Polonus Honorary Members. A mint sheet signed by Slania costs \$25.00. A used sheet on cover with Polpex 89 cancel of Feb. 12th costs \$35.00. Only a limited amount available. Write to: Al Rybarski, Box 82, River Grove, Illinois 60171.

Polonus participated at **FESTIVAL POLONAISE**, held July 14-16 at Chicago's lakefront Navy Pier with a five frame exhibit and a courtesy table. Accumulated souvenir sheets and bulletins were handed out free. Roman Strzelecki reported that on Friday, many senior citizens attended, while on Saturday and Sunday the younger set came in large numbers. Polonus covers were sold and membership applications given to many.

STO LAT! STO LAT!

This is the oldest and largest of Polish philatelic societies active outside Poland. It was established during an inaugural meeting of a handful of Polish philatelists living in Chicago, called together by Mr. Chester Mikucki on Feb. 26, 1939. The name of the Society "Polonus" was proposed by Dr. Leon Kozakiewicz, who remembered that such a word is registered as the nationality of Mikołaj Kopernik (Nicolaus Copernicus), when he was a student of the Padua University in 1501-03.

From 1942 onwards, the Society publishes its "Bulletin of the Polonus Philatelic Society", having readership in all corners of the world. Their annual philatelic exhibitions under the title "POLPEX" with an addition of the current year, each time enjoy great popularity and gather together the best exhibits of Polish philately. Members of our PPF also contributed in the past years to the successes of "POLPEX". This year our "Jubilaci" celebrated their Golden Anniversary on Feb. 10-12, 1989.

Some of our members made the long journey to Chicago, there to participate in the celebrations of our colleagues and countrymen. To demonstrate our close links with Polonus, existing since the formation of the Polish Philatelic Federation in G.B. five years ago. Also to wish "POLONUS" well and many more successes in future years with a traditional Polish wish: "Szczęść Boże!" - and to join in shouts of joy: "WIWAT! Niech żyje Nam!"

—R.Sz.

Reprinted from Polish Philatelic Review
London, England

NEW MEMBER

Jerzy Kwiecinski, #1384
29 Kopernik Street
Buffalo, NY 14206

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY A.P.S. Affiliate #119

ROMAN STRZELECKI, President
7006 West 29th Street
Berwyn, IL 60402

ARKADIUSZ WALINSKI, Vice Pres.
7353 West Estes Street
Chicago, IL 60631

TED KWIECINSKI, Secretary
3 North Forrest Avenue
Arlington Hgts., IL 60004

AL RYBARSKI, Treasurer
and Membership Chairman
P.O. Box 82
River Grove, IL 60041

Board of Directors:

CHESTER SCHAFER
STANLEY DOBRZYCKI
ALEX JUSKIEWICZ

Bulletin Editor:

CHESTER SCHAFER
864 N. Ashland Avenue
Chicago, IL 60622

Annual Dues which include a subscription to the 'Bulletin' are \$12.50 (U.S. funds only) and should be sent to: Al Rybarski, Treasurer, P.O. Box 82, River Grove, IL 60041. Membership Dues are payable by December 31st, for the next calendar year. New tins' for the year in which they join. members will receive all the 'Bulletin'. Changes of address, problems with receiving the Bulletin, should be addressed to: Polonus Philatelic Society, P.O. Box 82, River Grove, IL 60041. General matters pertaining to the Society, contribution of articles for the Bulletin, complaints, or general matters should be directed to the President.

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 the Polonus Philatelic Society.

ANNOUNCING...

President Roman Strzelecki announces that beginning with the next issue of the Bulletin, we will have running columns on:

1. **New Issues of Poland**
by R. Odrowski.
2. **Pope John Paul II Issues** by R. H. Strzelecki and A. Walinski