



BULLETIN OF THE POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



Warszawa to Belgrade airmail letter with 2,000,000 mk stamp – See page 11

Message from the President.....	3	Post Wax Seals in the Kingdom of Poland (Part 1) ..	12-16
Society News.....	4-6	Oflag IIE Camp Post (Part 1)	
Gems of Polish Philately		-- Unofficial Postal Stationery	17-21
-- 5/3 Fenig Second Warsaw Provisional	7	Polonus 75 Years Ago	22
Annals of Polish Aerophilately (Part 4)		The Polish Army Corps in Great Britain 1940-47.....	23-24
-- Inflation Period	8-11	New Issues.....	25-28



POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Officers & Directors

President	Bob Ogradnik P.O. Box 240428 Ballwin, MO 63024-0428 krpsl@earthlink.net
Vice President	Richard Jaraczewski 360 Ursuline Rd Santa Ana, CA 95403 rjara@sonic.net
Secretary	Roman Sobus 1110 N. Oakley Blvd. Chicago, IL 60622 Rsobus9013@cs.com
Treasurer	William Williges 570 Phelps Court Benicia, CA 94510 billwil@znet.com
Directors	Dr. James Mazepa, C.O.B. jmazepa@comcast.net Hank Bieniecki info@biistamp.com Dr. Paul Phillips PaulXLPE@gmail.com Bob Nowicki philatelist@comcast.net Dan Lubelski dplubelski@gmail.com

Publication Committee

Chairman	Bob Ogradnik P.O. Box 240428 Ballwin, MO 63024-0428 krpsl@earthlink.net
Senior Contributing Editors	Hank Bieniecki info@biistamp.com Dr. James Mazepa jmazepa@comcast.net
Senior Editors & Translators	Richard Jaraczewski rjara@sonic.net Robert Puchala rob3@ce3.pl Przemek Konopka info@profilex.pl Roman Sobus Rsobus9013@cs.com
Associate Editors	Sam Ginsburg samgins1730@yahoo.com Dr. Paul Phillips PaulXLPE@gmail.com Bob Nowicki philatelist@comcast.net
New Issues	Andrew Urushima aurushima@yahoo.com Frank Karwoski sunvoyager43@gmail.com
Publisher	Theresa Hines hinestheresa@gmail.com
Printer	John LaPorta album@comcast.net

Website Committee

Chairman	Hank Bieniecki info@biistamp.com
Website Developer	Przemek Konopka info@profilex.pl
Function Moderator	Richard Jaraczewski rjara@sonic.net

Committee Chairpersons

Expertizing	Hank Bieniecki info@biistamp.com
Library Liaison	Robin Elliott rmgrge@gmail.com
Membership	Richard Jaraczewski rjara@sonic.net

Study Groups

POW Camps	Roman Sobus Rsobus9013@cs.com
DP / Intern Camps	(Open)
Aero-Philately	Dr. Jerzy Kupiec-Węgliński jkupiec@mednet.ucla.edu
Cinderellas & Labels	(Open)

The Polonus Philatelic Society is a non-profit, tax-exempt, 501(c)(3) organization incorporated in 1939 in the State of Illinois. The Society is organized exclusively for educational purposes with the objective of promoting Polish philately through the dissemination of information in the English language. The opinions expressed by authors of articles appearing in the Polonus Bulletin do not necessarily reflect the views of the Polonus Philatelic Society.

Membership: Members participate in all the services and activities offered by the Society, including complete access to the Society website (www.polonus.org) and the option of receiving a quarterly bulletin in print or electronically. The two membership categories are: **Regular and Junior**. Annual dues for **Regular Members** opting to receive **Printed Bulletin (via mail)** are: **North America - \$30 / Outside N.A. - \$40** or **Electronic Bulletin (via website)** are: **North America - \$25 / Outside N.A. - \$25**. Annual dues for **Junior Members** (under age 16 and electronic bulletin only) are: \$10. Annual dues are payable in US funds no later than the end of March of each calendar year. Dues for new members are pro-rated for the time of the year application is submitted, i.e., for period **Jan – Mar 100%** of annual dues; **Apr – Jun 75%**; **Jul – Sep 50%**; and **Oct – Dec 125%** (to cover full payment for following year).

Dues and Changes of Address to be sent to: Polonus Philatelic Society, P.O. Box 489, Maryville, IL 62062.

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

Membership queries to be sent to: Membership Chairman.

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

Bulletin Advertising:

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

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

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

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

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

Message From The President

By: Bob Ogrodnik

In gathering our Society News for this issue I was pleasantly surprised to learn about the success some of our members are having with exhibiting. Jim Mazepa has a nice article covering BRAZILIANA 2013 held in Rio de Janeiro, where three of our members won Gold Medals with high scores. On the domestic front, the palmares from five major shows listed five of our members receiving Medals and special recognition for outstanding exhibits, including a single-frame Grand and multi-frame Reserve Grand. Hopefully, this success in exhibiting will encourage many more of our members to exhibit, especially in the upcoming CHICAGOPEX 2014 on 21-23 November. As a "Convening Society" at this show, Polonus, through its members, has an obligation to exhibit at least 80 frames. Now is the time to decide whether or not you should exhibit. A "call for exhibitors" will be made as soon as the prospectus and entry forms are available (end of March). With more than eight months until the exhibition, you will have plenty of time to fine-tune your exhibit and get mentoring help from some of our seasoned exhibitors. In addition to exhibiting, which can be accomplished without attending, we would like to know how many members plan to actually attend CHICAGOPEX 2014. This will help the planning committee in making arrangements for the Hospitality Suite, Annual Membership Meeting, Networking Events, Society Table, etc. Please send me a note if you plan to attend. This will not be a "binding commitment" but an indication of the probability of attending.

We are pleased to announce that the Board of Directors elected Bill Williges as Treasurer of Polonus effective 1 January 2014. He replaces Dan Lubelski who has accepted the administrative responsibility for the Master Data Base, a critical computer-based function. More information on our new Treasurer can be found in the Society News section of this issue. We are still looking for candidates willing to serve a three year term on the Board of Directors. A position description is included for your consideration on page 7 of this issue. Please consider throwing your name in the hat or recommending one of your member friends. If interested or if you have any questions, contact any of the following members of the

Nominating Committee: Bob Nowicki, Chair, Hank Bieniecki, Jim Mazepa, Bob Ogrodnik.

This issue features the fourth of a series of articles called, "*Annals of Polish Aerophilately*", authored by Dr. Jerzy Kupiec-Węgliński and Jacek Kosmala. This article covers the "Inflation Period" in The Pioneer Period of Airmail Services in Poland (1918-1928), a time when the Polish mark (mk) was replaced by the "złoty" at a rate of 1,800,000:1.

If you are interested in postal history before postage stamps, you will certainly find Wiesław Kostka's article on "*Postal Wax Seals in the Kingdom of Poland 1815-1871*" very interesting. In this first of a two-part article you will learn about "official" and "postal procedure" seals with text in the Polish language. Using his collection (*Postal Tariffs of the Kingdom of Poland*) as a reference, Wiesław illustrates the various wax seals and describes their color, size and time period of usage.

Piotr Pelczar and Roman Sobus team-up to expand our knowledge of the Oflag IIE Camp Post with this first of a two-part article covering "*Unofficial Single Stamp Postal Stationery*". The discovery of unofficial postal stationery cards has resulted in a proposal to add the CpN designated stationery to the catalog.

The final feature article, "*The Polish Army Corps in Great Britain 1940-47*" brings focus to the build-up of Polish military personnel in Great Britain during the war years. Jan Niebrzydowski uses the "*Bardziłowska Letters*" to highlight the various locations of Polish troops in Great Britain.

Due to the length of the feature articles in this issue, we have expanded from 24 to 28 pages. We are not planning to continue with 28 pages as the new standard but will resort to such an expansion when the situation dictates. Included in this issue is a "*Gems of Polish Philately*" article by Dr. James Mazepa, a call for summer volunteers from our Library Liaison, New Issues, and the listing of 2013 Polonus Donors. We are grateful for the generosity of our donors whose help makes a big difference in maintaining our financial viability. Good reading #554....your feedback is appreciated.

Williges Elected Polonus Treasurer

By: Bob Ogrodnik

William A. Williges has been unanimously elected by the Board of Directors to assume the duties of Treasurer and Officer of Polonus effective 1 January 2014, thereby replacing Dan Lubelski for the remainder of the term of office. This action is in accordance with Article 5, Section 7 of our by-laws.

William (Bill) Williges is a relatively new member of Polonus and is recently retired from Chevron, where he worked as an Accounting Analyst. He has a BS in Food Biochemistry from the University of California, Davis and an MBA with Accounting Emphasis from California State University, Chico. He also has his CMA (Certified Management Accountant) certification. Began collecting stamps at the ripe age of six, specialized in New Zealand and developed an

interest in Polish stamps after meeting Czesław Słania at the San Francisco International Stamp Show. He has exhibited locally, written philatelic articles and a member of several philatelic organizations, including APS and AAPE.

Dan Lubelski has taken over the management of the Master Data Base, which is a critical computer-based administrative function in the Society. He will continue to serve his term as a member of the Board of Directors and provide for a smooth transition in the Treasurer's function. Dan has served Polonus as Treasurer for the past seven years, in addition to other volunteering responsibilities with the Society. We are grateful to Dan for his dedication and commendable performance in every one of the assignments.

I am sure you will join me in congratulating Bill and Dan in their new assignments. This organization move expands the management scope of the Society and is just one of a few more steps we need to take to insure leadership sustainability.

From the Library Liaison

By: Robin Gates Elliott

Help Wanted: Polonus members who can read Polish ...to help process the Polonus library materials now housed at the American Philatelic Research Library during the American Philatelic Society's Volunteer Work Week, July 21-25, 2014. A portable computer (Laptop or Notebook) is helpful but not necessary.

Like all nonprofit organizations, the American Philatelic Society is feeling the effects of the Great Recession. Paid staff is at a minimum, so help provided by volunteers has become increasingly important. A few years ago the Society organized the Volunteer Work Week, a week in the summer when volunteers would gather *en masse* at the APS to work on a variety of projects.

Your Library Liaison attended the Volunteer Work Week last summer to begin the processing of the Polonus materials. First, they were sorted by type of publication (monographs, journals, etc.), and then the monographs were entered into the library's data base. The Polonus library includes numerous journals, and the next step will be to add them to the library's data base. Obviously, such work is best done by someone who reads Polish; hence the call for volunteers from Polonus for this year's Volunteer Work Week. Since this work is done by computer, volunteers who own portable

computers should bring them; otherwise, computers can be provided.

Help from Polonus volunteers will facilitate the integration of the Polonus materials into the American Philatelic Research Library (Library Liaison is already planning to attend this year's Volunteer Work Week). In addition, volunteers will have the opportunity to become acquainted with the Library and its extensive collections first-hand, to visit the new library building currently under construction, to enjoy Bellefonte in the summer, and to meet other philatelists.

Information about this summer's Volunteer Work Week will be published in the April issue of the *American Philatelist*. Information about Volunteer Work Week is also currently available on the APS website, <http://stamps.org>. To access it:

1. Click the heading "Support the Hobby" on the Home Page
2. On the "Support the Hobby" page, click the heading "Volunteer"
3. On the "Volunteer" page, click on the phrase "Volunteer Work Week," which appears in the text in blue

Please read the information and consider contributing your skills to processing the Polonus library materials during Volunteer Work Week this summer.

Polonus Members at BRAZILIANA 2013

By: Dr. James Mazepa

The WORLD STAMP EXHIBITION BRAZILIANA 2013 was held November 19-25th in Rio de Janeiro. There were 731 exhibits in the competitive classes from 73 countries for a total of over 3500 frames. The venue was the beautiful Pier Maua which consists of old warehouses that were converted into a convention center and located on the colorful harbor of Rio. This was the only World Stamp Exhibition in the Americas since WASHINGTON 2006 and there will not be another in the Americas until NY-2016. Three Polonus members exhibited and all received GOLD MEDALS for their outstanding exhibits: Dr. Jerzy Kupiec-Węgliński, 92 points, "Air Mail in the Polish Territories 1914-1939"; Julian Auleytner, 92 points, "Beginnings of the Post in Independent



Figure 1 - L – R, Jacek Kosmala and Dr. James Mazepa

Poland 1918-1920"; Robert Puchala, 90 points, "The Kraków Issue 1919".

Dr. James Mazepa served on the International Jury as Team Leader for Postal History Americas and Jacek Kosmala served as Commissioner for Poland. (see **Figure 1**)

Polonus Exhibitors Excel at National Shows

By: Bob Ogrodnik

In addition to Polonus members who participated at the BRAZILIANA 2013 show, we proudly recognize and congratulate the following members who recently received medals for their exhibits at major exhibitions in the USA.

APS STAMPSHOW in Milwaukee on 8-11 August 2013

- Dr. Paul J. Phillips participated in the World Series of Philately Prix d'Honneur with his exhibit, "*Reform of the British Overseas Mail System, 1840-56*". Paul also won Gold Medals in the Single-Frame competition for his "*Disinfected Mail of Livorno in Tuscany*" and "*Coronation Day Mail of King George V*".
- Alfred F. Kugel won a Vermeil Medal in the Multi-Frame competition for his "*The Liberation Period in Hungary During 1938-1944*".

OMAHA STAMP SHOW 2013 in Omaha on 7-8 September 2013

- Gerard Menge was awarded the Reserve Grand Gold for his exhibit, "Generalgouvernement

Protectorate 1940-1944". In addition, Gerard received the American Philatelic Congress Board award and the German Philatelic Society Gold Medal.

INDYPEX 2013 in Indianapolis on 27-29 September 2013

- Alfred F. Kugel was awarded a Vermeil Medal for his exhibit, "*The Postal History of Montenegro 1874-1922*" in the Multi-Frame competition. He also won the Johnny Appleseed Award. In addition, Alfred won a Verneil Medal for his Single-Frame entry, "*The Prexies Go To War*".

FLOREX 2013 in Orlando on 6-8 December 2013

- Gerard Menge won a Gold Medal for his exhibit, "*Generalgouvernement Semi-Postal Issues 1940-1944*", together with the American Philatelic Society Award of Excellence: 1940-1980.

SNSE 2014 in Sarasota on 7-9 February 2014

- Dr. James Mazepa received the Single-Frame Grand Award and a Gold Medal for his exhibit, "*Baja California Del Sur 1914-1915*". In addition, Jim was awarded the MEPSI #2 (Mexico-Elmhurst Philatelic Society, International).
- Dr. Richard Mallow won a Gold Medal for his exhibit, "*The First Issue of the Polish People's Republic*".

2014 Dues Notices

We have mailed the 2014 dues notices in the month of January, which you should have received, and ask for your cooperation in responding prior to the 31st of March. If you have already remitted your 2014 dues, thank you for your prompt response. If you have not yet remitted, please do so immediately. This will save us time and follow-up expense.

Keep in mind, remittances may be made by:

- Mail to: **Polonus, P.O. Box 489, Maryville, IL 62062**

-or-

- PayPal to: info@polonus.org

Dues remain unchanged from the prior year. In addition to paying your dues and opting for either

a *printed* or an *electronic* Bulletin, we ask that you consider making a tax-deductible contribution to help maintain our financial viability, while we strive to make improvements with our programs and membership benefits. We are a non-profit, tax exempt 501 (c)(3) organization and contributions are tax-deductible. Donors receive a letter acknowledging their gift and receive recognition in the Bulletin (as demonstrated in this Bulletin).

We are grateful to all who send us more than just their dues. Since 2011, when we began the practice of soliciting contributions with dues payments, the number of donors and the total amount contributed has steadily increased. Thank you for this vital support. The revenue generated by dues alone does not cover our expenses, hence, the importance of this voluntary contribution.

2013 Polonus Donors

Polonus Philatelic Society gratefully acknowledges the following members who have generously made a donation during the year. A letter acknowledging the tax-deductible gift will be sent to each donor.

Patrons

Ambridge, Trevor
Bieniecki, Hank
Buchsabayew, Paul
Carpenter, Douglas
Charlam, Bogdan
DeLine, Dr. James
Jaraczewski, Richard
MacAulay-Mannyng, Lord R.
Marzec, Grzegorz
Mazepa, Dr. James
Nowicki, Robert
Ogrodnik, Robert
Puchala, Robert
Sobus, Roman
Williges, William
Wortman, Adrian

Benefactors

Andrews, Edwin
Biranowski, Jerome
Carroza, Nicholas
Klamka, Andrew

Reiter, Tadeusz
Schafer, Chester
Small, Ronald
Wolanin, Thomas
Woldenberg, Richard

Sponsors

Atherstone, Pamela
Auleytner, Julian
Bain, Eugene
Bielak, Adam
Bolla, Robert
Brandys, Marek
Camolli, Garry
Chipaloski, Anthony
Cieckiewicz, E.A.
Czykun, Francis
Dynia, Stanley
Dziewulski, Michael
Elliott, Robin Gates
Gigiel, Adam
Ginsburg, Sam
Griesbach, Thomas
Grochowski, Dariusz

Harmel, R.J.
Jackson, Chris
Jarzen, Robert
Johnson, Craig
Juskowicz, Alexander
Karwoski, Frank
Kelly, H. Daniel
Kostka, Wiesław
Kowalczyk, George
Krenich, Stanley
Krolikowski, Edward
Kwiatkowski, Ronald
Lanocha, Frank
Lapa, David
Lubelski, Daniel
Lugowski Jr., Edwin
Lukowski, Charles
Malenski, Melvin
Matlak, Joseph
Miktus, Paul
Nawrot, John
Ogar, Richard
Paull, Bernard
Phillips, Dr. Paul
Pietruszka, Raymond

Piszko, Peter
Saari, Ann
Scott, Mark
Skucha, Kazimierz
Sobisz, Robert
Sopko, Paul
Stempien Jr., Dr.
Martin

The 5/3 Fenig Second Warsaw Provisional Issue Form II

By: Dr. James Mazepa

One of the most challenging issues of Poland to collect is the second provisional issue of Warsaw (Sc 15-26¹ / Fi 6-16). The eleven stamps that these numbers represent are deceiving. There were two printings of this issue, called Form I and Form II, various color differences of the basic stamps, and differences in intensity of ink in the original German overprint. When all these are taken into account, there are no less than 126 varieties, and this does not count the multitude of plate errors and flaws.

The rarest basic stamp of this issue is the 5/3 fenig Form II. Only 5% of the total 5/3 fenig stamps printed (417,000) were overprinted by Form II (Sc 17 / Fi 9a II), and only a very small number of these have survived. **Figure 1** shows a well centered, mint never hinged, block of eight (positions 7-10 x 17-20) that might well be the only surviving block from the upper right corner of the sheet. Stamps from the first row of Form II have a small difference in the spacing of the horizontal lines compared to the remaining rows, thus, blocks with first and second rows are especially sought after.



Figure 1 - 5/3 fenig Second Warsaw Provisional Form II block of eight, Sc 17 and Fi 9

The printer had to find one hundred "5"s for the overprinting. Some of these had small distinguishing characteristics; others acquired what are called transitional flaws which occurred in the course of printing due to the wear on the plate. This block shows three transitional flaws: position 7 has the dot in the "5", position 18 has a flat top on the "5", and position 20 has a break in the numeral "5". This unique block is undervalued by Fischer at 10,000 zł.

Footnote:

¹ Scott's Catalog designation excludes the use of "22", hence remaining number designations total eleven.

Director – Position Description – Polonus Philatelic Society

Purpose : To meet the legal requirements of an incorporated 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and to represent the membership in overseeing the affairs of the Society.

Duties & Responsibilities:

1. Ensure the affairs of the Society are conducted in compliance with the rules and regulations of the by-laws.
2. Meet as a Board of Directors annually at the Annual Exhibition & Meetings venue and at other meetings (which will normally be conducted via e-mail or teleconference) called during the year.
3. As a member of the Board, participate in the selection of Officers.
4. Participate in at least one Committee.
5. Financially support the Society by making a contribution in addition to the annual membership dues.

Qualifications:

- This position is elected by the membership for a three-year term.
- Candidate must be a Polonus member in good standing.
- Candidate must be computer literate – for communication, for the preparation of documents, and for navigating websites.
- Experience with Polonus and/or Polish philately is desirable.

The Pioneer Period of Airmail Services in Poland (1918-1928)

Part 4: Inflation Period

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

As with most European countries, Poland was hit hard by the monetary chaos after World War I, which soon led to rampant inflation. Over a period of four years, the standard letter postage rate was raised from 0.5 mk to 250,000 mk, an increase of 50,000,000%. It was Władysław Grabski, a leading economist and Prime Minister at the time, who led the 1924 financial reform and tamed the hyperinflation with a newly created currency, the "złoty" (pegged at 0.1687 g of pure gold), which replaced the Polish mark (mk) at a conversion rate of 1,800,000:1. We will now go through some key features of postal inflation during the pioneer period of airmail services in Poland.

Figure 1A-B shows two express covers, containing printed matter, which were flown by Polish Airline AEROLLOYD from Lwów to Warszawa six months apart in 1923. The basic postage for the covers expedited on May 8 (**A**) and November 29 (**B**) were 2,100 mk and 41,000 mk, respectively. The air rate for internal mail was 4x the regular fee. Thus, the May 8 postage consisted of 100 mk (printed matter rate; up to 25 g.) plus 2,000 mk (express fee). The correct airmail fee of 400 mk was collected in cash (hand-written manuscript in special marking). For comparison, the November 29 charges increased to 1,000 mk (printed matter), 40,000 mk (registration), and 4,000 mk (air). Of note, instead of special marking, an entirely hand-written/red-crayon framed "Paid in cash 4,000 mk" manuscript appears on the November cover. Thus, a 20-fold inflation-driven cost increase in domestic airmail service occurred between May and November 1923.

Figure 2 illustrates an even higher rate for a postcard flown by AEROLLOYD from Warszawa to Kraków on December 4, 1923 (7 days prior to the seasonal winter break). Postage combined the 2,500



mk domestic postcard rate with a 100,000 mk express fee. A correct airmail surcharge of 10,000 mk (4x regular fee), paid in cash, was imposed on this item.

Figure 3A-B shows two registered, express covers, which were flown by C.F.R.N.A (Compagnie Franco-Roumaine de Navigation Aérienne; The French-Romanian Company for Air Navigation) from Warszawa to Vienna and Budapest, just six months apart in 1923. The basic postage for a May 10th item flown via Prague to Vienna (**A**) was 200 mk (printed matter; up to 50 g.), 1,000 mk (registration), and 2,000 mk (express). The air surcharge of 600 mk

Annals of Polish Aerophilately (cont.)



Figure 2 - Hyperinflation in domestic postal service (December 6, 1923). AEROLLOYD-flown postcard from Warszawa to Kraków: 103,000 mk plus 10,000 air surcharge.



Figure 3A-B - Inflation in international postal service (1923). C.F.R.N.A.-flown printed matter from Warszawa to: **A** (top cover) - Wien (July 20; 3,200 mk + 600 mk for air); and **B** (bottom cover) - Budapest (November 12: 64,000 mk + 12,000 mk for air).

(3x regular fee) was paid in cash. The second item was flown on November 12th via Prague and Vienna to Budapest (**B**). Here, the postage was 4,000 mk (printed matter), 20,000 mk (registration), 40,000 mk (express), and 12,000 mk (air surcharge; 3x regular rate). Thus, there was an inflation-driven 20-fold increase in the international mailing costs in the second half of 1923. Of note, the second envelope is accompanied by a miraculously surviving registration receipt from the Warszawa post office, which looks very similar to those currently used in Poland, some 90 years later.

The majority of flown correspondence during the inflation period was philatelically-inspired and prepared by the Gryżewski brothers (Kazimierz and Tadeusz) of Warszawa, undisputed godfathers of Polish aerophilately. **Figure 4** illustrates one of a handful surviving non-philatelic commercial letters carried by C.F.R.N.A from Warszawa via Prague and Strasbourg to Paris on August 17, 1923. The 4,000 mk postage (on reverse) consisted of: 1,000 mk (letter rate; up to 20 g.), 1,000 mk (registration), and 2,000 mk (express). The surcharge for air transport to Paris of 3,000 mk (3x regular fee) was paid in cash.



Figure 4 - C.F.R.N.A.-flown commercial letter from Warszawa to Paris August 17, 1923; postage: 4,000 mk + 3,000 mk for air service.

Figure 5 depicts an unusual postcard flown from Warszawa to Budapest on March 31, 1924, the first C.F.R.N.A. flight after the winter break. Compared with November 1923, the mailing cost by the end of

Annals of Polish Aerophilately (cont.)

March 1924 accelerated another 20-fold, to a staggering 1,350,000 mk. This consisted of 250,000 mk (postcard rate) plus 1,100,000 mk (express fee). The air surcharge equaled 250,000 mk (1x regular fee). Of note, a pink stamp of 1,000,000 mk has been seldom seen on flown correspondence. Only four Budapest-bound airmail items with that stamp are recorded.



Figure 5 - Hyperinflation in international postal service (March 31, 1924). C.F.R.N.A.-flown postcard from Warszawa to Budapest: 1,350,000 mk plus 250,000 mk air fee.

At the peak of the hyperinflation period, a 2,000,000 mk stamp (Fischer #181), one of the highest denominations in Poland's postal history, was issued on March 29, 1924 (*The Polish Ministry of Post and Telegraph Directive #14*). This stamp is known on seven registered airmail pieces, which were flown from Warszawa to Belgrade (2), Vienna (2), Budapest (1), Paris (1), and Prague (1), i.e., European capitals regularly serviced by C.F.R.N.A.

Figure 6A-E displays, for the first time, exceptional covers dispatched to all five destinations, and each carrying a 2,000,000 mk stamp. **Figure 6A**, addressed to Belgrade, was posted on April 23, 1924, whereas the one addressed to Paris was posted on April 24 (**Figure 6B**). The basic postal charge for both mailings of 2,200,000 mk consists of: 550,000 mk (letter rate; up to 20 g.), 550,000 mk (registration), and 1,100,000 mk (express). The surcharge for air service, paid in cash, equaled 550,000 mk (1x regular fee). These covers are correctly franked. The remaining three covers (**Figure 6C-E**) addressed to Budapest, Vienna and Prague, respectively, were posted at Warszawa on April 24, 1924. Here, the basic postal charge of 2,075,000 mk breaks down as

follows: 425,000 mk (letter rate; up to 20 g.), 550,000 mk (registration), and 1,100,000 mk (express). The surcharge for air service was 425,000 mk (1x regular fee). Of note, the franking of 2,080,000 mk confirms all three covers were slightly overpaid by 5,000 mk each. These postal rates were in effect for two weeks only (April 16-30, 1924).

There is some controversy surrounding postal usage of the 2,000,000 mk stamp. All known airmail letters, including those presented here, were prepared by the very same person (Stefania Gutwein, ul. Sienkiewicza 3), posted on April 23 or April 24 from Warszawa 1 Post Office, and most likely accepted by the same postal clerk (all postmarks show "2b" date numerator). Non-consecutive registration numbers applied on April 23 (701, 707) and April 24 (727, 737, 743, 746 and 780) may have been deliberate or imply that additional registered items (perhaps with 2,000,000 mk stamps) were processed as well. Nevertheless, six out of seven letters were returned to the sender as addressees were most likely fictional (except for the Paris-bound item addressed to a family member, G. Gutwein; **Figure 6B**). It is also difficult to imagine that Ms. Gutwein was the only person in Warszawa, a city of over 1,000,000 inhabitants, to use these stamps for postage. Indeed, unlike the 1,000,000 mk stamp, which was applied on domestic and foreign mail, the 2,000,000 mk stamp is known only on seven airmail pieces. Thus, it is plausible that in the waning days of April 1924, Ms. Gutwein, having access to the already issued high value stamps, tried to make a quick profit. She may have been aware of the upcoming currency reform, and that "mk" stamps would cease to exist as of April 30 when new ones with "groszy/złoty" denomination were to become available to the public. It needs to be stressed, however, that Gutwein's airmails are fully legitimate as they went through the postal system, received arrival cancellations at respective European destinations, and those that were returned to sender show Warszawa date-stamps. Although we will most likely never know whether Ms. Stefania Gutwein was a stamp dealer or postal clerk, it is fair to conclude that without her initiative, the unique 2,000,000 mk Polish stamp would be categorized as "issued but never postally used" and thus catalogued under quite a different and somewhat obscure category.

Annals of Polish Aerophilately (cont.)



Figure 6A



Figure 6B



Figure 6C



Figure 6D



Figure 6E

Figure 6A-E - Hyperinflation in international postal service (1924). C.F.R.N.A.-flown registered letters from Warszawa to: **6A** (left top) - Belgrade; and **6B** (left center) - Paris (both, April 23; 2,200,000 mk + 550,000 mk air fee); **6C** (left bottom) - Budapest; **6D** (right top) - Vienna; and **6E** (right bottom) - Prague (all April 24; 2,075,000 mk + 425,000 mk air fee).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

The authors thank Professor Julian Auleytnier and Mr. Roman Okniński, both from Warszawa, for sharing philatelic items from their collections.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

- [1] Auleytnier J: Tajemnica znaczka za 2 miliony marek (nr. Kat. 181). *Filatelista* 2006; pp. 234-236.
- [2] Korc A: Wielka inflacja i narodziny złotówki. *Filatelista* 2004; pp. 234-237.
- [3] Petruik S: Znaczek za 2000000 marek na liście lotniczym. *Filatelista* 2003; p. 533.
- [4] Zbierski M: Polskie taryfy pocztowe 1918-1939: Zbiór tabel i dokumentów = Polnische Postgebühren 1918-1939: Sammlung von Tabellen und Dokumenten = Polish postal rates 1918-1939: a compilation of tables and documents. 2004; Poznań.

Postal Wax Seals in the Kingdom of Poland (Part 1)

By: Wiesław Kostka

Translated by: Roman Sobus

Editor's Note: This is Part 1 of a two-part article on "Postal Wax Seals in the Kingdom of Poland 1815 – 1871" and it covers one of three groups of seals, the Polish language seals. Part 2 will cover the Polish-Russian and Russian only language seals.

Impressions of postal wax seals appearing on letters from the Kingdom of Poland can be categorized into two types. The first is the "official" type, which as part of its design included not only the name of the post office but also the coat of arms of the Kingdom of Poland and, almost always, the post horn. The second type is a "postal procedure" mark, which depicted a crown, post horn and location name of the post office. Post offices, from the time of their opening, most likely were issued at least one "official" seal and one "postal procedure" hand-stamp, while postal stations were issued at least one "postal procedure" hand-stamp. By this accounting, during the first period of postal operation in the Kingdom of Poland (1815-1851) there should have existed over 500 different wax seals made by these hand-stamps. How many actually existed during this time period and when they were introduced into circulation is unfortunately unknown due to the lack of data in the archives. Literature on this subject states that approximately 100 different impressions of wax seals have been preserved from this time period and they are known primarily as single examples.

"Official" and "postal procedure" seals can each be further divided into three groups depending on whether their text is in Polish, Polish-Russian or Russian. It appears that the single-language Polish wax seals were the standard and assigned to post offices and postal stations opened from 1815

thru the end of 1844. These were not limited for use only during these years as they could also be used beyond 1844. During 1844-1851, dual-language Polish-Russian wax seals were introduced and at the beginning of 1851, single-language Russian wax seals became the rule because of the close interaction between the subordinate post of the Kingdom of Poland and the Russian Posts in St. Petersburg, the combination of which was renamed the XIII Postal District. After 1858 the use of dual-language seals was once again introduced. However, in the second half of the 1860s, when the post of the Kingdom was again placed under the Russian Postal Authority known as the Western Postal District, wax seals in single-language Russian became the rule.

The wax seals referenced in this article are found in my collection "Postal Tariffs of the Kingdom of Poland". I will attempt to photographically illustrate the seals and letters on which the impressions in sealing wax were made and to describe various elements such as diameter, color of the wax, and time period of usage.

Polish Language Wax Seals

Częstochowa – Opened in 1815 as a Border Post Office. Insured letter sent on 3 September, (year unknown) to Warszawa (**Figure 1**). Sender was the Postmaster of the Częstochowa Post Office; addressee was the Directorate of the Kingdom of



Figure 1 – Insured letter sent from Częstochowa to Warszawa on 3/9



Figure 2 – Red wax post seal on insured letter from Częstochowa

Postal Wax Seals in the Kingdom of Poland (Part 1) (cont.)

Poland Postal District (opened in 1855). The sender paid 23 kopeks (handwritten annotation "fr 23"), being the correct rate for insured letters from 1851. An origination cancel in red color, a type IIIC with a diameter of 24mm, from Częstochowa was imprinted on the letter (cataloged dates of usage 1848-1856). This letter was secured with an "official" postal seal impressed in red wax (**Figure 2**), of 34mm diameter depicting in the center the coat of arms of the Kingdom of Poland, surrounded by the text "**URZĄD POCZTOWY POGRAN. W CZĘSTOCHOWIE**" ("BORDER POST OFFICE IN CZĘSTOCHOWA"). This is one of the few "official" seals not using the post horn as part of the design. Even though this letter does not include the year of mailing, analyzing the various available elements such as the addressee's name, the collected tariff and the origination cancel, we can state with great certainty that the letter was mailed after 1855. Unfortunately, there are no other clues to assist in

determining when this postal seal was introduced. Up to this time, this seal was known from a single impression in wax on a money letter (without year of mailing) which was noted in the book "Historia Poczty na Terenie Ziemi Częstochowskiej" printed in Częstochowa in 2010. Therefore, we can claim this to be the second known example of this postal seal.

Zalesie – Opened in 1815 as a horse-changing station. The Border Post Office operations in Terespol were transferred to this location on 1 December 1827 when Zalesie assumed that designation. It continued in that capacity until the end of 1850 and the Border Post Office function was moved to Biała Podlaska in 1851, when only the Postal station and horse-changing operations remained. **Figure 3** shows an "official" postal seal with a diameter of 26mm, impressed in red wax with the coat of arms of the Kingdom of Poland, and post horn in the center

surrounded by the text "**URZĄD POCZTOWY POGRANIC W ZALESIU**" ("BORDER POST OFFICE IN ZALESIE"). Two such seals were placed on a money letter containing 300 silver rubles (banknotes) originating in Mścislaw (Russia) and addressed to Warszawa (see **Figure 4**). Both the date and origination stamps are missing. The letter also bears two seals belonging to the sender as well as the wax seal of the Post Office in Mścislaw with the text "**MSTIS-LAWSKOJ POCZTOWOJ KONTORY**" ("POST OFFICE IN MŚCISŁAW") with Russian coat of Arms in the center and post horns immediately below (**Figure 5**) There is also a transit stamp from Zalesie, having a diameter of 18mm bearing the date 30 January. The postal



Figure 3 – Red wax post seal from the Zalesie Border Post Office



Figure 5 – Red wax post seal from the Post Office in Mścislaw (Russia)



Figure 4 – Money letter originating in Mścislaw (Russia) sent through Zalesie to Warszawa

Postal Wax Seals in the Kingdom of Poland (Part 1) (cont.)

rate to its destination was paid in cash by the sender in the amount specified by the Russian Postal tariffs from 1844. We can thus assume this seal was in use between 1844-1850. This seal **has not been previously noted** in literature.

Biežuń – Postal station and horse-changing station opened in 1815 subordinate to the Płock Post Office. The “postal procedure” seal is impressed in black wax (**Figure 6**), having a diameter of 23mm with text “**EXPEDYCYA POCZTY / crown / W BIECZUNIU / post horn** (“POSTAL STATION / IN BIEŻUŃ”). The post horn has the mouthpiece facing right. What is truly interesting is the location name appears to be incorrectly spelled. Instead of **BIEŻUŃ**, the correct spelling of the town's name, **BIECZUN** is used. This seal was used to secure a letter of recommenda-

tion from Biežuń, sent on 30 May 1855 to London (England) (see **Figure 7**). The postage was paid in cash in the amount of 101½ kopeks. There is a type IIA Biežuń origination stamp in red ink, a Prussian Thorn “Aus Polen” stamp in black ink, a “Recomandirt” stamp in red ink and a London arrival “Paid” with the date in red. This is currently the **only known example** of this seal.

Kleczewo - Postal station, opened about 1815, was subordinate to the Konin post office until 1824 and to the Słupca post office from 1825. This “postal procedure” seal, having a diameter of 25mm is impressed in red wax (**Figure 8**) and the text: **STACYA POCZTOWA / crown / W KLECZOWO / post horn** (“POSTAL STATION / IN KLECZEWO”). This seal was used to secure the flap of a money letter



Figure 6 – Black wax post seal from the Postal Station in Biežuń



Figure 7 – Letter sent from Biežuń to London



Figure 8 – Red wax post seal from Postal Station in Kleczewo



Figure 9 – Money letter sent from Kleczewo to Witków

Postal Wax Seals in the Kingdom of Poland (Part 1) (cont.)

(**Figure 9**) containing two silver rubles, mailed from Kleczewo on 27 January (year unknown) to Witków in the Principality of Poznań (Prussia). The postage was paid in cash in the amount of 49 kopeks, the correct rate from 1851. The black ink **KLECZEWO** origination stamp is a type IIIF, known to have been used in 1865. The transit postmark from Konin type IXA struck on the back of this letter in black ink was known to be used in 1861. From this information, we can draw the conclusion that the seal was in use between 1861-1865. This seal **has not previously been described**.

Leczyca – Opened in 1815 as a Postal and horse-changing station. In 1825, it was designated a Main Postal Station, and from 1834 subordinated to the Krośniewice post office. The “official” seal, having a diameter of 25mm was impressed into red wax (**Figure 10**). The design has the coat of arms of the Kingdom of Poland in the center, crossed post horns below, surrounded by the text “**EXPEDYCYA POCZT W LECZYCY**” (“POSTAL STATION IN LECZYCA”). Two individual seals appear on this letter along with four seals of the Office of the Leczycki Powiat (**Figure 11**), which was mailed from Leczyca on the 14th of January, (year unknown) to Warszawa. The postage for sending the letter containing 15 silver rubles was paid

in cash in the amount of 68 kopeks, the correct rate from 1851. A Warszawa type VI arrival stamp was hand-stamped in red ink on the letter, as was the practice for value letters during 1865-1868, from which we can determine the years when this seal was used. At **least 3-4 letters** are known with this arrival hand-stamp from this time period.



Figure 10 – Red wax post seal from Postal Station in Leczyca



Figure 11 – Money letter sent from Leczyca to Warszawa



Figure 12 – Red wax post seal from Postal Station in Radomsk

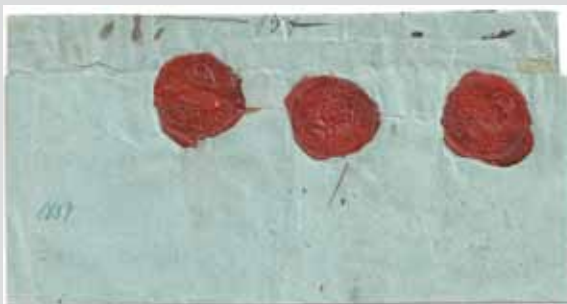


Figure 13 – Money letter sent from Radomsk



Figure 14 – Red wax post seal from Postal Station in Tomaszów Rawski



Figure 15 – Money letter sent from Tomaszów Rawski to Warszawa

Postal Wax Seals in the Kingdom of Poland (Part 1) (cont.)

Radomsk – Opened in 1815 as a Postal and horse-changing station subordinate to the Częstochowa post office. The 24mm diameter “postal procedure” seal is impressed in red wax (Figure 12) and contains the following text and elements: **STACYA POCZTOWA / crown / W RADOMSKU / post horns** (“POSTAL STATION / IN RADOMSK”). Two seals were applied alongside seals of the Piotrków District (Figure 13), on a money letter mailed from Radomsk on the 20th of December (year is unknown). The contents were 1 ruble and 3 silver kopeks and charges were paid for in cash, in the amount of 15 kopeks, that being the correct rate from 1851. An identical seal is documented in M. Czernik’s book “Pocztą Królestwa Polskiego w Latach 1815-1851 as being used in 1857.

Tomaszów Rawski – Postal and horse-changing station was opened on 21 September 1824 subordinate to the Piotrków Trybunalski post office. The “postal procedure” seal, which was impressed in red wax (Figure 14), has a diameter of 25 mm and the elements: **“STACYA POCZTOWA / crown / w /**

TOMASZÓW / post horn.” The seal is applied on a money letter containing 1 Ruble and 96 kopeks in silver, weighing 6 ¼ lut, mailed from Tomaszów Rawski on 30 July (year unknown) to Warszawa (Figure 15). Cost of mailing was paid in cash, in the amount of 75 kopeks, the correct rate from 1851. The 24mm, red ink Type IIIA origination hand-stamp was documented in a Polskie Znaki Pocztowe under No. 385d as having been used in 1857. We can deduce this seal was used in the same time frame. **This seal has not previously been described.**

Wodzisław – Relocated from Żarnowiec on 1 January 1835, this Postal and horse-changing station was subordinated to the Kielce post office. The 25mm “postal procedure” seal is impressed in red wax (Figure 16) and has the following elements: **“STACYA POCZTOWA / crown / W / WODZISŁAWIU / post horn”**. Five such seals, applied to a money letter containing 320 złoty (48 silver rubles) mailed from Wodzisław before 18 August (year unknown) through Michałowice to Kraków. (Figure 17). The mailing costs to the Austrian border were paid in cash. Unfortunately, the amount paid was not annotated. The red ink Type IIB Władzisław origination stamp has documented usage in the years 1845-1852 and the 23mm Type IIIC Michałowice transit stamp has documented usage from the years 1851-1854. We can assume this seal might have been used in 1851. **It has not previously been documented.**

Bibliography:

- [1] Polskie Znaki Pocztowe. Warszawa 1960. Tom I pp 30 - 92
- [2] M. Czernik – Pocztą Królestwa Polskiego w Latach 1815 - 1851.

Wrocław 1987

[3] Katalog Spec.

Zn. Poczt. Ziem Polskich.

Tom I. 1990. pp 30 - 59

[4] Historia Poczty I

Filat. na Terenie Ziemi
Częstochowskiej. 2010.
pp 37 - 38

[5] Kiryushkin, Robinson
– Russian Postmarks.

Barefoot Ltd. 1989

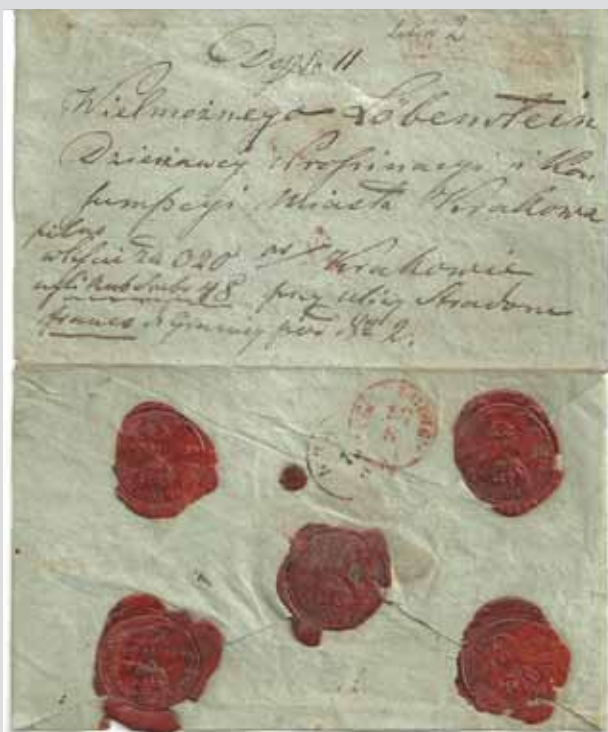


Figure 17 – Money letter sent from Wodzisław through Michałowice to Kraków



Figure 16 – Red wax post seal from Postal Station in Wodzisław

Unofficial Single Stamp Postal Stationery

By: Piotr Pelczar

Translated by: Roman Sobus

Editor's Note: This article was originally published in Przegląd Filatelistyczny, no. 7 (131) / 2013. The reader should also note that the Oflag IIE Camp Post did not operate within the borders of IIE – Neubrandenburg but in the IID – Gross Born Lower Camp – see article “Postal Stationery of the ‘So-Called’ IIE Post” in Polonus Bulletin #553. This is Part 1 of a two- part article and covers four of seven CpN cards. Part 2 will cover the remaining three CpN cards.

It is a well-known fact that POW's interned in Oflag IIE had to endure shortages of even the most basic items necessary for existence. While perhaps not at the top of the list, suitable paper to produce stationery cards for the camp's internal post was among them. As a result of this shortage, the post's officials agreed to imprint stamps on paper as long as the paper for the stamps was supplied by the purchaser. Such impressions could not, however, be made on stamp-sized pieces of paper (none are known to exist) but they could be made on larger-sized pieces of paper.

The author has encountered one item (see **Figure 1**), which is too large to be called a stamp and too small to be categorized as postal stationery as it lacks space in which the recipient's and sender's addresses could be written. It could perhaps be considered a “block” or a “souvenir sheet”? Two different stamps, one utilizing die number 4 (Syrena) and the other die number 5 (Caritas) were imprinted on a piece of cream colored stock having dimensions of 141 x 61 mm. and a thickness of .09 - .10mm. One stamp (IIE number 2) was inserted between the two impressions and all items were then cancelled with the IIE postal service canceller that included, as was the normal practice, an office type date stamp with the date “11 LUT 1944”. This item was created between 5 and 22 February (see **Table 1**). The author, whose expertise is in the area of postal stationery, will leave it to others to determine the nature of this item. It certainly warrants classification and a listing in catalogs.



Figure 1 - One stamp inserted between two impressions and cancelled to order on 11 Feb 1944. Appears to be an attempt at making a souvenir sheet.

As was the normal practice for producing postal stationery, the stamp impression was made on paper of a somewhat larger format, and in this case, photographs were the source material used to produce these unofficial postal stationery cards or “CpN”. Up to this day, these cards were improperly omitted [2], erroneously designated as “photographs” [1,3], classified as “proofs” [4] and even called “private emissions” [6]. Establishing the printing dates of stamps, official stationery cards, and unofficial postal stationery items is essential in determining color differences. As it appears, the sequence in which the different types were printed varied greatly [7], and the stamps were not always first.

These CpN items were often listed sequentially according to their denomination value [3, 5, 6], when in fact the dates of their printing had been preserved [4]. These items should not remain uncataloged [3,5] and they certainly should not all be assigned a single catalog number [6]. We propose that the unofficial postal stationery cards should be cataloged with their own identifying group designation – CpN and individual item number (see **Table 1**). The format size is not especially important, neither is the manufacturer of the photographic paper on which the image is printed or even the address line types for photographs used as post cards. We mention the subject depicted in the photographs only as examples, and they also do not require specific cataloging.

It was possible for the cards described in this article to be mailed through the camp's internal postal system. However, the greater portion of the production was saved as souvenirs, which accounts for those cards which were gratuitously cancelled using the camp post office canceller and date stamp, yet

Olflag IIE Camp Post (Part I) (cont.)

Table 1. Numbers of Unofficial Stationery Cards

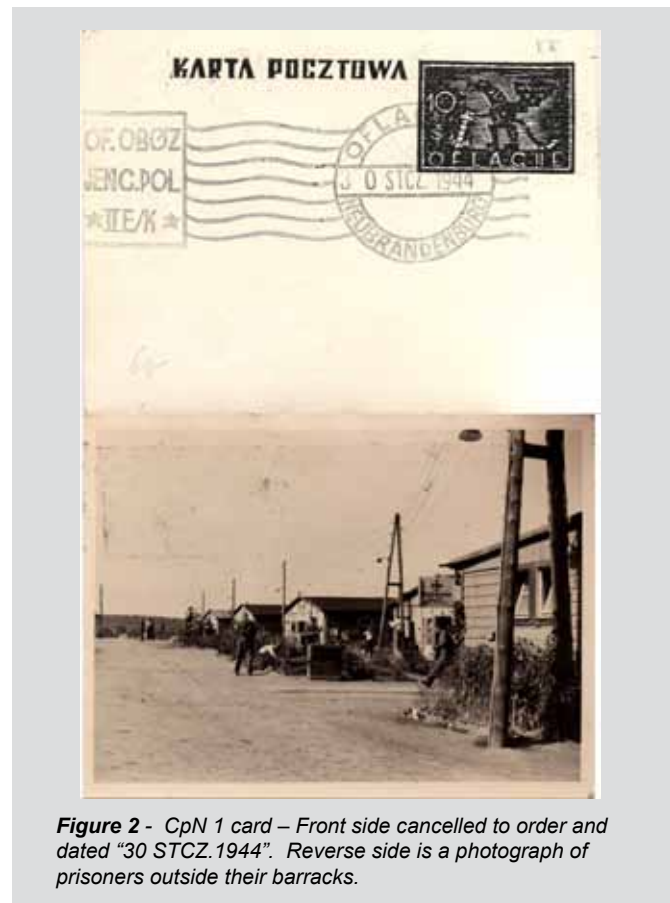
Die number, name, and denomination	Unofficial stationery number, printing dates	Number of pieces produced [4]
1 – Gryf 10 f (Griffin)	CpN 1 30.I.-10.II.	few
2 – Kaplica 20 f (Chapel)	CpN 2 3.II.	± 30 pc.
3 – Świetlica 5 f (Day Room)	---	0
4 – Syrena 10 f (Mermaid)	CpN 3 5.-22.II.	± 60 pc
5 – Caritas 5 f (Charity)	CpN 4 7.-22.II.	few
6 – Okręt 20 f (Ship)	CpN 5 9.-22.II.	± 60 pc.
7 – Kapliczka 20 f (Chapel)	CpN 6 29.II.	± 60 pc.
8 – Rycerz 50 f (Knight)	---	0
9 – Gryf 30 f (Griffin)	CpN 7 15.IV.	few

bear no addresses or correspondence. It has been suggested that the imprinting of additional stamps on already created CpN cards was not an official service provided by the camp post office, but more of a clandestine operation of the post. Some individuals, who took advantage of these services but were not philatelists, squandered these items. The quantity that remains today is markedly smaller than was documented [4].

Seven stamp designs were used to produce these unofficial postal stationery cards. This article describes the first four stamp designs used for this purpose. The Świetlica (Day Room) and Rycerz (Knight) were the only two designs not used for this purpose.

CpN 1

CpN 1 utilizes the 10 fen. Gryf (Griffin) design of stamp die number 1 and ink remaining from the printing of 2364 pieces of Cp1 post card, (with no time elapsing between the two [1,3,6], such that this item was produced between 1-10 February 1944 and perhaps as early as 30 January 1944 [9]. **Figure 2** shows a CpN 1 card cancelled to order and dated



“30 STCZ. 1944” (30 Jan. 1944). The photograph side shows prisoners outside their barracks.

Figure 3 shows a CpN 1 card cancelled to order but without a date. Address lines on the front of the card are typical of the Voigtländer Company¹ print. The reverse side shows a photograph of a Field Mass for the prisoners.

The Cp1 and CpN 1 cards were printed with a single-piece die having the text “POCZTOWA” and the image of the postage stamp as a single unit (see **Figures 2 & 3**), different than those used for other unofficial postal stationery items, where the impression of the stamp was made separately from the “POCZTOWA” text. All known CpN 1 cards contain both elements, the stamp and in this case, the “KARTA POCZTOWA” text. Examples of CpN 1 cards with additional stamps imprinted on them are not known to exist.

The most frequently utilized photographs depict general views of the camp and stage scenes of

Oflag IIE Camp Post (Part I) (cont.)



Figure 3 – CpN 1 card – Front side cancelled to order but without date. Address lines are typical of the Voigtlander Company. Reverse side is a photograph of prisoners attending a Field Mass.

the camp theatre. However, the practice of having stamp impressions made on the reverse of photographs was not very popular, resulting in very few such items being created. Certainly even fewer have survived until today. All examples of the CpN cards are very scarce.

CpN 2

CpN 2 utilizes the 20 fen. Kaplica (Chapel) design of stamp die number 2, which was used during two weeks for printing stamps, then for three days for the Cp1 postcard and finally one day to print Ck1 envelopes. The third of February was the only day the die would have been available to make impressions and to create the unofficial cards. Approximately 30 pieces were imprinted[4].

Figure 4 shows a CpN 2 card cancelled to order and dated “3 Lut. 1944” (3 Feb. 1944). The date being the first day of printing for the CpN 2 card may be represented as a first day cover. The reverse side of the card is a photograph (115 x 85 mm) of an altar in the camp chapel.

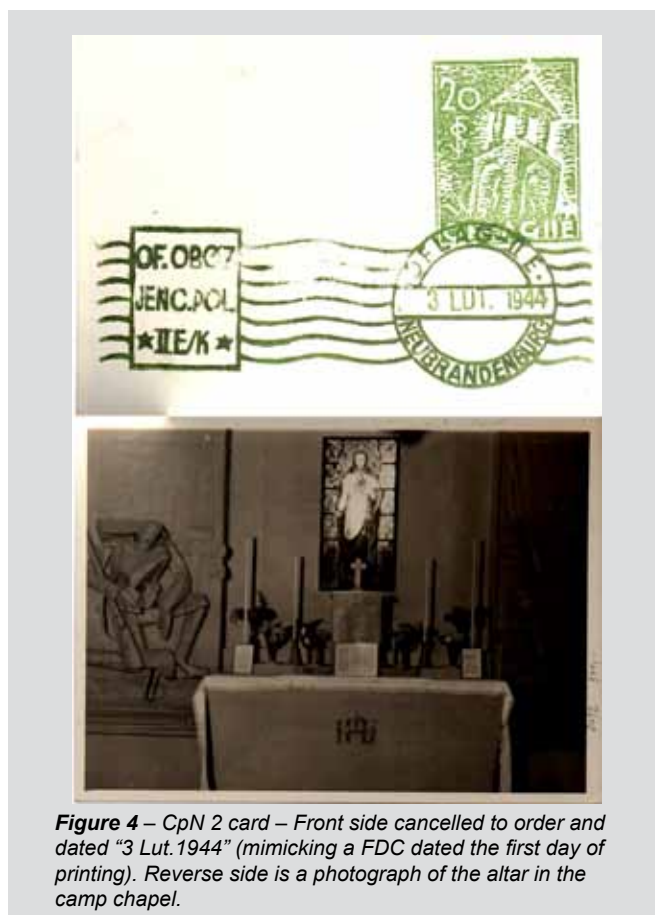


Figure 4 – CpN 2 card – Front side cancelled to order and dated “3 Lut. 1944” (mimicking a FDC dated the first day of printing). Reverse side is a photograph of the altar in the camp chapel.

Figure 5 shows a CpN 2 card cancelled to order but without a date. Address lines on the front of the card are typical of the Voigtlander Company¹ print. The reverse side of the card is a photograph (139 x 89 mm) of a Field Mass for the prisoners.

CpN 3

CpN 3 bears an imprint of the Syrena (Mermaid) stamp design utilizing die number 4 and having a denomination of 10 fen. Die number 4 was used to print stamps beginning 5 February 1944 and for postal stationery from 22 February 1944. During this time frame, impressions for a fee were made on paper items belonging to postal customers. **Figures 6 and 7** are examples of such items created as cancelled to order FDC with the 5 February date hand-stamped. **Figure 7** is dated several days later.

Figure 6 shows a CpN 3 card cancelled to order as FDC and dated “5 Lut. 1944” (5 Feb. 1944). The reverse side of the card is a photograph (146 x 93 mm) of the “Merchants and Economists Exhibit”.

Oflag IIE Camp Post (Part I) (cont.)

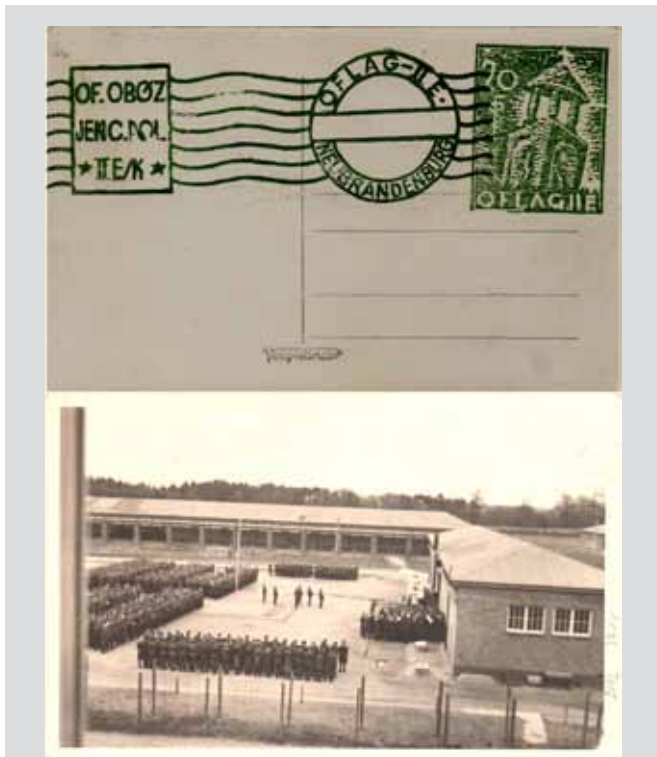


Figure 5 – CpN 2 card - Front side cancelled to order but without date. Address lines are typical of the Voightlander Company. Reverse side is a photograph of prisoners attending a Field Mass.



Figure 6 – CpN 3 card – Front side cancelled to order FDC and dated "5 Lut. 1944". Reverse side is a photograph of the "Merchants and Economists Exhibit".

Figure 7 shows a CpN 3 card cancelled to order as FDC and dated "5 Lut. 1944" (5 Feb. 1944). The front side of the card also contains a censor stamp of Oflag IID, indicative of post operations in Gross Born and not Neubrandenburg. The reverse side of the card is a photograph (117 x 87 mm) of a scene from a stage performance at the camp.

Figure 8 shows a CpN 3 card with a cancellation dated "9 Lut. 1944" (9 Feb 1944) and stamp impression on the left side of the card. It is also contains address lines typical of the Voightlander Company¹ print with an actual address.

Approximately 60 pieces of the CpN 3 cards were created. Among them is the example where the impression was made on the left side of the card. Apparently such curiosities are created in pairs, as the photograph on the reverse is printed upside down in relation to the address lines on the other side.



Figure 7 – CpN 3 card – Front side is cancelled to order FDC and dated "5 Lut. 1944". Address lines are typical of the Voightlander Company. Censor stamp with Oflag IID indicates post operation in Gross Born and not in Neubrandenburg. Reverse side is a photograph of a scene from a stage performance in the camp.

Oflag IIE Camp Post (Part 1) (cont.)



Figure 8 – CpN 3 card – Stamp impression made on left side of card mailed with “OFLAG – II E” cancellation and dated “9 Lut. 1944”.



Figure 9 – CpN 4 card - Front side is cancelled to order and dated “8 Lut. 1944”. Reverse side is a photograph of a large group of prisoners in the camp’s exercise hall.

CpN 4

The next die in the sequence was number 5, which was first used to print the 5 fen. Caritas (Charity) stamp, and then a small quantity of unofficial issue CpN 4 cards. The printing of the unofficial CpN 4 cards was initiated on 7 February, the same date as the Cp2 official postal stationery cards. Please note

the penciled annotation partially obscured by the cancel on the upper left side of the card in Figure 9. The “5f” indicates the client requested a stamp with a denomination of 5 fen. to be imprinted, not one of some other value that was available at the time. Handwritten on the lower left of the card you will find “Boczkowski / 5 fen / C34/6”, indicating the client has prepaid and is awaiting his purchase at the given address.

Figure 9 shows a CpN 4 card cancelled to order and dated 8 February. The reverse side of the card is a photograph of a large group of prisoners in the camp’s exercise hall.

Virtually all CpN cards were cancelled to order, even though some may have gone through the mail system of the camp’s internal post. Only CpN cards 1, 3 and 4 carry denominations that coincide with values of service offered by the IIE post. Services such as Registered Mail or Express Delivery were not available.

Acknowledgements:

The Author wishes to extend his gratitude to Roy Koczarski, Krzysztof Krupa and Adrian Wortman for supplying scans of items in their collections for use with this article.

Footnote:

¹ The Voigtländer Company, founded in Vienna in 1756, is the oldest name in cameras. In addition to cameras, the company supplied film, photographic paper and chemicals used in the development process. They also supplied postcard-sized paper with address lines for prints.

Bibliography:

- [1] Włodarski Z., *Katalog wydawnictw poczt wewnątrznych Oficerskich Obozów II/D i II/E, nakładem Poczty Wewnętrznej Obozu Gross Born VI. 1944, nakład trzeci 25 numerowanych egzemplarzy, stron 20*
- [2] Żółkiewski S., „Całostki polskie oraz mające obieg na ziemiach polskich”, część III, PZF, Warszawa 1961, str. 161-162
- [3] Machowski J., „Poczta polska obozu IIE Neubrandenburg”, zeszyt 4, PZF, Kraków 1963, str. 25
- [4] Heber M.G., *Katalog der Lagerpost um 1945*, Elmshorn 1983, str. 31.10, 31.10.1, 31.10.2
- [5] praca zbiorowa, „Katalog specjalizowany znaków pocztowych ziem polskich 1990” (KSZPZP), wydanie III, tom 2, KAW-RSW, Warszawa 1989, str. 397-398
- [6] praca zbiorowa, „Katalog polskich znaków pocztowych 2010”, FISCHER, tom II, Bytom-Kraków 2010, str. 195-207
- [7] Pelczar P., *Całostki tak zwanej poczty obozowej II E – wiadomości ogólne*, Przegląd Filatelistyczny 2013, str. 222-226
- [8] Pelczar P., *Całostki obozowe – niezgodności wymiarów JN Cp 1*, Filatelistyka 1992, str. 403
- [9] Krupa K., Pelczar P., *Próby i odmiany kartek Fi Cp 1 i Cp 1(+)* „Gryf” z tak zwanej poczty obozowej II E, Przegląd Filatelistyczny 2013, str. 229-233

Polonus 75 Years Ago

By: Bob Ogrodnik

Editor's Note: The following photo and text was taken from Polonus Bulletin #167 (Feb 1959) on the occasion of Polonus' 20th Anniversary. As we prepare for our 75th Anniversary celebration at CHICAGOPEX 2014, we will be presenting more about Polonus' rich history in future Bulletins.



Little did Chester Mikucki realize when he began inserting notices in the Daily Zgoda for the formation of a Polish Stamp Club that the result of his idea would be the Polonus Philatelic Society. Chester was probably the most surprised young man when on

February 26, 1939, fifty-four stamp collecting enthusiasts responded to his call for a meeting at the Veterans' Home on Wood Street in Chicago. Nevertheless, such was the result. And the above photograph shows a part of the group that attended the first meeting.

Errata - Postal Stationery

The correct title for the article by Piotr Pelczar in Bulletin #553 is "Postal Stationery of the 'So-Called' IIE Post". We apologize to the author and the readers for the error in spelling "Stationery" as "Stationary" on the Cover (Contents) and in the Header on pages 16-19.

Errata - Airgraph Mail

We apologize to the author and readers of the article entitled "Airgraph Mail" in the most recent issue of the Polonus Bulletin (#553) for a publishing error resulting in a number of illustrations that do not correspond to the descriptions found in the text.

These are:

Figure 2 should have the caption "**Figure 3**"

Figure 3 should have the caption "**Figure 2**"

Figure 4 should have the caption "**Figure 5**"

Figure 5 should have the caption "**Figure 6**"

Figure 6 should have the caption "**Figure 7**"

"Figure 4" was missing and is reprinted here.



Figure 4

Finally, the description for Figure 3 should be corrected to read: "One was sent by British FPO 764 on 18 April 1944 and the other was sent by British APO 6 on 17 April 1944."

The Polish Army Corps in Great Britain 1940-47

By: Jan Niebrzydowski

After the fall of Poland in September 1939, the Polish Government and part of the Polish Army went into exile, crossing the border into Romania or Hungary. From there the Government made their way to France where they joined Polish Army units fighting alongside the French. Following the capitulation of France in June 1940, some of the Poles were interned in Switzerland while others managed to cross the Channel to Britain and continue to fight.

From July 1940, transit camps were set up in Scotland to accommodate the soldiers. The 1st Polish Army Corps under the command of General Marian Kukiel was formed on 28 September 1940. It was under Scottish Command with the HQ located in Perthshire. It numbered 3,498 officers and 10,844 soldiers.

At the turn of 1942-43, the number of Polish military personnel in Great Britain had grown to 5,250 officers and 23,500 soldiers, with the arrival of volunteers from the USA and other countries, as well as Poles who had been deported by the Soviets to the USSR and subsequently allowed to leave with the army of General Władysław Anders. The 1st Corps consisted of the usual land army. It had four armoured trains, a battalion of balloons that served as a barrier against German bombing, and auxiliary units.

According to British estimates, as of 5 July 1945 the Polish Army in the West numbered 230,000 as a result of the inclusion of prisoners of war from Germany, Polish civilian deportees, orphans, and those released from forced labour camps. The largest unit was the 2nd Army Corps in Italy numbering 110,000. Another 60,000 troops were stationed in Britain. In 1947 the Polish Army was disbanded and its soldiers demobilized. Some of the Poles remained in Great Britain, some returned to Poland, and others emigrated to the USA, Canada and Australia.

Inland post was free of charge for military personnel, but letters to the USA were considered to be private correspondence and were, therefore, subject to standard charges: 2½d for an ordinary letter, 1sh3d for airmail. Letters were subject to British censorship as evidenced by British labels. There is no evidence of independent Polish censorship. The earliest known

return address is dated 18 July 1940, Polish Camp nr. 4, Section 65, Douglas, which was the location of a transit camp for Polish soldiers from France. A new address was in use from September 1940: GPO, London EC1, P/15 xxx (where xxx was the cryptonym of particular military units). This was followed by a third address: GPO, London EC1 PO Box 260/yyy (where yyy refers to the coded number of a specific military unit). Below are six cards and letters written to Mrs. Stefania Bardziłowska:

A card from Kiscenk internment camp in Hungary dated 4 October 1941 is shown in **Figure 1**. The sender was unable to reach France or Britain in order to join the Polish Army. He was caught by the Hungarians while attempting to cross the border.



Figure 1

Figure 2 shows a letter sent from the main Polish Army training camp in France at Coëtquidan in Brittany dated 28 February 1940 with 2½fr in French stamps. The censor's cachet reads: Hôpital Complémentaire de Coëtquidan Le Vaguemestre.



Figure 2

The Polish Army Corps in Great Britain 1940-47 (cont.)

A letter dated 18 July 1940 is shown in **Figure 3** with a return address of a Polish Army transit camp: GPO, Glasgow, Polish Camp nr. 4, Section 65. The sender (M. Wróblewski) wrote that following the tragic defeat of France he had to make his way quickly to Britain. This is probably the earliest letter written by a Polish soldier in Great Britain. He took part in an RAF bombing raid over Germany, was shot down over Holland, and died along with the rest of the crew of six.

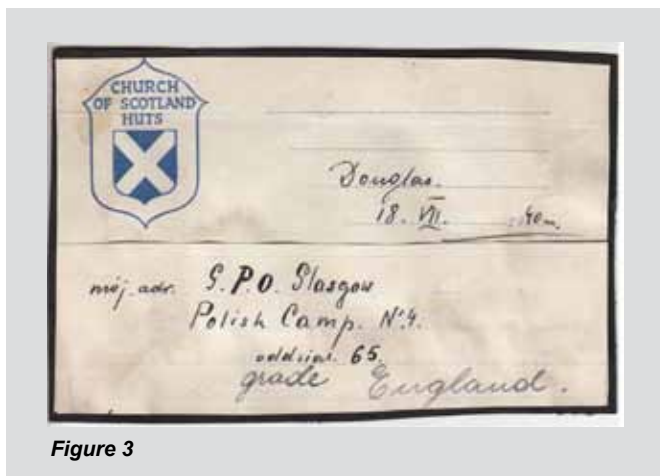


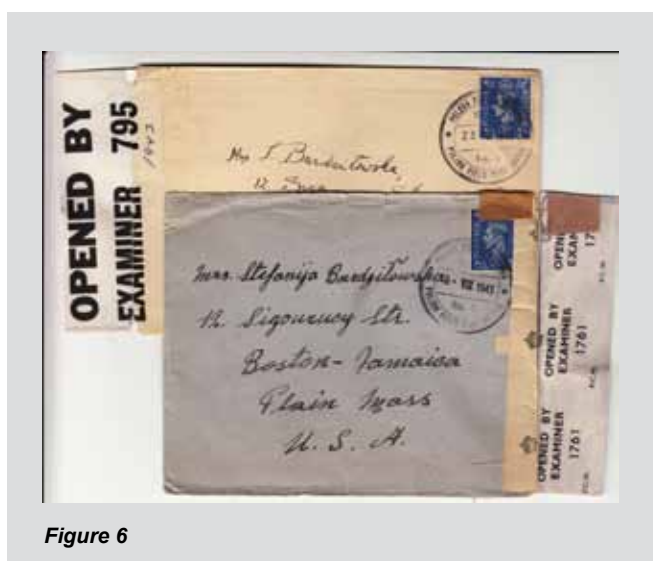
Figure 4 shows a letter dated 26 September 1940 franked with 6d and 9d stamps with an original return address of London P.15.III.b. (2nd Rifle Brigade), amended to London PO Box 260. British censor's label reads: Opened by Examiner 1582. The sender of this letter was Marian Wróblewski, the same person mentioned above (**Figure 3**).



The next letter is shown in **Figure 5**. It is dated 12 November 1941 and franked with a 2½d stamp. The return address is: GPO London EC1 PO Box 260/5 (1st Rifle Brigade). The British censor's cachet reads: Opened by Examiner 3499.



Figure 6 shows two covers franked with 2½d stamps cancelled by Polish Field Post Office nr.1 dated 18 July and 23 July 1943. Such cancellations were not permissible under British regulations. Return address: GPO Box 260/37 London EC1 (2nd Rifle Brigade). The British censor's labels read: Opened by Examiner 795 and 1761.



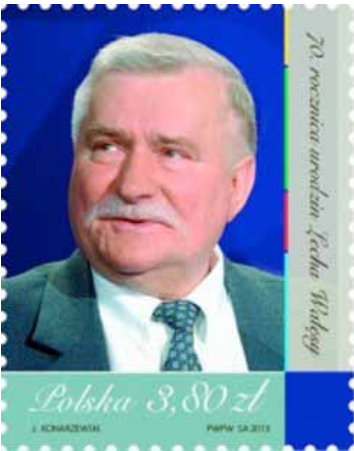
Bibliography:
Biały Orzeł, London, Weteran, New York



Date of Issue	September 20, 2013
Sheet Format	12 Stamps
Printing Method	Offset & Screen
Designer	Marek Kwiatkowski

Minerals of Poland

These 4 stamps depict colorful minerals found in Poland: two 1.60 zł stamps showing a bright green malachite and azurite and a gray/dark blue salt; and two 2.35 zł stamps showing a dark green marcasite and a light brown gypsum. In addition, other minerals are portrayed on the 4 official first day covers, including labradorite, celestite, and quartz. Many of these rocks are used in jewelry or as pigments.



Date of Issue	September 29, 2013
Sheet Format	12 Stamps
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Jacek Konarzewski

Lech Wałęsa's 70th Birthday

This 3.80 zł stamp features a color photo of Lech Wałęsa, Poland's famous politician, trade-union organizer, and human rights activist. Among his accomplishments, he co-founded Solidarity (*Solidarność*), the Soviet bloc's first independent trade union, won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1983, and was President of Poland from 1990-5. The official first day cover features a collage of black and white photos of his life.



Date of Issue	September 30, 2013
Sheet Format	100 Stamps
Printing Method	Rotogravure
Designer	Marzanna Dąbrowska

Economic & Priority Post Stamps for Registered Mail

are three identifying characteristics for the scanning process depicted on these stamps: weight, size, and shipping time. This set is intended for mail weighing 350-1,000 grams, conforming to the size limitations for "a" and "b" categories and requiring a registered economic or priority method of shipment. The design of each of the stamps forms an "E" or "P" to designate the method of registered shipment; however, for the scanning process, the individual stamp designs communicate all three characteristics. The 5.90 zł economic "a" registered mail stamp portrays a ladybug (*coccinella*); the 6.70 zł priority "a" registered stamp portrays a grasshopper; the 6.95 zł economic "b" registered mail stamp portrays a peacock butterfly; and the 9.30 zł priority "b" registered mail stamp portrays a red wood ant (*formica rufa*). All four stamps have shades of green background.



Date of Issue	October 11, 2013
Sheet Format	20 Stamps
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Magdalena Błażków

Capital Cities of EU States - Zagreb

This 4.60 zł stamp, one more in a series devoted to the capital cities of the European Union, portrays the Church of St. Mark ("Kościół św. Marka") in Zagreb, the capital and largest city in Croatia. The church is located in the old district of Zagreb, and dates back to the 13th Century.



Date of Issue	October 18, 2013
Sheet Format	100 Stamps
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Marzanna Dąbrowska

Economic & Priority Post Stamps for Registered Mail

This fifth set of four non-denominated stamps will be used in the new scanning system of sorting by the Polish Post. The valuations in this issue are 8.50 and 11.00 zł for the "a" economic and priority registered mail stamps, and 9.50 and 13.10 zł for the "b" economic and priority registered mail stamps. There are three identifying characteristics for the scanning process in these stamps: weight, size, and shipping time. This set is intended for mail weighing 1-2 kilograms, conforming to the size limitations for the "a" and "b"

categories, and requiring a registered economic or priority method of shipment. The design of each of these stamps forms an "E" or "P" to designate the method of registered shipment; however, for the scanning process the individual stamp designs communicate all three characteristics. The 8.50 zł economic "a" registered mail stamp portrays a moth; the 11.00 zł priority "a" registered mail stamp depicts a bee; the 9.50 zł economic "b" registered mail stamp portrays a stag beetle; and the 14.50 zł priority "b" registered mail stamp portrays a bright green swallowtail caterpillar. All four stamps have shades of reddish background.



Date of Issue	October 18, 2013
Sheet Format	100 Stamps
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Marzanna Dąbrowska

World Post Day - 455 Years of the Polish Post

This 4.60 zł stamp (and related commemorative postal card) recognizes the Polish Post on World Post Day. In order to graphically demonstrate the age of the Polish Post, the stamp shows a cross-section of an old tree trunk of similar age, with its many growth rings from the 16th to the 21st Centuries.

New Issues



Date of Issue	October 21, 2013
Sheet Format	6 Stamps
Printing Method	Rotogravure
Designer	Aleksandra Ubukata

Lost Works of Art

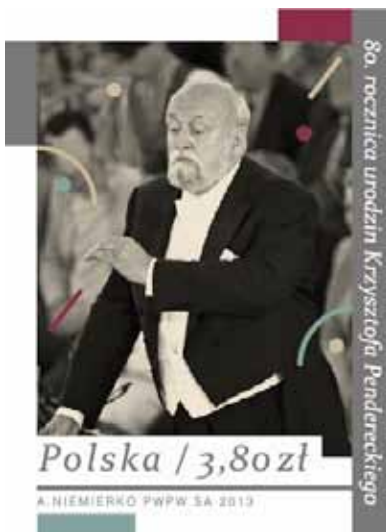
These 3 stamps, part of an ongoing series, focus on lost works of art (*utracone dzieła sztuki*) – art surreptitiously removed from Polish museums and private collections in wartime. In this case 3 paintings of the multifaceted Polish artist Stanisław Wyspiański (1869-1907) are highlighted, each a portrait of the Polish stage actor Ludwik Solski (1855-1954). The 1.60 zł stamp shows Solski as a security guard in the drama entitled Treasury (*Staffa Skarb*). The 2.35 zł stamp shows Solski as Chudogęby in Shakespeare's Twelfth Night (*Wieczór Trzech Króli w Szekspira*) and the 3.80 zł stamp shows Solski as Wiarusa in Warszawianka (*starego Wiarusa w Warszawiance*). The 3 official first day covers portray additional missing paintings.



Date of Issue	October 31, 2013
Sheet Format	3 Stamps
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Marzanna Dąbrowska

People of Cinema and Theater

These 3 stamps honor famous cinema and theater people (*ludzie kina i teatru*), showing black and white photos of each. The 1.60 zł stamp honors Helena Grossówna (1904-94), actress and dancer who performed in plays, revues, and films. The 2.35 zł stamp depicts Adolph Dymśa (1900-75), perhaps the most popular Polish comic actor of the 1930's. The 3.80 zł stamp shows Mieczysława Ćwiklińska (1879-1972), comic film actress, stage actor, and singer, famously nicknamed Lińska or Amiette.



Date of Issue	November 23, 2013
Sheet Format	12 Stamps
Printing Method	Photogravure
Designer	Anna Niemierko

80th Birthday of Krzysztof Penderecki

This 3.80 zł stamp recognizes the 80th birthday of Krzysztof Penderecki ("80 rocznica urodzin Krzysztofa Pendereckiego"), composer and conductor, born in 1933. He is often called Poland's greatest living composer, and this stamp shows a black and white photo of him conducting the orchestra. His best known works include: Threnody to the Victims of Hiroshima (for string orchestra); the St. Luke Passion (choral work); Polish Requiem; and Anaklasis. He lives in the Kraków suburb of Wola Justowska. He has received numerous awards for his work, including a U.S. Grammy.



Date of Issue	November 29, 2013
Sheet Format	8 Stamps
Printing Method	Offset & Seriography
Designer	Jacek Konarzewski

Endangered Species of Poland

These 4 stamps highlight endangered spiders that are now protected in Poland (*pająki chronione w Polsce*). The 1.60 zł stamp shows the wasp spider (*tygrzyk pas-kowany*) (Latin: *argiope bruennichi*), distinguished by the yellow and black markings on its abdomen; each day it builds a spiral orb web to catch prey. The 2.35 zł stamp shows the arid meal/grain spider (*gryziel stepowy*) (Latin: *atypus muralis*), a mygalomorph spider. The 3.80 zł stamp features the ladybird spider (*poskocz krasny*) (Latin: *eresus cinnaberinus*), a colorful red velvet spider. The 4.55 zł stamp recognizes the popinjay comely spider (*strojniś nadobny*) (Latin: *philaeus chrysops*), a jumping spider from the salticidae family.

SAVE THE DATE

November 21-23, 2014

CHICAGOPEX 2014



Date of Issue	February 07, 2014
Sheet Format	4 Stamps
Printing Method	Offset, Dry Embossing
Designer	Agata Tobolczyk

22nd Olympic Winter Games in Sochi

The 2 stamps, denominated 1.75 & 5.0 zł, depict a skier in flight (blue/green) and a skier racing on land (yellow/red), respectively. The pane of stamps includes a square digital reader box for scanning purposes. Poland sent 59 athletes to compete in 11 sports events in the Olympic games. As a result, the Poles won 6 medals in total, including 4 gold. Kamil Stoch won 2 of the gold in the men's ski jumping, normal and large hill competitions. Justyna Kowalczyk won the gold in the 10-km women's cross country skiing. And Zbigniew Brodka won the gold in the men's 1,500-m speed skating in a photo finish. In addition, the Polish women's speed skating team won a silver, and the men's speed skating team won a bronze. A single official first day cover was also issued to honor the games.