

POLONUS **PHILATELIC SOCIETY**



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

Issue No. 488

Price \$2.00

February, 1998

POLPEX '98 HONORS TWO ANNIVERSARIES

POLPEX 98, the annual exhibition of the Polonus Philatelic Society, will be held on March 20-21-22 at the House of the White Eagle, 6839 North Milwaukee Avenue in Niles, Illinois. There is a dual theme this year: the 80th Anniversary of an Independent Poland, and the 20th Anniversary of the Pontificate of Pope John Paul II.

Special cacheted envelopes are to be printed. A U.S. Postal Station will operate on the premises On Friday and Saturday. As in previous years we will have souvenir sheets and a program catalog printed. A bourse of some thirty dealers is planned.

Exhibitors will compete for a Grand Award, Gold, Silver and Bronze awards.



POLPEX STATION
MARCH 20-22, 1998
NILES, IL 60714

Hours of the show are Friday
and Saturday 10 am to 6 pm,
Sunday from 10 am to 4 pm.

Two special show cancellations have been submitted to the post office and received approval. They were designed by Arkadiusz Walinski.



POLPEX STATION
MARCH 20-22, 1998
NILES, IL 60714

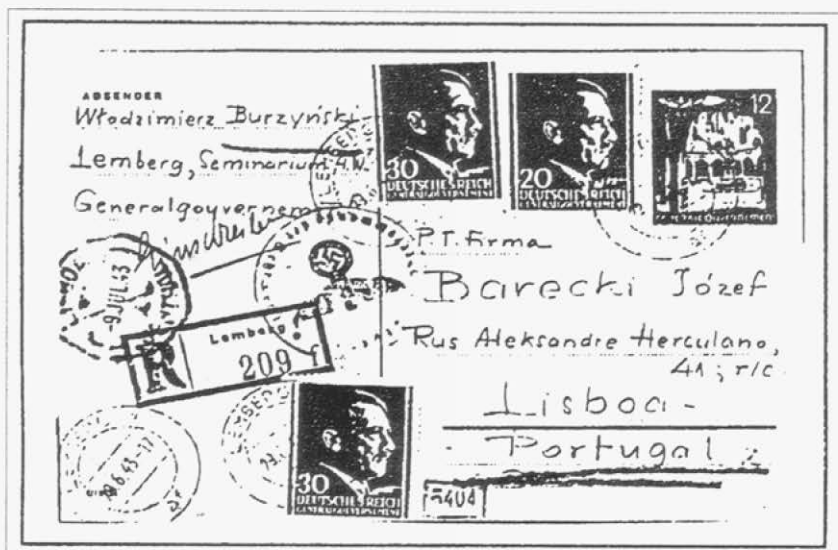
1978 - 1998

POSTAL SERVICES CROSS FORBIDDEN FRONTIERS

Almost immediately after the outbreak of the Second World War, postal contact between Britain and Poland was closed.

When the country was overrun by German and Soviet forces, many thousands of Polish soldiers, airmen and sailors were forced to cross the borders, mostly south-east into Hungary and Romania, if they were to escape the inevitable concentration camps—or worse.

Less than a year later many of them found themselves in Britain, having chosen it not only as a refuge, but as a means of continuing their fight side by side with their allies, for the eventual liberation of their country. In spite of the ban on direct correspondence with Germany and countries occupied by her, a number of methods of communication were established.



A postcard sent from Lwów to acknowledge receipt of a food parcel. It is addressed to a firm in Lisbon who operated the parcel service on behalf of the Polish Red Cross. In this case the sender's surname identifies the actual donor.

At first only one was available: using Thomas Cook and Son who were nominated by the British government as "Forwarding Agents" of mail to enemy countries. Regulations were drawn up which allowed letters to be forwarded by them to a neutral country for a small fee.

The sender's address was given as Post Box 601, at first in Amsterdam. After the fall of Netherlands and France, the same system was used via Lisbon, Portugal. This was a post box rented by Thomas Cook which became well known as "Caixa Postal 506, Lissabon, Portugal".

On receiving a reply from Poland, the mail was taken to London, where British stamps were applied and the correct address of the recipient written on a label.

Designed to be of a limited use for people in this country, the service became overwhelmed by the sudden huge demand from July, 1940, on-

wards, created by Polish soldiers after their arrival here and desperate to establish contact with their families in occupied Poland.

Negotiations with the British authorities resulted in the Polish Government-in-Exile in London obtaining permission for the Polish Red Cross to pen their own post box - Caixa Postal 512, Lisboa Central, Portugal.

Military security being of prime importance, regulations limited the contents to strictly private matters, without even a hint of the writer's present whereabouts or his work. Letters containing such phrases as "I am in the same job as a year ago", "the country hereabouts reminds me of Podhale" or "can you imagine me playing the bagpipes?" were returned to sender or destroyed by the censor.

A further security measure was the adoption of pseudonyms instead of real names, which could also be of a different gender. This led to some confusion at each end when writers unintentionally forgot to observe an agreed version.

Lists of agreed pseudonyms were held at the Polish General HQ in London. On receiving letters from Lisbon brought by couriers (bypassing the normal post), their content was examined, addresses identified, finally delivered by the Polish Field Post. Circumstances forced the closure of the Lisbon post box early in 1942 but it was soon replaced by a series of commercial and private addresses in Lisbon and elsewhere allowing the exchange of letters to continue as well as enabling food parcels to be sent from Portugal. This service continued until the end of the war and in some cases even a few months thereafter.

Hundreds of thousands of parcels were sent, many of them subsidized by the American-Polish National Council, Inc. with funds contributed by a wide range of Polish organizations in the United States.

Some enterprising individual soldiers with friends in Switzerland attempted to use them as intermediaries, in the hope of speeding up the exchange of letters and avoiding censorship. Acting on strict instructions, the British Post Office in Britain referred all foreign correspondence to the British censor who, in turn, took up the matter with Polish authorities.

This private initiative, although instigated in good faith and intentions, constituted a serious breach of security. Not wishing to destroy a valuable means of communication, discussions between the Polish and British governments resulted in this exchange of letters being reinstated provided proper procedures were followed.

In view of the large quantities of mail involved, the highly efficient German censorship machinery was bound to be suspicious of the prolific correspondence between Poland and foreign countries.

While some recipients in Poland were punished, a few losing their lives even as a consequence of "communicating with the enemy", most letters and postcards appear to have come through, for reasons best known to the Germans themselves.

Within two months of the war's end, usual postal communications with Poland were re-established, an open way of exchanging news and thoughts once more being possible - subject only to the *new* censors in Poland . . .

-by George Kay

Reproduced from "Gazeta" (Edinburgh) by kind permission of the Editor

NEW MEMBER

Larry Tibbetts, Jr. — 25785 Evergreen St. — Hayward, CA 94544-1657

THE KOWEL ISSUE OF 1919

By DR. STANLEY KRONENBERG and DR. JAMES MAZEPA

(CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS ISSUE)

Table 2
Measurements of Genuine Polish Overprints

Part of the Polish Overprint	Dimension: 30 fen overprint (mm)	Dimension: 50 fen overprint (mm)
Length of 'Pocztą Polska' measured through the centre of 'a' (without serifs)	23.7-23.9	23.9-24.2
Height of 'P' in 'Pocztą'	4.4-4.7	4.3-4.7
Heights of 'ocz' and of 'a' in 'Pocztą'	3.2-3.7	3.2-3.7
Heights of 'P', 'l' and 'k' in 'Polska'	4.3-4.5	4.2-4.7
Heights of 'o', 's' and 'a' in 'Polska'	3.2-3.4	3.2-3.8
Height of '30 fen' or of '50 fen'	20.5-21.0	21.6-22.2
Height of '3' or of '5'	5.0-5.3	5.2-5.8
Height of 'f'	4.0-4.2	4.1-4.6
Height of '0' in the numbers	5.1-5.4	5.5-5.9
Height of the entire overprint measured from the extension of the top of the 'P' in 'Pocztą' to the top of the first numeral	14.8-15.0	15.0-15.5
Height of 'n' in 'fen' measured along the first stroke	2.6-2.8	2.6-3.3
Beginning of 'P' in 'Pocztą' to the beginning of the 'P' in 'Polska' measured at the mid height of the letters	12.5-12.7	
Beginning of 'P' in 'Polska' to the beginning of 'k' in 'Polska' measured at the mid height of the letters	7.5-7.6	
Beginning of 'P' in 'Polska' to the end of 'l' measured at the mid height of letters		4.9-5.1
'S' from the inside top of the loop to the top of the horizontal line		2.4-2.6
Length of the top of the '5'		4.8-5.1
Outside width of '0' in '50'		4.5-4.8

LITERATURE

1. Maciej Perzynski, 'The Kowel Issue from the year 1919' (in Polish) *Filatelista*, 15 February 1959, p.64-67.
2. Marian Belcarski 'I am asking for the voice on the matter of the Kowel Issue' (in Polish) *Filatelista*, 1 April 1959, p.122-123.
3. Polskie Znaki Pocztowe, 'Ruch' Warszawa 1966 vol. IV, p.266 (1300)(in Polish).
4. Cecil Roberts, *Rossica* 1964 p.10-12; reprinted in *Polonus Bulletin*, December 1964, p.227-3.
5. 1981 'Ruch' Catalogue Vol. 1, p.220-221 (in Polish).

75th Apostolic Journey of Pope John Paul II to Sarajevo (Bosnia and Hercegovina)

By ARKADIUSZ WALINSKI

(CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS ISSUE)



Sarajevo — April 12-13, 1997:

Commemorative Postmark. Face of Pope John Paul II.
12-13.04.1997. PAPA /U BOSNI I HERCEGOVINI / SARAJEVO
(The Pope in Bosnia and Herzegovina).

76th Apostolic Journey of Pope John Paul II to the Czech Republic (3rd Visit)

APRIL 25—27, 1997

The Holy Father's third Pastoral Visit to the Czech Republic began on the evening of Friday, April 25, with arrival ceremonies at the Prague-Ruzyně International Airport. On hand to greet the Pope were dignitaries of Church and State, including Cardinal Miroslav Vlk and President Vaclav Havel. Later in the evening, the Holy Father met the members of the Czech Episcopal Conference.

On Saturday morning, April 26, the Holy Father went by helicopter from Prague to Hradec Kralove, where he celebrated Mass with Czech young people in the Kreat Square in front of the Holy Spirit Cathedral. Back in Prague, the Holy Father received a delegation from the Charles University, to whom he gave the authentic copy of Pope Clement VI's Bull of 1347 promulgating the foundation of the University. After a courtesy call on President Vaclav Havel at Hradcany Castle, the Holy Father went to the Archabbey of Brevnov, founded in 992 by St. Adalbert, for a prayer service with religious and the sick.

The focal point of the Holy Father's Visit was the solemn Mass he celebrated on Sunday, April 27, at Prague's Letná Esplanade to commemorate the Millennium of St. Adalbert, Bishop and Martyr. Prague's first Pastor of Czech blood was martyred by pagan Prussians on April 23, 997. In the afternoon the Holy Father went to St. Vitus Cathedral for an ecumenical prayer service in honor of St. Adalbert. Later the Pope prayed at the tomb of Cardinal Tomashek. After the departure ceremonies at the Prague Airport, the Holy Father returned to Rome.

VATICAN: April 25, 1997:

Commemorative travel postmark in Latin.
Pope John Paul II in mitre with the Pastoral Cross in greeting gesture.

* IO. PAULUS II MILLE ANNOS S. ADALBERTI * / IN CECIA MEMORAT / POSTE VATICANE / † 25-27 APR. 1997 *

"John Paul II commemorates the 1000 years of St. Adalbert in the Czech Nation."



CZECH REPUBLIC:

Hradec Kralove - April 26, 1997

Commemorative Postmark. Coat of arms of the Vatican State.

Navsteva Svateho Otce Jana Pavla II. / Hradec Kralove 1

† 26.4.1997. "Visit of the Holy Father John Paul II".

Prague - April 27, 1997:



**Hradec Králové 1
26.4.1997**



**PRAHA 7
27.4.1997**

Commemorative postmark. Coat of arms of the Vatican State.

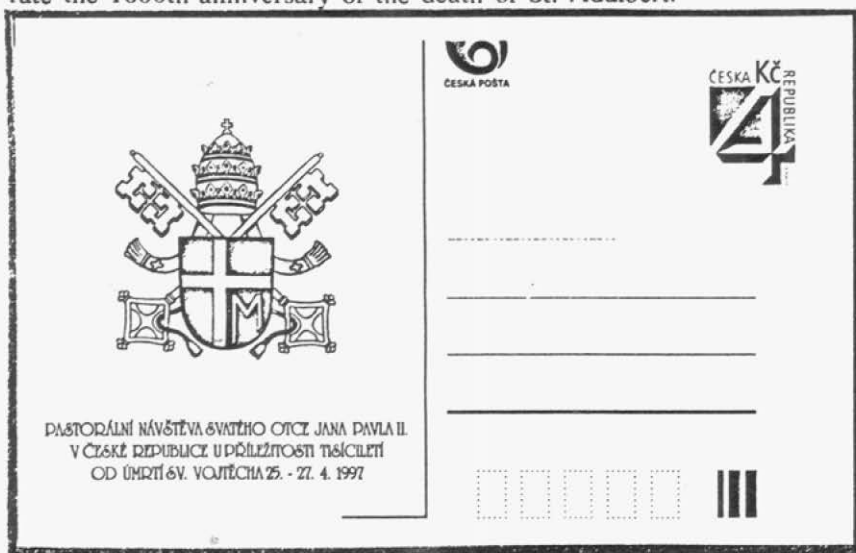
Navsteva Svateho Otce Jana Pavla II. / PRAHA 7 / 27.4.1997.

"Visit of the Holy Father John Paul II."

POSTAL CARD:

4kc imprinted stamp. Illustration on card — Coat of Arms of Pope John Paul II combined with the Vatican State Coat of Arms.

Imprint on card: PASTORALNI NAVSTEVA SVATEHO OTCE JANA PAVLA II V CESKE REPUBLICE UPRILEZITOSTI TISICILETI OD UMRTI SV. VOJTECHA 25-27.4. 1997. "Pastoral Visit of Holy Father John Paul II in the Czech Republic to commemorate the 1000th anniversary of the death of St. Adalbert."



Prague — April 23, 1997:

Commemorative postmark. Bishop's crozier and alpha and omega, the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, signifying the early Church and the infinity of God. Map of Europe.

997 - SV. VOJTECH - 1997 / 23.4.1997 -

PRAHA 01 — "St. Adalbert".

This postmark honors the 1000th anniversary of the death of St. Adalbert. Since this



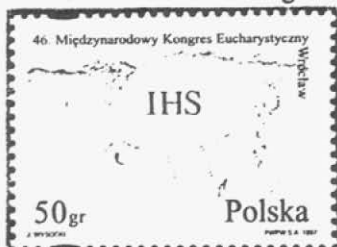
anniversary was the main reason for the Pope's visit, the postmark could be included in the John Paul II collection.

46th International Eucharistic Congress

The 46th International Eucharistic Congress was held in Wrocław, Poland from May 25 thru June 1, 1997. The theme of the Congress was: "THE EUCHARIST AND LIBERTY" Pope John Paul II attended the closing of the Congress on June 1, 1997. First Day of Issue: May 6, 1997.

50 gr. stamp:

The stamp shows IHS - the monogram for the name of Jesus over combined contours of the continents. The inscription reads: 46 International Eucharistic Congress - Wrocław.



Wrocław — May 6, 1997:

Commemorative First Day of Issue postmark. 46. / MIĘDZYNARODOWY / KONGRES / EUCHARYSTYCZNY / 06.05.1997 WROCLAW 1 / (46th International Eucharistic Congress).

Wrocław — May 25, 1997:

Commemorative postmark used during the duration of the Congress.

Boy scout at a cross, also a scout badge.

"Biała służba ZHP na Kongresie." (White Service of the Polish Scout Organization during the Eucharistic Congress).

Wrocław — May 31, 1997:

Commemorative postmark. Logo of the Eucharistic Congress.

* 46 MIĘDZYNARODOWY KONGRES EUCHARYSTYCZNY / HALA LUDOWA / 31059715 / WROCLAW 1 *

(46th International Eucharistic Congress. People's Hall 'Hala Ludowa')



Wrocław — May 24, 1997:

Commemorative postmark. JHS - monogram for the Name of Jesus.
KRAJOWA WYSTAWA FILATELISTYCZNA / WROCŁAW 1
24.05.1997 / + 46. MIĘDZYNARODOWY + / KONGRES EU-
CHARYSTYCZNY / (National Philatelic Exhibition May 24—June
1, 1997. 46th International Eucharistic Congress.)

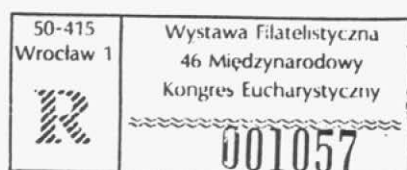
Oława — May 27, 1997:

Commemorative postmark. Church of St. Roch.
KRAJOWA WYSTAWA FILATELISTYCZNA / OŁAWA 1 / 27.05.
/ 46. MIĘDZYNARODOWY KONGRES EUCHARYSTYCZNY /
(National Philatelic Exhibition May 27-31, 1997. 46th International
Eucharistic Congress).

Legnica — May 31, 1997:

Commemorative postmark. Coat of Arms of Pope John Paul II
and the City of Legnica (Lion and crossed St. Peter's Keys).
KRAJOWA WYSTAWA FILATELISTYCZNA / 46. MIĘDZY-
NARODOWY KONGRES EUCHARYSTYCZNY / LEGNICA 1 /
31.05.1997. (National Philatelic Exhibition May 31-June 4, 1997.
46th International Eucharistic Congress)

Special registration labels were used at each Philatelic Exhibition.
Wystawa Filatelistyczna / 46 Międzynarodowy / Kongres Eucharys-
tyczny / (Philatelic Exhibition. 46th International Eucharistic
Congress)



50-415 Wrocław 1



59-200 Legnica 1



55-200 Oława 1

I would like to thank Mr. Bogdan Michalak from Poznań, Poland
President of the Polish Guild of St. Gabriel and editor of their Bulletin,
for providing me with clear markings of the postmarks described in
this article.

(TO BE CONTINUED)



POLISH PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF BUFFALO CELEBRATES ITS 35TH ANNIVERSARY

In the late 30's there were five Polish stamp clubs in the U.S.: Polonus in Chicago, White Eagle in Buffalo, Pulaski in Detroit, Kosciuszko in Cleveland, and Polonica in New York. With the exception of Polonus, all four clubs dispersed after a few years.

The White Eagle Society in Buffalo was organized in 1938 with some 100 members. With the outbreak of WWII, 80% of the members enlisted. Many perished. Others never returned to Buffalo and the club fell apart.

In 1957 an appeal of Polish American philatelists was made by Dr. Matt Gajewski to organize a philatelic club affiliated with Plewacki Post 799 American Legion. In the 60's it numbered some 300 members. But these philatelists did not like the affiliation with the Legion Post. A movement by Krzysztof Wloch resulted in formation of a philatelic section affiliated with the Polonia Club which already had a successful sport section. This setup also displeased the philatelists. In 1962 Wloch called a meeting of philatelists with the Chopin Society to which 32 responded. This turned out to be the beginning of the Polish Philatelic Club of Buffalo.

In 1962 they held their first show which they named AMPOLPEX. From then on they held 38 exhibitions, 15 documentary exhibitions, and 3 special shows. They printed souvenir sheets and cacheted covers with special cancellations. In the 70's the Polish Falcons and Polish Cadets were formed to which they lost 25 members.

The club enjoyed visits from Cardinal Karol Wojtyla, Cardinal Wladyslaw Rubin, First Lady Betty Ford, and others. At present, the club is preparing a monograph history of some 120 pages with many reproductions and photos.

Covers from previous AMPOLPEX shows with special cancels and cachets are still available. Send a self-addressed stamped No. 10 envelope with one dollar to M. Kluk, 16 Armbruster St., Buffalo, NY 14212.

BALLOON TALES

by Kazimierz Gryżewski

Like lightning word quickly spread around Poland. about the hot air balloon "Syrena". While being prepared for flight at the Mielec show, it took off on its own and floated off happily without its pilots. The escapist soon arrived at Wlodawa. It was mid-1957. Later that year the same balloon participated in a demonstration flight at a Warsaw show from which the Polish Aeroclub had high hopes of raising much needed cash and applied to the Ministry of Posts for a special balloon post postage stamp to be issued.

The intention was to carry mail on board the balloon and send it on via the post office nearest its landing place. However the Ministry of Posts showed no interest. After a successful flight "Syrena" landed at Kaunas in Lithuania.

The idea of balloon mail is not new. Back in 1926 the "Liga Obrony Powietrznej Państwa" produced a 1 zł. stamp which represented the fee for carriage by balloon - additional to the normal postal charge (pre-payable by postage stamps). On 17 September four balloons started from Warsaw - "Poznań", "Lwów", "Warszawa" and "Kraków" participating in a competition; the winner was to receive the Colonel A. Wańkowicz Trophy.

Through press and radio announcements philatelists learned of the issue of a stamp. Soon orders started flooding the office of LOPP, then located in Traugutt Street, overwhelming the staff. Philatelists were called in to help including this writer and the well-known expert, Mr Rachmanow. In a single night we had to prepare 4,500 letters.

Stamps had to be stuck on and cancelled with a rubber stamp inscribed "Zawody Balonów Wolnych 17.X.1926", separate rubber stamps naming the balloon had also to be applied as the complete set consisted of four covers. Next morning, hands blistered we sorted the mail and took the four bags to the starting point. Because of a mishap "Warszawa" stayed in the air only briefly, ending its flight on the Mokotowski field. Since the airfield post office was conveniently near the landing spot the mail received the date stamp "Warszawa 19 - Port Lotniczy". "Poznań" landed near Świsłocz, "Lwów" in Kleszczule and "Kraków" near Siemiatycze. All letters reached their addressees. Today they are rarities especially those with imperforated LOPP stamps.

On 30 September 1928, LOPP arranged another balloon post repeating the same procedures. A new 1 zł. stamp was printed of which some remained imperforate. On this occasion "Poznań" landed in Kuźnice, "Kraków" in Maloryta, "Lwów" in Śniawka and Warszawa in Waślików. The special cancellation used this time was "III Raid Balonów Kulistych 30.XI.1928".



This article has been translated by George Kay from its Polish version which appeared in the weekly "7 Dni" - a paper specially produced from 1957 to 1961 and sent to exile Poles by air.

Kazimierz Gryżewski (1898 - 1979) was a sports and philatelic journalist who, in partnership with his brother Tadeusz, wrote many articles and published a number of philatelic catalogues. Włodzimierz Rachmanow (1886 - 1971) was an outstanding philatelic researcher, author and expertiser.

Reprinted from DYLIŻANS, published by the Society for Polish Philately in Great Britain.

8th National Congress of the Polish St. Gabriel Guild

By Arkadiusz Walinski

During my short visit to Poland, I was able to attend the 8th National Congress of the Polish St. Gabriel Guild in Bielsko-Biala on December 6, 1997. The day started with Holy Mass in the St. Nicholas Cathedral. The official opening ceremony of the National Philatelic Exhibition, commemorating the 550th anniversary of St. Nicholas Parish in Bielsko-Biala, was in the Bielsko-Biala Arts Gallery.

The Exhibition was opened by Bishop Tadeusz Rakoczy, Bishop Suffragan of the Bielsko-Zywiec Diocese; the mayor of Bielsko-Biala and representatives of the Polish Post and the Polish Philatelists Federation. The Exhibition was composed of over 50 exhibits with various religious themes.

The Congress took place in the afternoon with about eighty people representing St. Gabriel chapters in Poland. In attendance was Father Jan Vallo, president of the Slovak St. Gabriel. One of the lectures was given by Father Waldemar Chrostowski, author of the book and catalog, *The Pilgrim Pope - John Paul II on the Stamps of the World 1978-1992* (we hope this book will soon be available in English.)

During the next day a philatelic bourse was held where I was able to obtain material from last year's visit of Pope John Paul II to Poland. The Post Office was applying a special commemorative postmark depicting a statue of the Virgin of Consolation, Sanctuary in Gorka Duchowna and Straconka in Bielsko-Biala. The St. Gabriel Guild prepared a cacheted cover for this occasion. There was also a special registered label available.



MY VISIT WITH DR. KRONENBERG

By Fred Szebel

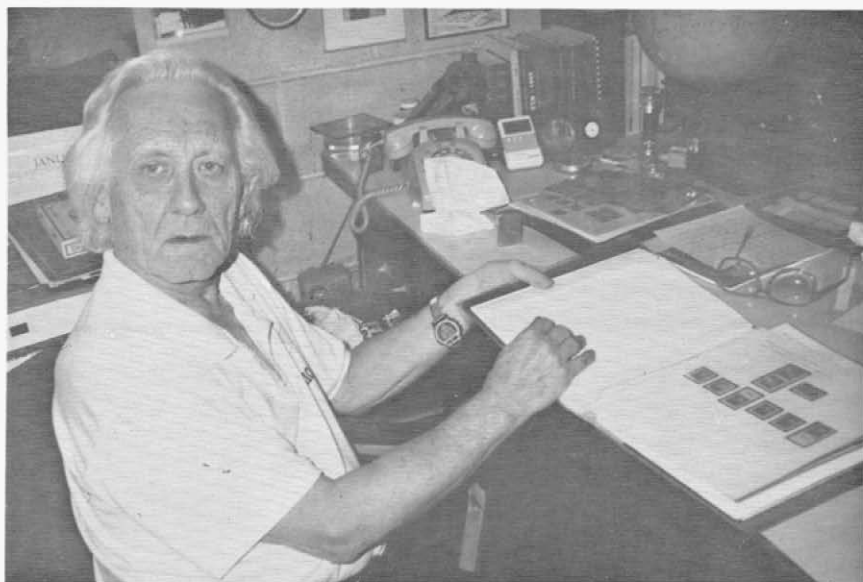
While on a trip to my sister for the holidays, I was able to drop in for a visit with old Polonus friend, Dr. Stanley Kronenberg. After sharing a glass of champagne with his family for a good and healthy 1998, I was fortunate to have several hours of constructive talks with him on Polish Philately.

He showed me his latest purchases and discoveries.

Since he has Poland complete, with all the inverts, double overprints, etc., and now with over 80 albums in this collection, he began collecting the Free City of Danzig.

He gave me several short articles to take back to Chicago for the Polonus Bulletin.

Dr. Kronenberg is an expert on stamps of Poland. If you have any questions, call him anytime at 1-609-466-3713.



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

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