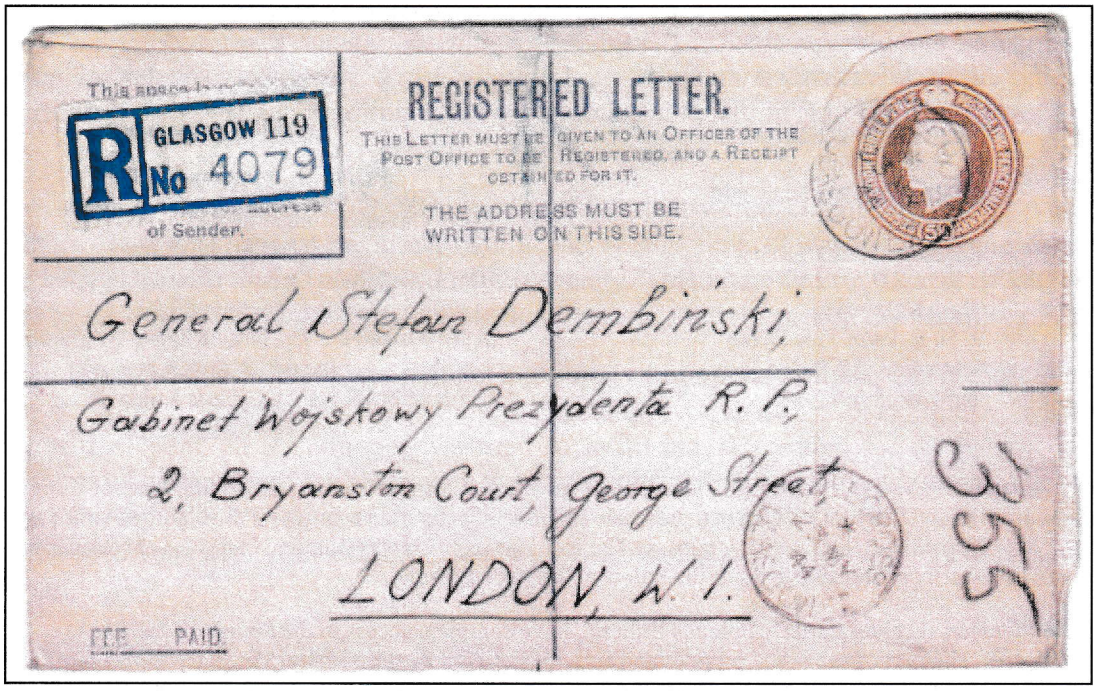
BULLETIN OF THE
POLONUS
PHILATELIC SOCIETY

536 | FIVE DOLLARS | Fall, 2009



Letter to General Dembinski as Gabinet Wojskowy Prezydenta R.P.
(President, War Cabinet of the Republic of Poland).

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The Polonus Philatelic Society is a non-profit, tax exempt 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 receive quarterly Polonus Bulletin, have complete access to the Society website (**www.polonus.org**), and participate in the services and activities offered by the Society. The two membership categories are: **Regular Member – North America -$25.00 / Outside N.A. $30.00** and **Junior Member (under the age of 16) - $10.00.**

Dues are payable in US funds no later than the end of March of each calendar year. New members will receive all the Bulletins for the year in which they join. Memberships are based upon a calendar 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 the Editor.
Membership queries to be sent to the Membership Chairman.
General Society matters and complaints to be sent to the President. (see addresses above)

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 names and addresses are 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.
Half page copy ready ads: $50.00 per insertion
Full Page copy ready ads: $80.00 per insertion.

Send ad copy to Editor and make check payable to Polonus Philatelic Society

Society News

Message from the President

Bob Ogrodnik

As I collect my thoughts to share with you in this bulletin, I cannot help but feel we have been on a journey of continuous improvement, sometimes with bumps in the road, but always destined to deliver outstanding value to our membership. As you read this bulletin, I trust you will share with me the excitement that is building with the progress made as a philatelic society.

We are proud of the recognition that our Polonus bulletin has received at the recent APS StampShow in Pittsburgh. Congratulations to Chris Kulpinski, our Editor, the editorial staff and contributors for the **Vermeil Medal** awarded in the Literature Competition. This was the first competition we have entered with the new enlarged bulletin format.

Thanks to the urging of Pittsburgh member Regis Hoffman, Polonus participated in the APS StampShow with a Society Booth with results that exceeded our expectations. Perhaps we need to encourage participation with Society Booths/Tables in more stamp exhibitions/shows (other than the major show we select for our Annual Meeting & Exhibition) in order to promote Polish philately and membership in Polonus. Send me (krpsl@earthlink.net) your thoughts on this. We are prepared to make available a checklist for handling a Society Booth/Table and to provide a supply of promotional materials.

In Hank Bieniecki's update on our Website, you will find that we on the threshold of providing visitors and members from any destination in the world and at any time of day with unique capabilities of accessing information on Polish philately and our society. This is the future "society model" and we are committed to take full advantage of enabling technologies in order to sustain the viability of Polonus.

In my article on WESTPEX 2010, you will get a glimpse of our plans to make this a "best ever" Polonus show, our 8th Annual Meeting and Exhibition. I encourage you to consider exhibiting, whether or not attending, at this event. At a minimum, we need to fulfill our reservation for 60 frames. We want to enhance the reputation we are building as a featured society, that we deliver outstanding quantity and quality with our exhibits. Please contact me (krpsl@earthlink.net or tel: (314)821-6130) if you have any questions or need help with your exhibit. Also, let me know if you are planning to exhibit and with how many frames.

"Time flies when you are having fun", so they say. It is hard to imagine, however, that the three-year term for the Board of Directors expires with the Annual Meeting at WESTPEX 2010. This requires an election, the process of which is explained in my article on the subject. If you are interested in being considered as a candidate for the board or for any of the volunteer positions, please contact Hank Bieniecki, the appointed Nominating Committee Chairman, or me.

I might add a note of thanks to those members who have contacted me with questions and offers to volunteer on committees of our society. This outreach is appreciated and I encourage others to consider doing the same. We are in need of volunteers for: the Membership Committee, the Website Committee, Translation (Polish to English), the Publication Committee, and the Exhibitions & Shows Committee.

Finally, with "egg on my face", I must apologize for the delay with the Membership Directory. We have now received and are proofing an initial draft. The directory may or may not be in your hands prior to this bulletin, as promised in the previous "Message from the President"; however, we are getting very close to completion. Thanks for your patience.

Polonus Bulletin Awarded Vermeil at APS StampShow 2009

Bob Ogrodnik

The APS StampShow, a four-day extravaganza of stamp collecting, is the largest annual stamp show in the USA, and this year's event was held at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on 6-9 August. Although this show was not the venue selected for Polonus' Annual Meeting, Polonus participated as APS Affiliate #119 with a "Society Booth" and entered the 2009 Literature Competition.

Indeed this was a large show with over 650 frames of exhibits, over 150 dealers, and 36 Society Booths. Attendance appeared modest, an indication that the economic conditions are still a factor. However, interest at the Polonus Society Booth exceeded expectations. Whether it was the classy banner, the delicious Polish sweets, or the curiosity of Polish stamp collecting, we had a steady stream of visitors, of which we estimate 6-8 could become new members. We had 19 members attend this show, from as far away as Poland, Canada and Florida, and as near as Ohio, Michigan and Pennsylvania.

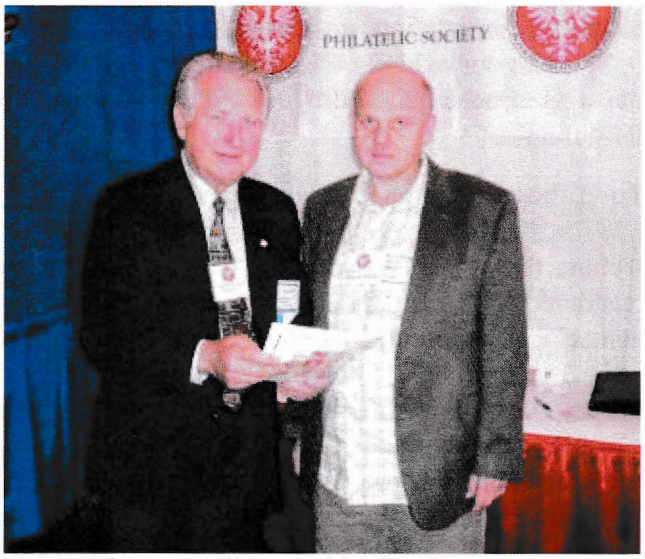
Our Polonus Bulletin was entered in the Periodical category of the literature competition, one of thirty entries. Polonus received a **Vermeil** medal, one of 14 awarded at this competition. There were 7 Gold and 9 Silver medals awarded to the remaining entries. Congratulations to **Chris Kulpinski**, our Editor, and to all who contributed towards this recognition.

Members **Alfred Kugel** and **Regis Hoffman** were awarded Vermeil and Silver medals for their exhibits and **Chris Kulpinski** was awarded a Silver medal for his entry in the Handbook & Special Studies category of the literature competition. Congratulations to these members for their awards and recognition.

Special thanks to member **Regis Hoffman** from Pittsburgh for encouraging our participation, for helping us organize the "Society Booth" and for extending a warm Pittsburgh hospitality.



Hank Bieniecki
Tending the Polonus booth



Bob Ogrodnik and Zbigniew Korszen
Discussing future bulletin articles

Election of Polonus Board of Directors for 2010-2013

Bob Ogrodnik

In accordance with the by-laws of the Polonus Philatelic Society, the election for seven (7) members of the Board of Directors shall be for a term of three (3) years.

The current Board of Directors was elected by the membership and announced at the Polonus Annual Meeting in Chicago (CHICAGOPEX 2007) on 17 November 2007 for the term 2007 – 2010. Therefore, elections for the new term of 2010-2013 will be held prior to and announced at our next Annual Meeting in San Francisco (WESTPEX 2010) on 24 April 2010. The purpose of this article is to outline for the membership the election process, as defined by our by-laws.

1. The President appoints a Nominating Committee Chair no less than four months prior to the Annual Meeting. I have appointed Hank Bieniecki as Chairman of the Nominating Committee. It will be his responsibility to confirm and present a slate of candidates willing to serve, no less than three months prior to the Annual Meeting.
2. Ballots shall be provided to the members no less than two months prior to the Annual Meeting. Ballots will be mailed to the membership in December 2009.
3. Members in good standing shall have the opportunity to cast their vote for seven (7) members, either as nominated by the Nominating Committee or as write-ins. Ballots must be received by 28 February 2010 to be valid.
4. In addition to the seven (7) elected Directors, the Past-President and Editor of the Bulletin shall be ex-officio voting members of the Board of Directors.
5. All candidates of the Board of Directors must be able to adequately fulfill the duties and obligations of the office. This includes the prerequisite of communicating via e-mail.

The process outlined above has been initiated. Hank Bieniecki will be working to select and confirm a slate of candidates. A copy of our by-laws is available by request from Bob Ogrodnik at krpsl@earthlink.net.

New Members

We welcome the following new members who recently joined our Society:

George S. Bobinski - #1674
69 Little Robin Road
Amherst, New York 14228

David M. Kols - #1676
Regency-Superior, Ltd.
P.O. Box 8277
St. Louis, Missouri 63156

Timothy J. Strzalkowski - #1675
13986 Sarasota
Redford, Michigan 48239

Frank Carl Barna - #1677
6570 Nile Cr.
Arvada, Colorado 80007

Correction

In the previous issue, on page 5; *Warsaw* ***Mail to the Red Cross – Late 1944***, there is date error. In the 5th paragraph the date should be July 22, 1944, rather than 1994. Sorry for the confusion.

POLONUS WEBSITE UPDATE

Hank Bieniecki

Anyone who is involved in website design will quickly discover that the process is slow and often frustrating, especially when building an infinitely expandable site with limited funds. The good news is that the Polonus Website (www.polonus.org) has not compromised its future by taking shortcuts. As a result the membership and visitors will be able to look forward to using the following features over the coming months:

Current Polonus Activities: This feature has already been added to the menu and will be frequently updated by our President Bob Ogrodnik. In September, Bob will be posting more information about our 8th Annual Meeting & Exhibition to be held in conjunction with WESTPEX 2010, as well as activities at CHICAGOPEX 2009. Members will no longer have to go to the Forum, or to back issues of the Bulletin, to learn about the activities in which your Society will participate. Just go to the website and check the Current Polonus Activities.

Searchable Polish/English Philatelic Dictionary: This feature will be available on the website to "members only" by the end of the year. The software has been developed, tested, and added to the website, but not yet added to the menu. Several members are currently engaged in loading Polish and English philatelic terms to this Dictionary, along with definitions in English. When we have 500 terms available the dictionary will be added to the website menu. Members will then be able to type in a Polish philatelic term and find its English translation and definition. Additional terms will be added as they come to our attention. The data in this dictionary will continually be expanded.

If you have Polish Philatelic terms you do not understand send them to me at hank@biistamp.com. I will make sure they are included in the Polish/English Philatelic Dictionary. This valuable resource should make using Fischer Catalogs and other philatelic resources written in Polish much easier. The ultimate goal is to have sufficient terms in the dictionary to justify the printing of a Polish/English Philatelic Dictionary that will be available for sale by Polonus.

Searchable Bulletin Index: This feature is a major undertaking by your society. Members and non-members will be able to search currently existing and future Bulletins for information by (a) Topic (b) Fischer or Scott catalog number (c) Article Name and (d) Author. The software has already been created and tested. The loading of all the related data is a huge task that will be supervised by several members of the Society with the actual data entry being outsourced. It is projected that the searchable Bulletin index will not be completed until late this year or early in 2010. It will be added when the searchable index for issues 401 to date are completed.

This feature will represent a major legacy to both current and future members of Polonus. It is being made possible by generous contributions from Polonus members. I anticipate that our President will cover that aspect of this project in another Bulletin.

Polonus Forum: To date the usage of the Polonus Forum has been a major disappointment. This was the membership's most requested feature. I am not certain why this method of communication between members has been so under-utilized. I suspect that it is due to two factors: the failure of members to obtain responses to their posts on the Forum, and confusion about how to use the Forum.

We plan to solve both of these problems using the following procedures:
(1) The Forum Moderator will check the Forum no less than weekly, and will forward e-mail notices to all of the Board of Director Members whenever there is a posting to ensure timely responses.
(2) In the next Bulletin I will write a fully illustrated article on how to use the Forum. In the future this article (Forum Guide) will be made available to all members requesting it as a PDF attachment for reference when using the Forum. Like any new technology, what at first may appear complex will, with use, become as easy as writing an e-mail.

(3) Old irrelevant posts will be removed. Major Forum Subjects will be sequenced by membership popularity. New major Forum subjects will be added at the request of the membership.

It is our intent to ultimately develop the Polonus Philatelic Website into a key resource for society members and for it to function as our primary means of obtaining new members from all over the world. The philatelic business model is evolving. Just as our society has evolved over the past decade, the use of technology must be an integral part of our future. Any members who are interested in serving on the Website Committee are welcome to contact me at hank@biistamp.com or info@polonus.org.

Polonus To Be Featured at WESTPEX 2010

Bob Ogrodnik

Polonus will hold its 8th Annual Meeting and Exhibition on **23-25 April 2010** in association with WESTPEX 2010. WESTPEX, one of the premier philatelic exhibitions in the US, will be celebrating its 50th anniversary. The event will be held at the San Francisco Airport Marriott Hotel.

For an overview of the entire event, please refer to the WESTPEX website, www.westpex.com . Following are some of the highlights:

- Polonus has reserved 60 of the 300+ frames of international exhibits. The Exhibitor Prospectus and Entry Form are available on www.westpex.com . Alternatively, you can request a copy from me. Please note, the posted deadline for submittal of your entry form is 15 February 2010, **however, frames not committed by 15 January 2010 will be released to the general population of exhibitors.**
- This is one of the qualifying shows for the APS World Series of Philately and the Grand Award winner will be eligible to compete in the Champion of Champions event at the APS StampShow in August 2010. The Grand Award will be a US $20 Double Eagle gold coin.
- A team of renowned international judges will include Jacek Kosmala, a Polonus member from Poland.
- Dr. Julian Auleytner from Poland, will be a guest speaker at the Collector's Club of San Francisco dinner meeting on Wednesday, 21 April 2010 (two days prior to WESTPEX 2010). His topic will be "Provisional and Local Issues of the Polish Second Republic, 1918/1919". Members interested in attending this event should contact Jim Mazepa.
- Polonus has reserved a Society Table for the promotion of Polish stamp collecting and Polish philately, as well as providing a gathering place for members and non-members alike.
- Polonus has scheduled its Annual Meeting and Board of Directors Meeting on 24 April 2010. Plans are also being made for a Member Forum, a Member Reception / Dinner, and Presentations on Polish philatelic topics with schedules to follow.
- Jim Mazepa will provide guided tours of the Polish exhibits, which will add greatly to the understanding of the material exhibited.
- The San Francisco Airport Marriott Hotel offers a special discounted room rate to attendees of WESTPEX and a block or rooms has been reserved. Call the hotel at (650) 692-9100 and ask for the WESTPEX rate. Information can also be found on the above mentioned website.
- The Awards Banquet will be held in the ballroom of the San Francisco Airport Marriott Hotel on Saturday evening, 24 April 2010. Ticket order form may be downloaded: www.westpex.com

Plans are underway to make this the "best ever" Polonus show and I encourage you consider exhibiting, whether or not you attend. It is important that we get an early start on making our frame commitments. **Please send me an e-mail if you plan to exhibit and the number of frames requested.**

THE PHILATELIC LEGACY OF GENERAL STEFAN DEMBINSKI

Paul Phillips



Stefan Jacek Dembinski *(coat of arms, Rawicz) (1887-1972) was a Major-General and cavalryman. He fought in World War I, the Polish-Bolshevik War, in which he distinguished himself with bravery in the battle with Budionny's mounted army near Komarów (31 October 1920), and was also a soldier in World War II. During the September Campaign of 1939, he organized a group called "Uncle" ("Stryj"), which he commanded during actions protecting Polish units moving towards Hungary. In Hungary, he was a representative of the Commander in Chief and afterwards, having arrived in France, he became Head of the Department of Cavalry at the Ministry of Internal Affairs (he held this position since April 1940).*

After the evacuation to Great Britain, Dembinski became Head of the Military Cabinet of the President of the Republic of Poland (from October 1941 to 1947). After the war, he decided to stay abroad and did voluntary work for veteran and professional organizations. Honored with the Virtuti Militari Cross and four times with the Cross of Valour, he was also a knight of the French Legion of Honor and was awarded many other Polish and foreign decorations.

The above paragraph is taken almost verbatim from a description of the background of Dembinski by the National Museum in Warsaw, to which in 1957 he donated his large collection of European graphic art from the 16th to the 19th century. This was the largest such donation to the museum. In addition to his collecting of early prints he was also an avid philatelist. During World War II he kept all the mail he received from his wife and family, his wife doing the same with letters and cards he sent to her. As will be seen in this article, there was much more to his life in WWII than what was written up by the museum. Due to the necessary secrecy related to his wartime positions most of the mail addressed to him was through pseudonyms and also the use of undercover addresses not recorded in the literature.

General Dembinski died in 1972 and his collection stayed in the hands of his family until 1997-98 when his son decided to sell the cards and envelopes through the Channel Islands Stamp Company, an auction house specializing in military mail. The Dembinskis had settled in England following the war years and must have had a good reason for choosing this small company. The descriptions of the lots contained significant levels of personal and philatelic information to suggest that they were based on Dembinski's own notes. Fortunately, I was able to acquire a few of the best items for my collection and they are amongst the gems of my WWII exhibits. In this article I am going to present many of these items in chronological order to document the travels and travails of Dembinski and his family during WWII.

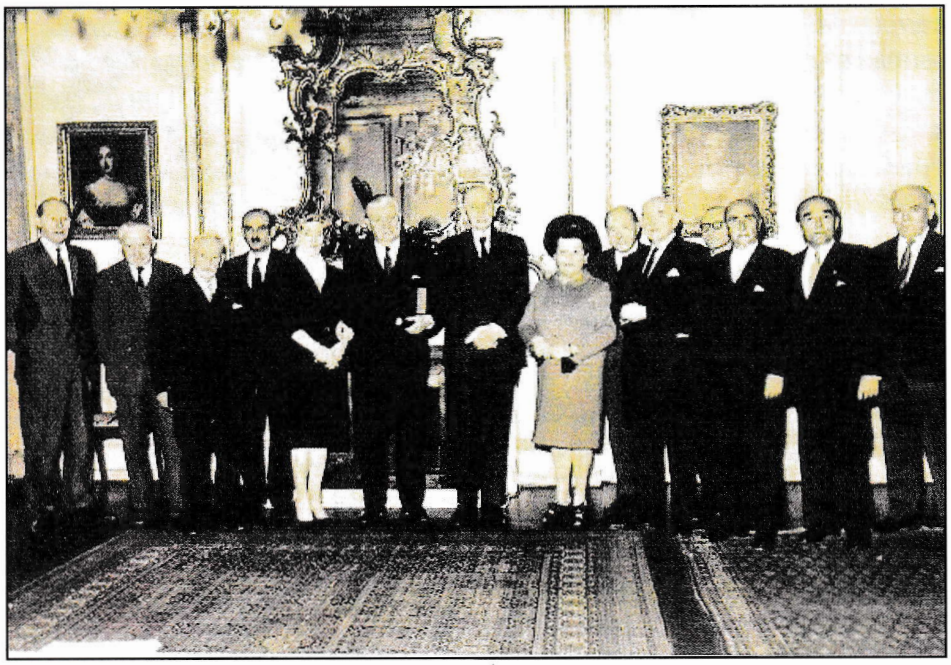


Figure 1. *The Polish Government in Exile, photographed in 1963. General Dembinski (age 76 at the time) is second from the left.* [www.angelfire.com/realm/StStanislas]

When the Germans and Russians attacked Poland, General Dembinski went into exile with those of the Polish armed forces which were able to escape to Hungary. His wife and children remained behind in their home in Przemysl, Soviet-occupied Galicia. The first remaining items of correspondence come from this period. The Hungarian Government created Special Unit XXI to administer the internment camps, in which the refugees were placed. General Dembinski was the highest ranked Polish officer and functioned as the representative of the army to Unit XXI. During this time he adopted the pseudonym G. Egry, close to the Polish for Hungary – Wegry - apparently enough to confuse the Russians.



Figure 2. *Postcard sent from Dembinski's family in Przemysl, Soviet-occupied Galicia, on 12 February 1940 to Dembinski as G. Egry in Budapest.*

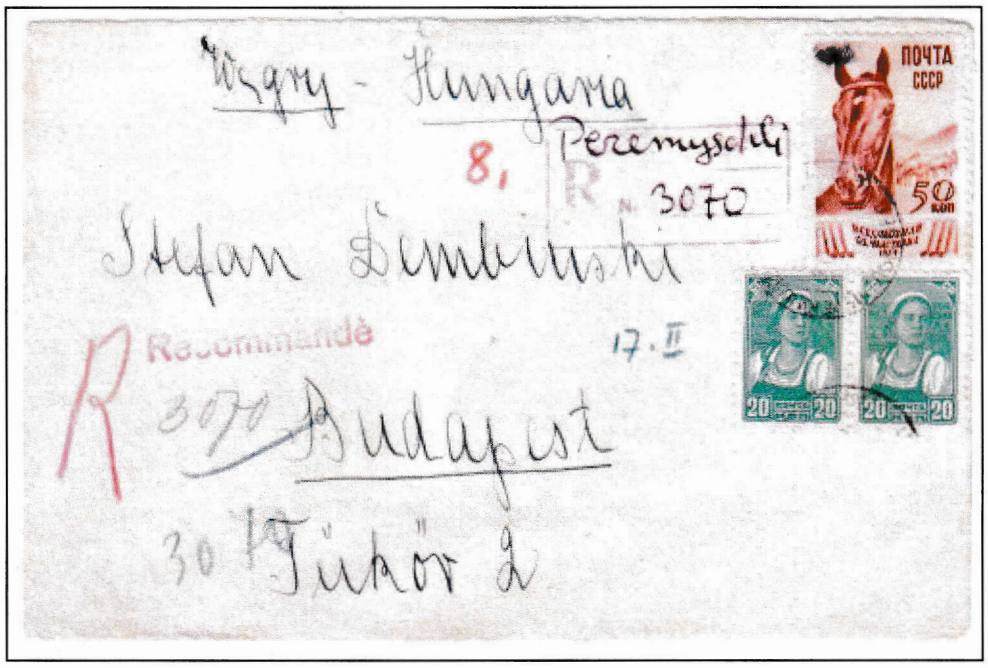


Figure 3. *Envelope sent from Maria Dembinski to her husband in Budapest without the use of the pseudonym, dated 17 February 1940. Note the use of a provisional registration label with the name of the city in manuscript. Note also the use of the French Recomandee, in* ***red.***

Here we note a discrepancy between the account in the Museum of Dembinski's movements at this time and the information available from Dembinski's records. It states that he moved to France in April 1940 and only left when the entire Polish Government in Exile had to leave Paris for London in July of 1940.



Figure 4. *Letter from the Polish Government in Exile operation in Angers to the HQ in Paris dated 26 April 1940.*

Following the attack on France by the Germans in the Spring of 1940 the Polish Government in Exile moved from Paris to Angers for a short period of time. When the French signed the armistice with Hitler the Polish Government in Exile had to leave France and they went to London in July 1940. In the Dembinski correspondence there is a wonderful postcard dated 17 July 1940 sent by Maria Dembinska to her husband in Peking, China! The notes that accompanied the card stated that Dembinski had been assigned to the Polish Embassy in China.

The card, itself, is an incredible piece of postal history as it was sent from Kustani, a Soviet relocation camp in Kazakhstan. Although the address panel, in Russian, mentions the General by name, the instructions in English (written sideways on the right hand side) say that the card is to be sent care of Mr. Hope-Johnstone, presumably a British official. There is a boxed Kanji mark in black and some additional pencil notes in Chinese. One of the stamps had been removed. So, in practice this was another use of an undercover address. I remember that there was another similar item in the Channel Islands auction.

Traveling to China would not have been a difficult task as Italy had not yet entered the war and Imperial Airways was flying to Cairo via Hungary. He would have been able to reach India via the same airline and then take a flight across to China.



Figure 5. *Postcard dated 17 July 1940 from Maria Dembinska in Kustani Relocation Camp, Kazakhstan, to her husband in Peking, China.*

The next card, chronologically, is the first of a series of cards sent to Dembinski, or surrogates, from what appears to be a member of the General's family, so far not identified by me, called Michalina

Dembinska. Sometimes these cards were initialed MJ or signed as Maria Jakubowska. It should be remembered that in many undercover schemes the purported sender was in fact an identifier for the recipient. Hence it possible in the example that the MJ represents the true sender or perhaps yet another pseudonym. Some of these cards were not addressed directly to the General but to other Poles. Nevertheless they ended up in his collection identified as his correspondence. All were sent from Jaslo, under German occupation. Whether they were purely private mail or were coded messages is not known as the messages have not been analyzed by experts.

The first of these cards is addressed to the General at an address in New York, a city that General Dembinski is known never to have visited. The card is very fragile from the folding for forwarding, as is normal for undercover mail, and the destination is undoubtedly an undercover address. Not only is 151 East 57th Street (Room 308) an undercover address but this card is the only known example of its use. The card takes advantage of the continued diplomatic relations between Germany and the USA at this time, with the USA being a destination for which non-Jewish mail from the General Government appears not to have been impeded. At this time the General is known definitely to have been in London. I have not been able to identify the occupant of the address.

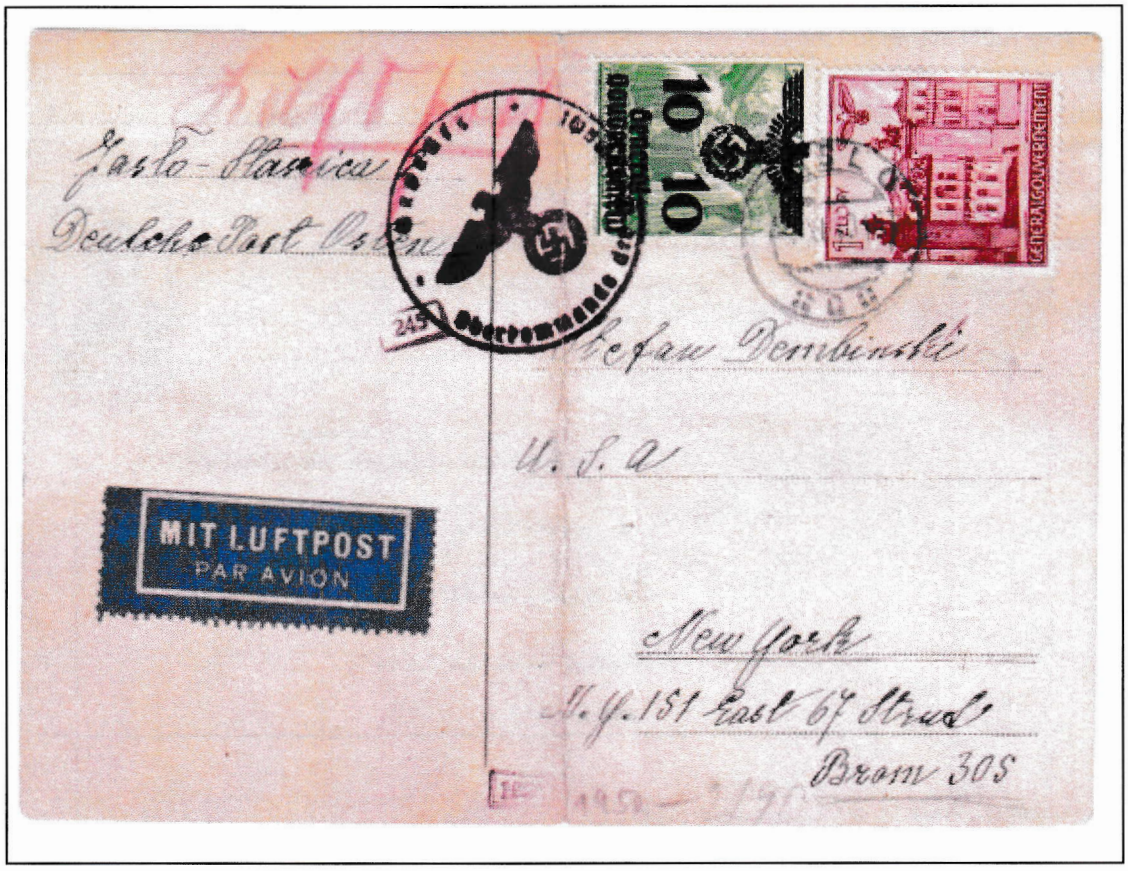


Figure 6. *5 November 1940 Jaslo to New York, airmail postcard to an unrecorded undercover address (only known example).*

There were a few later examples of mail addressed through undercover addresses in Portugal, only one of which I acquired in the sale, largely because it was, again, a unique item. Several Polish organizations set up undercover addresses in Lisbon after the move to England. Most of the mail involved the Polish servicemen in the UK, the majority of who were stationed in Scotland. The largest purveyor of

undercover mail was the Polish Red Cross branch in Portugal which operated several addresses. The mail was usually sent on to the UK in batches, the intended recipient identified and a small paper label attached (often torn off in the surviving examples of mail). Many of these mailed items from the General Government were cards being returned to thank the recipients for sending parcels from Portugal to Poland. Often referred to, somewhat contemptuously in philatelic circles, as sardine cards, these cards were a vital and simple way for individuals in Poland to let their relatives in the UK know that they were still safe.

The undercover addresses in Portugal will be the subject of a later article, however, it is worth noting at this time that the parcels being sent to Poland were small and contained a few non-perishable items. There were many businesses set up in Portugal to mail off these standardized packets to Poland whenever the money was sent to Portugal to pay for them.

The card I purchased is addressed to 105 Amoreiras in Lisbon, which was not recognized as an undercover address for mail from Poland to the UK., until now. It is not known if this is an address run by one person or a one used only for high-ranking officers. It is unique as the card is addressed to Mme MacMillan. In the literature there are two undercover addresses run by expatriate Englishwomen.. The best known is that run by the Duchess of Argyll, using the name of Mrs. Campbell from Estoril (the Dukes of Argyll are descended from one of King Edward VII's daughters). The second Englishwoman was a Mrs. Moloney who operated from Rosiral. This card identifies a third such operation.

This card was sent from Dembinska in Jaslo on 16 January 1941, but was addressed to M. Biskupskiej, perhaps another pseudonym for Dembinski. The card arrived in Portugal on 29 January.



Figure 7. *Card sent from Jaslo via Mme MacMillan in Lisbon on 16 January 1941, using the undercover address at 163 Amoreiras. This is the only known example of this undercover address.*

During this time period Maria Dembinska and her children were able to move from Kazakhstan to Persia, Iraq and then Palestine. At some time or another they were able to find passage to South Africa, perhaps with a stay in East Africa on the way, where there were camps for Polish refugees. During August of 1942 General Dembinski sent a registered letter to his wife who was living in Cape Town, via the Polish Consul, but she had already sailed for Great Britain. They were on the SS Strathaven which arrived in Liverpool on the 25 September. The letter was forwarded to London on 29 September to 91 Eton Hall, London NW3, which was a general address used for Polish exiles in the UK. The General had written his London address on the back of the cover, which was 2 Bryanston Court, George Street, London W1. This address is in Marylebone a few minutes walk north of Marble Arch.

Yet another interesting undercover address is found in the correspondence from Jaslo. This card is another with writer being Michalina Dembinska, which is signed on the back MJ, for Maria Jakubowska. The letter was mailed on 19 May 1944 to Kommendorsgaten 40/IIp, Stockholm, Sweden, having a Berlin censor mark Ab in a circle. Although addressed to Boris Zaleski, the card was received by General Dembinski and its history documented by him. I understand that this address (a Box address) was used exclusively for the forwarding of mail to high ranking officers.



Figure 8. *19 May 1944 card sent from Jaslo to General Dembinski via a pseudonym or surrogate using a box address in Stockholm.*

Finally I want to finish with a registered letter addressed to the General, using his full title, at the Bryanston Court address. The sender of the letter (mailed 23 May 1944 from Tollcross, Glasgow) was one of the Polish organizations in Scotland and has a rubber stamp in red ink which reads:

POLSKI INTERNAT SZKOLNY
im. Stanislawa Staszica
POLISH EDUCATIONAL CENTRE
1920 London Road, Glasgow E.2.
Phone: Shettleston 1695

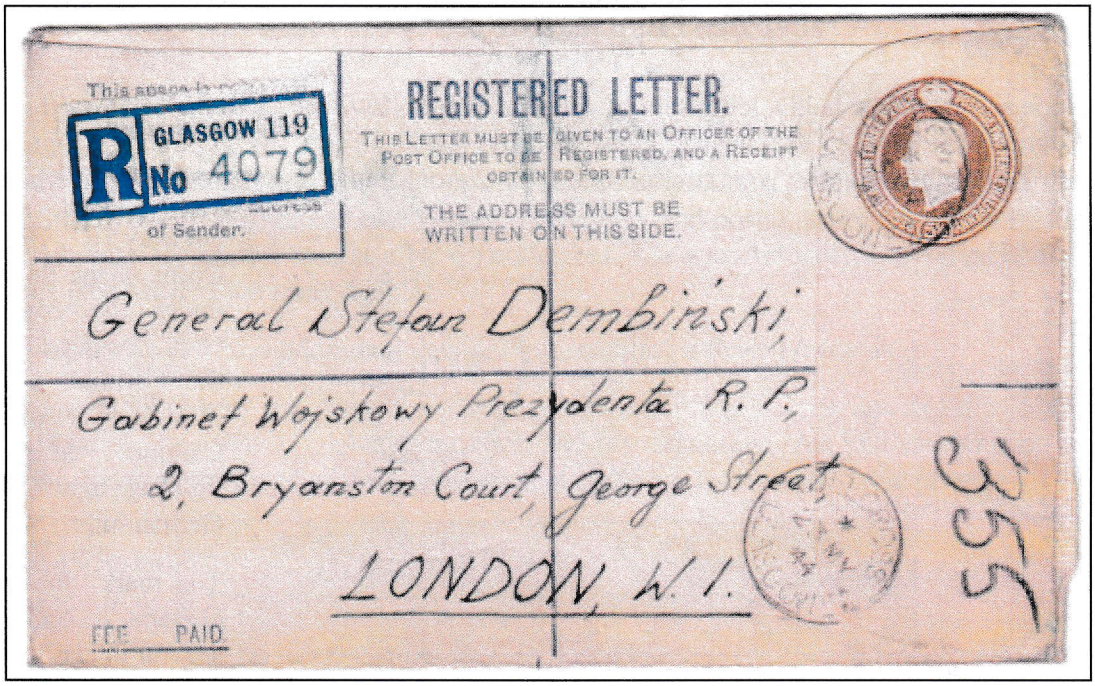


Figure 9. *Registered letter from a Polish institution in Glasgow, Scotland, addressed to General Dembinski as Gabinet Wojskowy Prezydenta R.P. (President, War Cabinet of the Republic of Poland).*

To summarize, I hope that this article will give readers of the Polonus Bulletin an impression of the significance of these few items to the understanding of the complexity of wartime communications. One of the objectives is to draw attention to the continuing need for more detailed research on the communication methods used by the Poles in their occupied country to contact their exiled compatriots who were leading the war effort. Most likely there is significant information present in the records of the Polish Government in Exile, which could not be investigated by a non-Polish speaker such as myself. Undoubtedly, the significance of these covers would have been lost had not General Dembinski documented each item himself, and we all owe him an immense debt of gratitude for his efforts. Many more of his covers were purchased by other collectors, mainly in the UK. It would be wonderful if they see this article and can help to reconstruct more of his story. (Authors emphasis)

Personal philatelic ads are provided Free of Charge to members

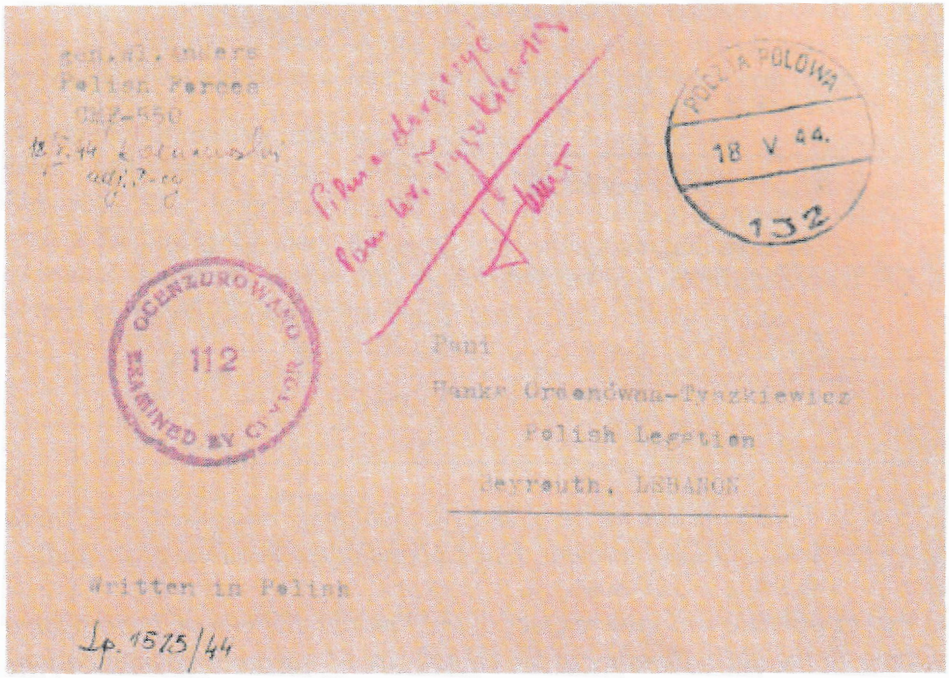
For Sale: Two deluxe Minkus albums with dustcovers, 2-post style with pages up to 1984; Albums custom embossed with POLAND on spine and POLAND with Eagle on cover; includes 100+ stamps in hingeless mounts. Like new condition. $75.00 (incl. postage within USA). Contact: Bob Ogrodnik, P.O. Box 240428, Ballwin, MO 63024-0428; e-mail: krpsl@earthlink.net; tel: (314) 821-6130.

Want to Buy: 1939 covers from Soviet Occupied Poland. Please contact Chris Kulpinski, 9350 E. Palm Tree Dr., Scottsdale, AZ 85255; e-mail chris@kulpinski.net; phone 480-585-7114

Historic Envelope

Jan Niebrzydowski

The envelope shown below held a letter sent by General Wladyslaw Anders to the celebrated songstress Hanka Ordonowa, Countess Tyszkiewicz, known as Miss Hanka Ordon. Miss Ordon was a guardian and caregiver to Polish children who were transported in 1942 from Soviet Russia to the Middle East.



On May 18th, 1944, the 2nd Corps of the Polish Army, under the command of Gen. Anders conquered the Mount and the Monastery of Monte Cassino after heavy fighting against a select German unit.

To mark the occasion, General Anders sent several dozen letters to his distinguished Polish elite correspondents, advising them of the victory. One of these letters was addressed to Miss Ordon via the Polish Legation in Beirut, Lebanon.

Evidently the postmaster in Lebanon was impressed by both the sender and the recipient because the notation in red reads – ***Urgent Delivery for Miss Tyszkiewicz.***

My father, Mateusz Niebrzydowski, was a private in the 5th Borderland Foot Division (5th Kresowa Dywizja Piechoty), fought in the battle of Monte Cassino. The Niebrzydowski family collection holds a photograph presented here.



On the reverse my father inscribed:

"May, 1944. Americans and a Polish patrol at Cassino.
I served in this patrol. Looking at the booty..."

Address Lines on Murnau Postcards

Piotr Pelczar

Originally published in Polish, Przeglad Filatelistyczny, No. 11 (62), 2007 pp. 491-493

As covers of Poland gain in popularity, the prices realized at auctions, primarily in Poland, Canada and the United States, continue to climb ever higher. The covers and postal stationery of the Prisoner Camp at Murnau are very scarce and sought after by collectors. The scarcest and most valuable among them are postcards [see below Literature: 1, 2, 3].

The following article provides additional detailed information on these postcards.

Up to four graphic elements may appear on post cards from Murnau. They are as follows: (a) postage stamp, (b) notation "*Pocztówka*", (c) address lines, and (d) illustration. All four elements do not appear on every card. Known variations of the 6 Murnau post cards are listed in the table below:

Element calostki : **Card elements**	Znane kombinacje 1	2	3	4	5	6
a - znak oplaty calostki postage stamp	+	+	+	+	+	+
b - napis „Pocztówka" notation "*Pocztówka*"	+	+	+	+		
c - liniatura adresowa address lines	+	+			+	
d - ilustracja graficzna illustration	+		+			+

Elements a, b, and c appear only on the front of the card, while d may appear on either the front or reverse. The appearance of the postage stamps has already been described in detail in other publications. Variations of the "*Pocztówka*" notations and the various illustrations will be covered in future segments. In this article I will focus specifically on the address lines (liniatura) on these cards. Address lines (element c in the table) do not appear on all cards (see *Illustration 1).* Cards without the address lines are scarce.

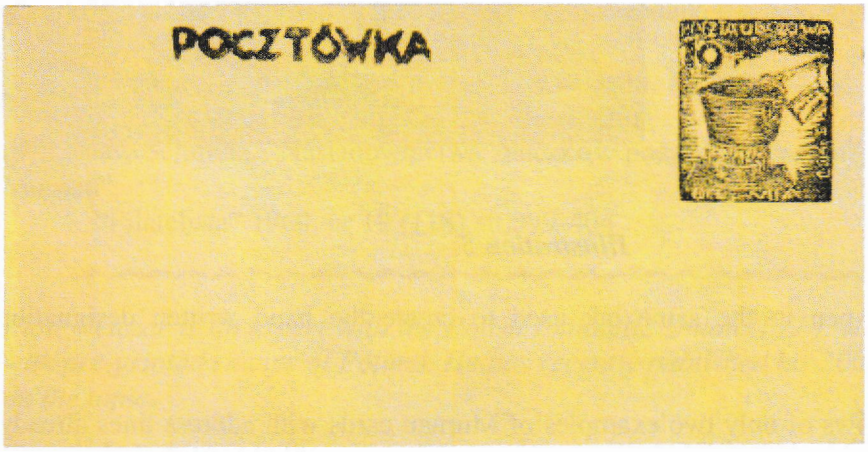


Illustration 1

The majority of cards have address lines. Most often, they were the creations of known individuals, such as Lt. Thadeusz Kluzniak and his co-workers. Even when cards were issued without any kind of lines, vertical or horizontal, the sender would occasionally clarify the delivery address by adding lines, most often using the same pencil or pen used to write the address text. *(see Illustration 2)*

Hand drawn lines have one thing in common. Each is different. Sometimes, it is just one vertical line, dividing the card into two distinct parts, for writing the sender's address on the left, and the receiver's address on the right (see *Illustration 3)*

The most common configuration found on cards is one vertical line plus an additional three (see *Illustration 4*), and even four horizontal lines for entering the full address of the recipient (see *Illustration 5*).

The method for creating the lines varies. Usually a black pencil was used and on rare occasions, a colored pencil was used *(see Illustration 4)*



Illustration 2



Illustration 3



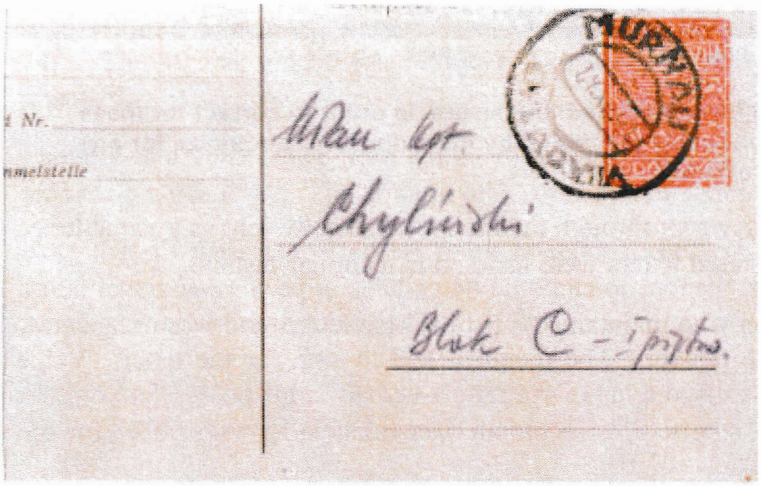
Illustration 4



Illustration 5

Less common was the use of a pen in the same ink used to create the hand written designation ***"Pocztówka"*** (see *Illustration 5*).

At the present time, the author knows of only two examples of Murnau cards with address lines already prepared by some type of *printing* process. A very small quantity of typographically printed German formula card "Feldpostkarte" with the postage stamp "Trabka" (see *Illustration* 6) were converted for usage in the camp. The upper and left margins were cut, removing unwanted and unnecessary German text and reducing the dimensions closer to the format of postcards used in the oflag. The typographically printed lines for this formula card then became address lines on the Murnau card.



◄ *Illustration 6*

Cards with the stamp "Tryptyk" (see *Illustration* 7) were created from cards produced earlier outside of the camp and carried a designation "10652" at the lower left. An illustration depicting the Sacred Heart of Jesus was printed on the reverse. The address lines from the early printing remained on the front of the card.

All the different varieties of address lines discussed above may appear on each type of card issued in the camp. These varieties certainly don't necessitate separate cataloging. However, sometimes a rare variant may increase the value of a card in relationship to one without these characteristics.



◄ *Illustration 7*

We request the readers to bring to the author's attention information regarding these additional varieties of address lines on postcards issued for use in Murnau. Contact him at: piotr.pelczar@wp.pl

Literature:
[1] Piotr Pelczar, "Calostki w Murnau" – czesc 1, "Przeglad Filatelistyczny", 2007, nr.7, str. 302-304
[2] Piotr Pelczar, "Murnau, (cæsc 2) – Calostki z dodatkowa pieczatka niepocztowa",
"Przeglad Filatelistyczny", 2007nr9, str.398
[3] Piotr Pelczar, "Oplaty ryczaltowe- to nie calostki, Murnau, Czesc 3".
Przeglad Filatelistyczny 2007, nr.10, str.446
[4] Leslaw Schmutz, "Nasladownictwa znaczków poczty wewnetrznej obozu polskich jenców 7A Murnau",
"Filatelista" 1960, nr 19 (118) str.399-404

Piotr Pelczar is an expert with the Polish Philatelic Union (PZF). His specialty is cards and envelopes with pre-printed stamps of Poland. He has recently published his 200th article, and several monographs on the topic.

Currently he is requesting scans (jpg., at least 600dpi) of cards with preprinted stamps from Oflag VIIA, Murnau, to continue his research. Many thanks to those of you that have already opened your collections to him. Please send scans to: piotr.pelczar@wp.pl

VALUE LETTERS IN POLAND 1919

James Mazepa

This article originally appeared in Bulletin #535 with some editing errors. In order to correct for these errors, we are reprinting the entire article as originally submitted by the author. We apologize for any confusion that this may have caused the readership of this article.

In the first years of the Second Republic money sent through the mails was usually sent as a value letter, not a registered letter. Value letters and registered letters were handled in a similar fashion.

Registered letters were carried by the postman who maintained a list of these letters and was obligated to complete a form noting the letters he was to deliver. The recipient had to sign for the letter. Value letters were also carried by the postman who carried a list of the letters he had in his possession, but this list was separate from the list of registered letters. The postman was financially responsible for the money contained in the letter.

The postal fee for registered letters was 50 fen plus the postage which was dependent on weight and destination. The postal fee for value letters was also 50 fen, and an additional 25 fen for the declared value up to 100 mks. However, the minimum rate for a value letter was 1 mk even if the money enclosed was less than 100 mks.



Value letter often used the same marks as registered letters, however, in 1919 many of these marks were provisional in nature. One outstanding example is the letter from Radziejó w to Warsaw (fig. 1). The letter was sent March 25th and arrived March 27th. The sender copied the registry style box, but with a "W" (Wartosc) instead of the usual "R" (Registered). The sender noted the letter contained 13 mks. This is the only value letter I have seen with this mark.

Figures 2 and 3 is a valued letter send from Gombin to Warsaw. The Gombin provisional postmark is used to indicate this is a value letter, along with the notation at the top of 8 mks. The same provisional postmark is used to cancel the 10 fen and 40 fen PP/GGW stamps. The letter was received in Warsaw January 23rd.

***Fig 1**- Value letter from Radziejow with red boxed "W" for "Value*



***Fig 2** – Value letter from Gombin with provisional postmark*



***Fig 3** – Gombin letter with PP/GGW stamps tied by provisional postmark*

Figures 4 and 5 are a value letter from Zawiercie in the amount of 5 mk 50 fen to Warsaw sent February 24th. The 40 fen and 60 fen PP/GGW stamps are tied by the provisional straight line ZAWIERCIE postmark.

Figure 6 is a value letter from Kalisz to Warsaw with the provisional Kalisz registry mark here used to indicate a value letter. The amount of 13 mks 50 fen is noted on the front.

Note that all these letters cost 1 mark to send, regardless for value enclosed. Also, it seems many of value letters were used to send small amounts of money. In the case of all the above letters, they were sent to pay newspaper subscriptions.

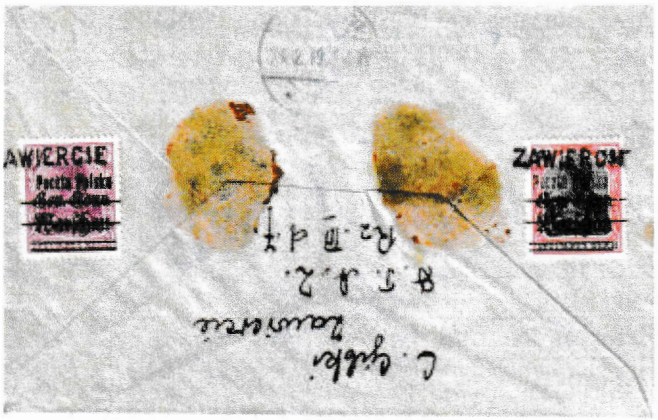


Fig 4 *– Value letter with Zawiercie provisional postmark.*

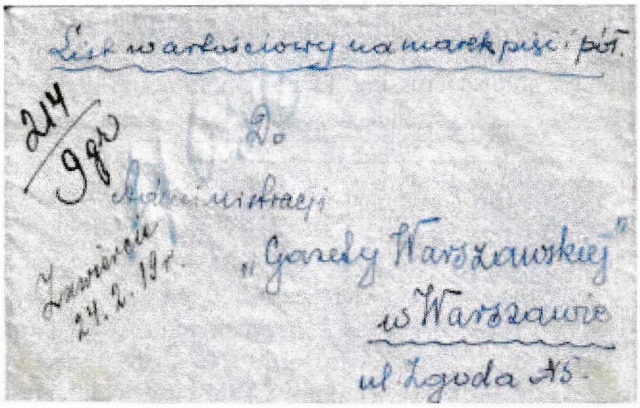


Fig.5 *– Value letter with manuscript Zawiercie*

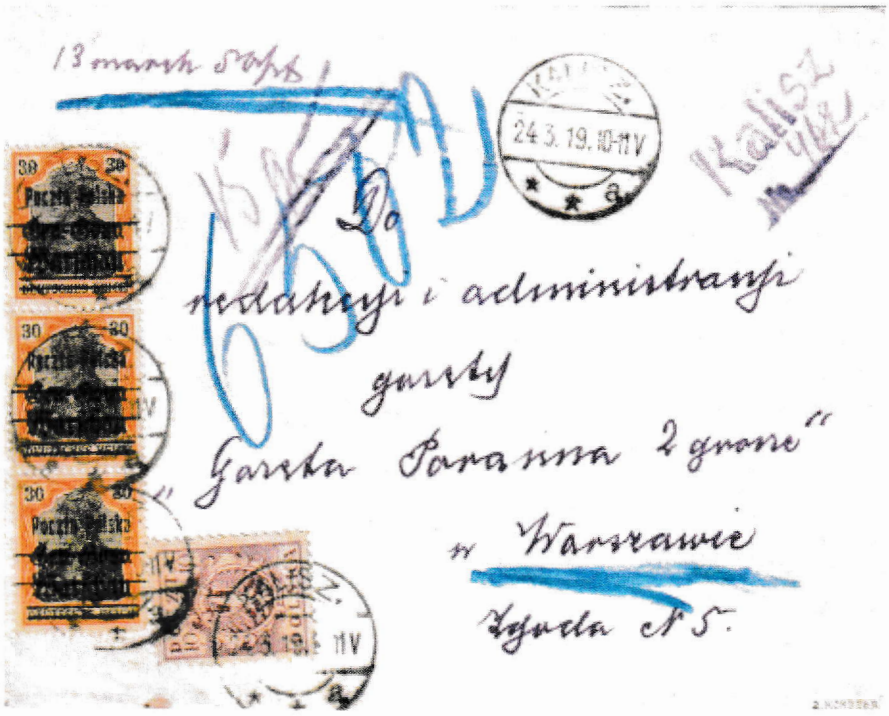
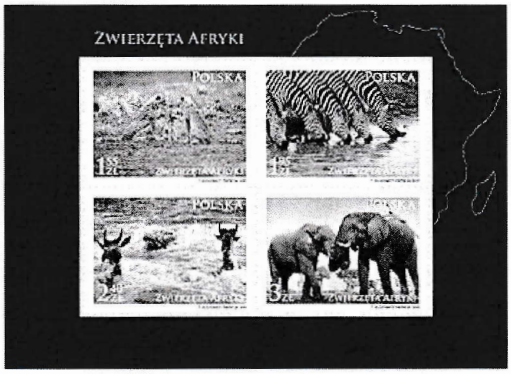


Fig 6 *– Kalisz value letter with provisional registry cachet used as value letter cachet*



Animals of Africa

Date of Issue	April 30, 2009
Sheet Format	Sheet of 4
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Tomasz Gudzowaty

This four stamp series entitled "Animals of Africa" makes use of Tomasz Gudzowaty's ingenious photographs that represent cheetahs, zebras, antelopes, gnus and elephants. The photographs that appear on the stamps were taken in Kenya, Tanzania and Botswana during 1998-1999. Two of them, "First Lesson of Killing" (stamp's nominal value PLN 1.55) and "Paradise Crossing" (stamp's nominal value PLN 2.40), received awards in the World Press Photo contest.

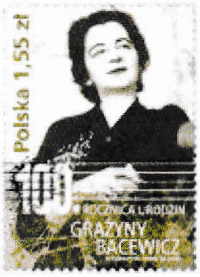


Europe 2009 – The International Year of Astronomy

Date of Issue	May 5, 2009
Sheet Format	8 stamps
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Agata Tobolczyk

The year 2009 was proclaimed the International Year of Astronomy by the United Nations. This event celebrates several important anniversaries in Astronomy. It was 400 years ago that Galileo first used a telescope to gaze at the sky. The invention was a breakthrough and the discoveries it allowed are now the foundations of astronomy. Also in 2009, 40 years will have passed since the first man set foot on the Moon, and 90 years since the International Astronomy Union was established.

It's probably not common knowledge that Nicolas Copernicus was not the first one to shine in the history of Polish astronomy. In the 15th century, the Jagiellonian University of Kraków earned itself the title of the best center of studies in astronomy throughout Europe owing to the research of such scholars as Marcin Bylica and Wojciech z Brudzewa. Two astronomers from Gdansk, Jan Heweliusz and Stanislaw Lubienieki , are well known for their observations of the Moon and comets. After WWI, the theory of cracovians was developed by another Polish scholar, Tadeusz Banachiewicz. In the second half of the 20th century, Bohdan Paczynski discovered gamma radiation and gained world recognition. In addition, Aleksander Wolszczan is credited as the first person to spot a planet outside our solar system. As one can see, Poland has a long history of significant contributions in astronomy.

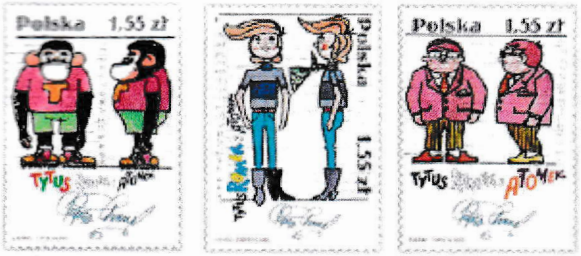


Centenary of Grazyna Bacewicz

Date of Issue	May 28, 2009
Sheet Format	16 stamps
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Agata Tobolczyk

This year witnesses the centenary of the birthday and the fortieth anniversary of death of one of the most distinguished music personalities of the twentieth century - Grazyna Bacewicz.

Grazyna Bacewicz was born on February 5, 1909 in Lódz and died on January 17, 1969 in Warsaw. Her many talents included playing violin and piano as well as the composition of music. She studied composition at the Warsaw National Conservatory of Music. Her works were characterized by clarity, easily recognizable style, craft mastership or exceptional sense of the sound of orchestra. Many of her compositions refer to Polish folklore, which can be noticed in, among others, "III koncert skrzypcowy" (eng.: "Third Violin Concerto") (1948) and renowned "Oberek" (1949). "Muzyka na smyczki, trabke i perkusje" (eng.: "Music for Strings, Trumpets, and Percussion") (1957) is regarded as her most remarkable work.



Tytus, Romek and A'Tomek

Date of Issue	May 29, 2009
Sheet Format	12 stamps
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Ewa Monko

The Polish Post has been issuing stamps devoted to children's literature and its popular characters for many years. The latest installment depicts the cartoon characters Tytus, Romek and A'Tomek. These characters are now 52 years old and were created by Henryk Jerzy Chmielewski.

Tytus de Zoo is an ape that is accompanied by the tall and thin Romek and short and thickset A'Tomek. Their adventures have entertained and educated several generations of children. In total, 31 books were published. The three stamps with the characters from the comic book show them in the form of photographs from police files. As a result, we now know exactly how tall Tytus, Romek and A'Tomek are.



20th Anniversary of Memorable Elections

Date of Issue	May 30, 2009
Sheet Format	1 Stamp
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Angieszka Sobczynska

Wishing to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the June 4, 1989 elections, the Polish Post issued a 3.75 PLN stamp. The block contains the logo of the NSZZ "Solidarnosc", the image of the first leader of the union (on the stamp), Lech Walesa and the image of the prime minister of the first independent Polish government, Tadeusz Mazowiecki.

From the end of WWII until this time, Poland lived under the terms of the Yalta agreement, which was highly reliant on the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Oppression and censorship were the norm in everyday Polish life. The Solidarity movement and the results of this election began the successful transition to a democratic form of government.



Millenium - Death of Saint Bruno of Querfurt

Date of Issue	June 19, 2009
Sheet Format	50 Stamps
Printing Method	Rotogravure
Designer	Bozydar Grozdew

This issue commemorates the thousandth anniversary of one of the first great missionaries in Eastern Europe. The stamp uses part of M. Zdulski's painting from 1860, "St. Bruno's Mission", which can be found in the Cathedral in Lomza. Saint Bruno is the main patron of the diocese of Lomza.

Saint Bruno's main mission was the policy of peace and reconciliation between people of Eastern and Western Europe through shared Catholic faith. Wherever St. Bruno appeared he introduced new cultural and moral norms which underlay the faith. He strove for sanctity, even if it called for a martyr's death.

He arrived in Poland in 1005 upon the invitation of Duke Boleslaw Chrobry. St. Bruno then carried out his missionary work in Hungary among the Penchengs. In Kiev he negotiated with Duke Vladimir.

In 1008 St. Bruno came back to Poland. Lavishly endowed with essential donations, he embarked upon another mission in the north-east boundaries of the then Polish country. The missionary reached the place now known as Stara Lomza, where he founded the first Catholic church. Next he went out on a mission toward the regions of the Yotwingians and the Prussians. Death came to him and his 18 companions on March 9, 1009. The location of his death is unknown.



Tall Ship Races Gdynia 2009

The 3.75 PLN stamp presents a silhouette of "Dar Mlodziezy" against the panorama of the port of Gdansk. "Dar Mlodziezy" is a frigate built in 1982 that belongs to the Naval Academy of Gdynia.

Date of Issue	June 30, 2009
Sheet Format	Block of 1
Printing Method	Engraving & Rotogravure
Designer	Kazimierz Bulik

The idea of the races dates back to the 1930's. The first regatta took place in 1956. Since the 70's the races have been run annually. Aside from large sailing ships, the competition is also open to smaller racing yachts. Gdynia has hosted the races three times; in 1974, 1992, and 2003. There are over a hundred sailing vessels, mainly training ones, participating in this year's regatta on the Baltic Sea. The race course goes from Gdynia to St. Petersburg in 3 phases. The next port hosting the flotilla is Turku in Finland, and the last one Lithuanian port of Klaipeda.

USEFUL WEBSITES

Following is a list of web-sites relating to Polish philately that you may find useful. I know there are others and if you know of any, please let me knew so that I can include them in future listings. This list will be published on an ongoing basis so that you do not have to look through old copies of the Bulletin to find the information you are seeking.

American Association of Exhibitors – www.aape.org/index
American Philatelic Society – www.stamps.org
Cherrystone Auctions – www.cherrystoneauctions.com
eBay – www.ebay.com
Fischer Catalogue – www.fischer.pl
History of Poland on Stamps – www.gopoland.com/history
Polish Collecting – www.polishstamps@yahoogroups.com
Polish Post Office – www.poczta-polska.pl
Polish Philatelic Literature in English – www.PolishPhilatelicLiterature.com
Polish Philatelic Society – www.polonus.org
Polish Stamp Auction – www.stamps-pl.com
Polish Stamp Encyclopedia – www.home.zonnet.nl/ben_nieborg
Polonica – www.polonica.info/index.Html
Polonus – www.Polonus.org
Stamp Domain – www.stampdomain.com
Thematic –
Przedbórz - www.prz.ginsburgs.org
Polish themes on non-Polish stamps - - www.polonica.info
Translation site – www.poltran.com/pl.php4
Worldwide Experts and Forgeries – www.filatelia.fi

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