



BULLETIN OF THE POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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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. The Polonus Philatelic Society is Affiliate #119 of the American 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:

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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

One of the ways we promote Polish philately is through exhibiting and, based upon performance by members at National and International Exhibitions, Polonus is doing very well. This issue reports on continued success by two of our members, one winning the **Grand** at the Plymouth Show, and on an invitation to participate in the XXI All-Poland Philatelic Exhibition WARSZAWA 2014.

Another way we promote Polish philately is through publications and, based upon contributions by members to the Polonus publications, to the Congress Book of the American Philatelic Congress, to the American Philatelist, to philatelic journals of other societies, and through independent publications, Polonus is also doing very well. This issue reports on two of our members who were honored by receiving the **L.B. Gatchell Award**. This issue also includes a re-print of an article featured in the July 2013 issue of the American Philatelist and a Book Review of a independent publication on a subject covered by a multi-part article in the Polonus Bulletin. Both are examples of literary contributions made by some of our members.

However, based upon a recent visit to the American Philatelic Society in Bellefonte, PA by one of our members, Polish philately is not very well represented by the various country-specific programs offered by APS. One example is the APS Reference Collection, a country-specific collection of genuine stamps and postal history that provides a clearinghouse of resource material for philatelic researchers visiting the American Philatelic Center. As an APS Affiliate it is incumbent upon Polonus to support this program. Be sure to read this report and the proposed corrective actions.

This will be the last call for candidates for the Board of Directors. Ballots with candidates for the election of Directors will be mailed in September (at least two months prior to the Annual Meeting). This election process will determine the leadership of the Society for the next three years. If you are interested in being considered for the Board, please contact any one of the Nominating Committee (see Bulletin #553).

The "Countdown for CHICAGOPEX 2014" is covered in the Society News portion of this issue and draws attention to the critical timeline for members who plan to exhibit. Although the published deadline for entry is 17 August, we are recommending submittal of entry forms by **30 June** to insure acceptance based upon frames being available. Polonus potentially will fill 1/3 of the total frames in this exhibition. In addition to this priority, the "Countdown" addresses the need for volunteers to share the work load at the show. The "action note" here is to contact me if you plan to attend the "big show" and if so, whether you agree to volunteer a portion of your time.

For those of our members receiving a mailed copy of this Bulletin, you must have noticed something different about #554. Not only was the issue expanded from a 24-page to a 28-page publication, but the paper type was changed and improved to an 80 lb. Text Gloss. This happened as a result of a change to a new Printer, MGX Copy of San Diego, CA. John La Porta, Polonus member who had been serving as our Printer for many years, has discontinued his printing operation but not before finding us an acceptable replacement. We thank John for his service over the years and for facilitating a smooth transition to the new Printer.

You will find a nice variety of feature articles in this issue. In Part 5 of "*Annals of Polish Aerophilately*" the team of Kupiec & Kosmala takes the mystery out of Directional Labels. In Part 2 of "*Postal Wax Seals in the Kingdom of Poland*", Kostka completes the primer on wax seals with coverage of the Polish-Russian and Russian only language seals. In "*The Story Behind an 1898 Picture Postcard*" first-time contributor Sandler shows us a way to unlock history from philatelic materials. Finally, in "*Polish War Itineraries*" Niebrzydowski gives us another fascinating account of one person's journey through life as viewed through the mails. We trust that these feature articles in addition to the Polish Gems, New Issues, Classifieds, and Society News will provide you with some very interesting philatelic reading. In closing, give us your feedback on the content of this issue... after all this is your Bulletin.

Countdown to CHICAGOPEX 2014

By: Bob Ogrodnik

At the end of this month (June) there will be 142 days to go for the “big show” in Chicago. Polonus will celebrate its Diamond Jubilee (75th anniversary) and hold its Annual Meetings at CHICAGOPEX 2014.

This event, sponsored by the Chicago Philatelic Society, will be held at the **Westin Chicago Northwest, 400 Park Blvd., Itasca (Chicago), IL 60143**. There is a special room rate (\$117 per night + tax) for CHICAGOPEX guests. Be sure to mention “CHICAGOPEX” when asking about the room rate. For room availability and reservations, please contact the hotel directly at **(603) 773-4000** or through Westin reservations at (866) 716-8104. More information on the hotel can be found on website www.WestinChicagoNorthwest.com.

One of the popular networking venues at the event hotel is the Polonus Hospitality Suite, an opportunity for members to reacquaint or to meet for the first time and discuss their collecting interests. I am pleased to report that we have a confirmed reservation for the suite, the details and password will be found in the “Welcome Packet” that each attending member will receive. We will have this suite well-stocked with Żubrówka and other Polish delicacies.

Polonus is a “**Convening Society**” at this event which has an obligation of bringing the best of the membership’s exhibits, conducting its meetings, presenting subjects of interest to the general public, and demonstrating support for the event by member attendance. I urge you to consider attending CHICAGOPEX 2014 as it promises to be a most enjoyable and memorable occasion.

With 142 days to go it may seem like plenty of time to prepare for the “big show”, however for Polonus exhibitors the time is “now” to submit your entry if you are planning to participate in the finest exhibition of Polish material on the continent. To-date, I have received feedback from 11 exhibitors, of which 8 have indicated they will exhibit for a total of 43 frames. There are another 18 exhibitors who have not as yet responded but preliminary indications are that 13 of the 18 will exhibit for another 58 frames. In total, this will represent a total of 21 exhibitors

with 100+ frames, making this the largest turnout in recent history. The deadline for submitting entry forms is 17 August, as stated on the CHICAGOPEX website, www.chicagopex.com, however 30 June is the deadline if you want to be assured of being accepted based on frame availability.

At this point in our preparation, we recognize the need for help with volunteers. Listed below are specific jobs at the show for which we need volunteer commitments:

- **Staffing at the Society Table** – to spread the work load, we would like to have at least 6 members to volunteer at the Society Table. The job involves passing out “Welcome Packets” to members; selling POLPEX items and Polonus publications; soliciting new members, etc.
- **Hosting at the Hospitality Suite** – to keep the Żubrówka iced, to make available the Polish delicacies, to help maintain a calm among the spirited guests, etc. We need 2 members to help with the hosting.
- **Staff the Youth Room** – to assist Robin Elliott, who already has volunteered to lead the initiative with the youth. A room will be set aside for the youth and a program is being developed to introduce the youngsters to the joys of stamp collecting and to the teachers, how stamps can help the learning process. We will need 2-3 members to help with the staffing and for the docent tour of Polish exhibits.

In addition to a Board Meeting, at which the results of the election to the Board of Directors will be announced and Officers elected, and the Annual Membership Meeting, there will be two presentations scheduled for the general public.

1. *Collecting Poland* by Dr. James Mazepa
2. *The Polish Connection to the “Monuments Men”* by Robin Elliott

A more detailed agenda will follow in the next issue of the Polonus Bulletin and on our website, www.polonus.org. In the interim, please let me know if you are planning to attend the “big show”. You can reach me by e-mail (krpsl@earthlink.net) or by phone (314-821-6130) or by fax (314-965-3728) or by snail-mail (P.O. Box 240428, Ballwin, MO 63024-0428).

Kupiec-Kosmala Team Honored

By: Bob Ogrodnik

The American Air Mail Society's **L.B. Gatchell Award** for the best article series of 2013 in the *Airpost Journal* was given to the Kupiec-Kosmala tandem for the following articles:

1. Kupiec-Węgliński JW, Kosmala J: Development of Airmail Services in Poland (1929-1939). **Part 3: Zeppelin Mail.** *Airpost Journal. American Air Mail Society*; 84(1); 9-21, 2013.
2. Kupiec-Węgliński JW, Kosmala J: Development of Airmail Services in Poland (1929-

1939). **Part 4: Air Rallies and Experimental Flights.** *Airpost Journal. American Air Mail Society*; 84(2); 54-62, 2013.

3. Kupiec-Węgliński JW, Kosmala J: Development of Airmail Services in Poland (1929-1939). **Part 5: Crash Mail.** *Airpost Journal. American Air Mail Society*; 84(3); 117-24, 2013.

Congratulations to Dr. Jerzy Kupiec-Węgliński and Jacek Kosmala upon receiving this very high award and honor. We are fortunate to have the Kupiec-Kosmala tandem contributing to the *Polonus Bulletin*, this issue featuring **Part 5: Directional Labels** from their series titled "*Annals of Polish Aerophilately*".

PZF Invites Polonus to WARSZAWA 2014

By: Bob Ogrodnik



The Polish Philatelic Union (*Polskiego Związku Filatelistów* or PZF) has invited members of Polonus to participate in the XXI All-Poland Philatelic Exhibition WARSZAWA 2014, to be held at

the Olympic Centre of the Polish Olympic Committee in Warsaw on 12-19 October 2014. The exhibition will honor the 95th anniversary of the Polish Olympic Committee. For the first time in the history of Polish philatelic exhibitions, this event will feature a Championship Class.

I am pleased to report that a few of our members have expressed interest in exhibiting and they are in process of submitting their entry applications. We also expect to have some of our members attending. Let me know if you are interested in attending so that we can coordinate with our hosts. You may also follow news about this event on the PZF website, www.zgpfz.pl. Please note, for those unable to navigate in the Polish language, translations are available in other languages, including English.

I am also pleased to announce that Dr. Roman Babut, Chairman of the Organizing Committee for WARSZAWA 2014 and the person from whom Polonus received the invitation, has been recently elected President of the *Association Internationale des Collectionneurs Olympique* (AICO), a world-wide organization headquartered in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Polonus Exhibitors Continue to Excel

By: Bob Ogrodnik

Dr. Richard Mallow was awarded a **Grand and Gold Medal** at The Plymouth Show 2014, sponsored by the West Suburban Stamp Club and held on 26-27 April at the Hellenic Cultural Center in Westland, Michigan. He also received the American Philatelic Society 1940-1980 Medal of Excellence. These honors were received for his exhibit titled, "*The First Issue of the Polish People's Republic: The 'Lublin Issue' 1944-45*". As a multi-frame grand award winner at a World Series of Philately Show, Richard will be invited to compete in the annual Champion of Champions competition at the APS Stamp Show for the highest national level exhibiting honor available. Congratulations to Richard for his outstanding award-winning exhibit and for attaining this very high honor.

Dr. Paul Phillips was awarded a **Gold Medal** at the Rocky Mountain Stamp Show 2014 sponsored by the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Exhibition Inc. and held on 16-18 May at the Crown Plaza Hotel, International Airport, in Denver, Colorado. His exhibit, "*Life in German-Occupied WWII Poland*", also received the American Philatelic Society 1940-1980 Medal of Excellence, the Collectors Club of Chicago Award, the Collectors Club of Denver Best Multi-Frame Display Exhibit, and the Postal History Society Award. Congratulation to Paul for his exhibiting success and for the special recognition via multiple awards.

What Image Does Collecting Poland Reflect?

By: Bob Ogrodnik

Thanks to Dan Lubelski for sharing his observations from a two-day visit to the Headquarters of the American Philatelic Society (APS) in Bellefonte, PA. One of his objectives was to find out how much information was available at the APS for someone interested in "Collecting Poland". In short, Dan was disappointed with the amount of information available and concluded that the image of "Collecting Poland" does not reflect very well. Following is a summary of Dan's findings together with recommendations for corrective action:

1. Poland Reference Collection – Dan concluded his review with the disappointing comments, "weak at best" and "the bulk of the collection consisted of CTO examples past 1979".

These collections provide a clearinghouse of resource material for philatelic researchers visiting the American Philatelic Center.

Action: Polonus members to consider donating stamps to APS (tax deductible contribution). For information on donating to the APS Poland Reference Collection, contact Mercer Bristow by phone at **(814) 933-3803 ext. 205**.

2. Poland Circuit Books – Another big disappointment. Dan reported approximately 20 circuit books that looked well picked-over. Sales of Polish stamps appear to be strong which represents a good opportunity for Polonus members.

The mail sales program is conducted with the "circuit book", a mini-album provided by APS to members for the purpose of mounting the stamps or covers they wish to sell. Circuit books can be prepared by country and/or by topic.

Action: As an APS member, look into selling your duplicates via APS circuit books. If not an APS member, look into becoming one. For more information on circuit books contact Tom Horn, Sales Division Director, by phone at **(814) 933-3803 ext. 227**.

3. Internet Sales Division – An internet service available to APS members in which one can sell or buy stamps (similar to eBay but without the bidding). Dan found a total of only 32 items related to Poland on the website.

The APS Stamp Store is a service for APS members to make it convenient to buy and sell stamps, covers and other philatelic material on the internet.

Action: As an alternate or supplement to circuit books, look into selling (or buying) stamps via the APS Stamp Store on the internet. For more information on the Internet Sales Division contact Renee Gardner, StampStore Director, by phone at **(814) 933-3803 ext. 270**.

4. APS Library – Dan reported he found three 4 foot shelves with books on Polish philately and could not find any trace of Polonus Bulletins.

We reported in earlier Bulletin issues that the Polonus library was moved from Florida to APS in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania, and is in process of being integrated into the APS system. The process of integration takes time and is dependent upon volunteers.

Action: Consider volunteering time in July to help with the process of cataloguing Polish material. Contact Robin Elliott, our Library Liaison, at rmgrge@gmail.com.

5. Expertizing Section – Apparently, APS does not know who to contact for expertizing opinions for Polish material.

Action: Consider offering the Polonus Expertizing Program for either "opinions only" or "expertizing certificates".

Polonus is an Affiliate (#118) of the American Philatelic Society, an organization with a membership base of over 30,000 members. This gives Polonus an opportunity to leverage its relationship and the support of programs, like those discussed in this article, to build interest in collecting Poland. If not Polonus who then then who will take the responsibility for strengthening the APS programs related to "Collecting Poland"?

Poland #1 Block of Four

By: Dr. James Mazepa

The partitions of Poland were formalized in 1815 at the Congress of Vienna after the defeat of Napoleon. The part of Poland under Russian occupation was called the Congress Kingdom of Poland (so named after the Congress of Vienna). In 1859, the Russians decided that Poland should have its own distinctive stamp. This was probably done for accountancy reasons. On January 1, 1860 (according to the Gregorian calendar used by Poland) the stamp we

know as Poland #1 was issued in a design similar to the current Russian stamps, but in different colors. The stamp was valid only for mail within Poland and to Russia, not to other countries. About three million stamps were printed.

The Polish insurrection in 1863 had dire consequences, one of which was an intense Russification of Poland. This included the withdrawal of the Polish stamp because it had Polish inscriptions. The last possible date of use was April 1, 1865.

Multiples of Poland #1 are considered rarities. One unused block of six is known. Of the multiples that had been used, two strips of five are recorded. One strip of five is on piece and the other is on a letter in the Polish Postal Museum. Two used strips of four are recorded, both on piece.

A unique block of four is recorded. It is on a letter sent from Warsaw July 6th with the year uncertain, but probably 1863. It is addressed to the "Sugar Factory in Elżbietów near Sokołów." Many of the known Poland #1 covers were sent to this address. This letter is certainly in the top three of greatest Polish rarities. The most recent sale of this letter was in 2010 where it sold for approximately \$56,000, a bargain for a world-class rarity.



Figure 1 – Unique block of four Poland #1 on letter sent from Warsaw to Elżbietów

The provenance for this letter is very interesting. In the period between the World Wars one of the most famous collectors and writers of Polish philately was Włodzimierz (Wladimir) Rachmanow. Mr. Rachmanow amassed one of the finest, if not THE finest collections of Poland #1s and Russian stamps used in Poland. He witnessed the terrible events of the German occupation and managed to escape with his family just before the 1944 Uprising in Warsaw. This proved to be a timely decision because his home, just opposite the Polish Parliament, was leveled by the Germans. Each of his family members carried just one suitcase out of Poland and Mr. Rachmanow filled his with his stamp collection. He settled in New York after the war. Of interest, after he moved to New York, he used another form of his name, Vladimir von Rachmanoff.

Following Rachmanow's death in 1968, his family placed his collection in a bank vault where it lay untouched for over 40 years. Unfortunately, it was not available to students of Polish philately, and one had only vague references to what was in the collection. Thus, even the great monograph by Miroslaw Bojanowicz (1979) did not include valuable information from the Rachmanow collection. His family sold the collection in 2010 through Warwick & Warwick, an auction house in England.

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

Part 5: Directional Labels

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

Following the custom of air carriers of the 1920s period, P.L.L. AEROLOT, the Polish domestic airline, introduced the use of directional labels (DLs; *Nalepki Kierunkowe* in Polish) for practical reasons and publicity. In 1972, Kazimierz Gryżewski, the early collector and expert in Polish aerophilately wrote *"These labels were used at Warszawa 19 – Port Lotniczy (Warszawa Airport) agency. They were attached primarily to identify the passenger luggage, and applied to small parcels. Moreover, flown letters with DLs do exist..."* Indeed, a number of postal items with DLs were dispatched by airplanes during a two year period, between April 1926 and July 1928. They were prepared and expedited primarily from Warszawa by the Gryżewski brothers to other philatelists of that period, namely, Łabęcki in Lwów, Krzyżkowski in Kraków, Krzyżanowski in Łódź, von Baggo in Danzig and Sobetzky in Vienna. Interestingly, DLs were attached to envelope fronts in spite of the rule set up by the Polish Ministry of Posts, which required labels to be affixed exclusively to the backs of envelopes. Despite this irregularity, and their obvious philatelic character, DLs are considered an integral and colorful part of Polish aerophilately. Of note, four major types of DLs, categorized by their design, shape and color, have been finally included in the latest edition of the Fischer Catalogue (2010). They were also the subject of the Polonus articles in the past, by Dr. Mazepa (Bulletin #387, 1981) and the present authors (Bulletin #515, 2004). However, recent research has prompted us to revisit the subject, and present new findings. We have identified 53 different DLs, of which 36 (ca. 70%) are known to be used on airmail correspondence.

Type I DLs

Figure 1 shows a selection of mint type I DLs. These rectangular (65 mm x 100 mm) labels were printed on white or gray paper, and consist of two parts.

The upper frame shows an airplane soaring above the globe and the AEROLOT routes. The inscription reads: "POLSKA LINIA LOTNICZA" (Polish Air Line) "KOMUNIKACJA PASAŻERSKA/PRZEWÓZ POCZTY I TOWARÓW" (For passenger communication and mail/merchandise transport). The bottom part is a tab with a city name. The exception is the Łódź label (65 mm x 85 mm), which lacks the tab and shows rubber-stamped city name in violet instead.



Figure 1 – Mint examples of type I DLs

Figure 2 depicts a block of four airmail labels issued in 1925 to commemorate the first postal trial flight by AEROLOT from Warszawa to Copenhagen on August 15, (800 labels printed; 136 items flown). Based on all the similarities, the Copenhagen label should be considered as a forerunner of type I DLs, which started to be postally used exactly one year later.



Figure 2 – A forerunner of type I DLs issued to commemorate the first postal trial flight from Warszawa to Copenhagen (15 August 1925)

All type I DLs were printed in black and some were also printed in color. There are six colors recorded, including: red – "do Gdańska"; yellow or orange – "do Lwowa"; green – "do Krakowa" or "do Warszawy"; and blue/black or blue – "do Wiednia". In the type I category we distinguish 14 DLs to six cities (Gdańsk, Kraków, Lwów, Łódź, Warszawa, and Vienna). Of note, type I DL

Annals of Polish Aerophilately (cont.)

“do Gdańska” and “do Wiednia” are known on covers dispatched from Warszawa by AEROLOT and then flown by other carriers to Berlin (Germany) and Matam (Senegal), respectively. The earliest use of type I DL was on August 16, 1926 (to Lwów), and the latest recorded on November 15, 1927 (to Vienna).

Figure 3 illustrates type I DL-I (in black), attached to a cover, which was mailed on April 14, 1927 at Warszawa 1 post office and flown by AEROLOT to Vienna where it was postmarked (April 14) and received an Austrian special arrival cachet. The letter was endorsed “*Tylko pocztą lotniczą*” (by airmail only) by the sender, in addition to the “*Poste Aérienne*” departure cancellation. The postage of 80 gr. met a basic foreign letter rate (30 gr. [for up to 20 grams].) plus a special postal administration fee (20 gr.) and airmail surcharge (30 gr.; 1x regular postage). Of note, although as of February 1927 the entire air fee was supposed to be paid with airmail stamps, the “*Pobrano / percu*” (paid in cash) cachet was still in use.



Figure 3 – Type I-I DL on a cover flown from Warszawa to Vienna

TYPE II DLs

Figure 4 shows a selection of mint type II DLs. These rectangular (74 mm x 48 mm) labels, printed on white or gray paper, consist of the oval showing the Junkers F-13 aircraft and the inscription: “POLSKA LINIA LOTNICZA / AEROLOT S.A. / Zarząd: Warszawa, Nowy Świat 24. / Telefon 9-00” (Polish Air Line / AEROLOT / address/telephone). The oval is surrounded by orange, blue or brown vertical lines. Type II DLs are known on items flown to Warszawa,

Kraków, Lwów and Gdańsk. All but those destined for Warszawa carry the destination city stamped in violet, i.e., LWÓW or LWOVA, KRAKÓW or KRAKOWA, and GDAŃSKA. Those flown to Warszawa do not have the name of the city imprinted. In type II, we distinguish nine DLs, with the earliest encountered on April 17, 1926, and the latest on March 30, 1928, both flown to Lwów.



Figure 4 – Mint examples of type II DLs

A cover with type II blue DL in **Figure 5** is quite unusual because it was franked at two different occasions. Thus, on June 11, 1926 it was cancelled gratuitously at the Warszawa “Radio Exposition” postal substation with a commemorative cachet. It was also franked with 6 gr. worth of stamps, based upon the rates of 5 gr. for printed matter (up to 50 grams) plus 1 gr. obligatory surcharge for unemployed (effective April 15 - August 31, 1926). However, it was not processed by the postal system because it was lacking the special administration fee of 20 gr., imposed by the Polish Ministry of Industry and Trade for each flown item (effective December 15, 1924 - August 10, 1928). Hence, one day later on June 12, 1926, this cover was presented again, this time at the Warszawa 1 post office where it received the correct postage. The new rate breaks down as follows:



Figure 5 – Type II-c DL on a cover flown from Warszawa to Kraków

Annals of Polish Aerophilately (cont.)

5 gr. domestic printed matter + 20 gr. special postal administration fee + 5 gr. airmail surcharge (1x basic postage fee) + 1 gr. unemployed surcharge = 31 gr. total franking. The cover was flown by AEROLOT to Kraków where it was backstamped (June 12) and received the arrival cachet.

TYPE III DLs

Figure 6 shows a selection of mint type III DLs. These hexagonal labels (108 mm x 70 mm), printed on white or colored paper, depict a stylized aircraft over a city and bear the inscription "POLSKA-LINJA-LOTNICZA / AEROLOT" (Polish Air Line / AEROLOT), and „P.L.L.” on both sides of the central rectangle. They also show a flight destination, e.g., "Z WARSZAWY / DO LWOWA" (from Warszawa to Lwów). In type III, as many as twenty-seven DLs in three major sub-types have been recorded. The earliest use of type III DLs was on March 10, 1927 and the latest on November 30, 1927 (both "z Warszawy do Lwowa").



Figure 6 – Mint examples of type III DLs

Sub-type (a) is characterized by a black design on white paper. This label was found on letters carried from Warszawa to Gdańsk, Kraków, Lwów, Łódź and Vienna. In addition, mint labels from Vienna to Kraków and Lwów have been recorded. Letters flown from Warszawa to Lwów and Gdańsk, with labels inscribed "z Warszawy do" (from Warszawa to) and rubber-stamped (in red or violet) with the destination, are rare and command particular interest. In the sub-type (a) category we distinguish twelve labels. Known are type III DLs "z Warszawy do Gdańska" and "z Warszawy do Wiednia" on pieces addressed to Bogota (Columbia) and Matam

(Senegal), respectively. **Figure 7** shows an unusual label with "Krakowa" (in violet) applied under a crossed-out "Warszawy" as the departure city. This cover, flown from Kraków to Lwów on November 30, 1927, carries departure and arrival air cachets and is



Figure 7 – Type III-f DL on a cover flown from Kraków to Lwów

correctly franked with 30 gr. printed matter rate. Sub-type (b) is a label where the central rectangle with stylized aircraft is in green or red. Mint labels from Warszawa to Lwów in green, Vienna to Kraków in light-green, Kraków to Łódź in dark-green, and Vienna to Lwów in green, are known to exist. A letter from Warszawa with a red label "do Lwowa" has also been recorded. There are seven labels in the sub-type (b) category.

In sub-type (c), the entire label with a partial route, e.g., "Z GDAŃSKA DO" (from Gdańsk to), is in a color other than black. A pink one inscribed "DO" (to) and no destination is of particular interest. There are eight labels in the sub-type (c) category. **Figure 8** illustrates an uncommon AEROLOT-flown dispatch from Vienna to Warszawa on September 5, 1927, with attached "z Wiednia do" (from Vienna to) label plus a handwritten "nach Warschau" manuscript (DLIII-u). It was back-stamped upon arrival at Warszawa.

TYPE IV DLs

These labels differ in size and color, yet their overall design with a stylized Junkers F-13 aircraft and destination is similar. The earliest use of type IV DLs was on April 17, 1926 and the latest on August 16,

Annals of Polish Aerophilately (cont.)



Figure 8 – Type III-c DL on a cover from Vienna to Warszawa

1926 (both “do Lwowa”). Three subtypes of type IV DLs, all printed on colored paper, can be distinguished.

Sub-type (a) is a “Do Gdańska” (to Gdańsk) destination label in a diamond shape (70 mm x 70 mm). The black design and inscription are on light-violet paper. Few letters with this label, all sent from Warszawa 1 post office between April 26 and June 28, 1926, are recorded. **Figure 9** presents such a letter, posted on April 26, 1926 and flown by AEROLOT to Gdańsk where it received a “Danzig 5” arrival cachet and “Danzig Langfuhr” backstamps (26.4.26). Postage combined the 5 gr. (per 50 grams of domestic printed



Figure 9 – Type IV-a DL on a cover flown from Warszawa to Gdańsk

matter) with a 20 gr. postal administration fee and 5 gr. surcharge for air transport. Of note, the 1 gr. surcharge for unemployed has been missing on this item.

Sub-type (b) is a “Do Warszawy” (to Warszawa) diamond-shaped destination label similar to sub-type (a), but on a green paper. It is known on a letter expedited from Gdańsk.

Sub-type (c) is a “Do Lwowa” (to Lwów) destination label that is rectangular in shape (97 mm x 78 mm), with black design and an inscription on a pink paper. This more frequently seen label, has also been recorded on a cover flown from Warszawa via Lwów to Bucharest (Romania).

ODDITIES

By definition, a “directional label” should identify the destination of the mailed item. However, this was not always the case. Indeed, although the cover in **Figure 10** shows a type I DL with “Do Krakowa” as the destination, it was addressed and flown by AEROLOT to Gdańsk instead. The letter was properly franked and received all Warszawa departure



Figure 10 – Misused type I-c DL (do Krakowa) on a cover flown to Gdańsk

and Gdańsk arrival cancellations of October 7, 1926, including “Mit Luftpost befördert / Flugpostamt Danzig 5” cachet, which was applied directly on such a misused type I DL. Was this a mistake or another curious philatelic invention of the Gryżewski brothers? The attractive-looking cover in **Figure 11** is a

forgery. The bluish “DO WARSZAWY” label, along with June 3, 1938 Toruń departure postmarks and Warszawa arrival cachets are all fakes. Indeed, there was no civilian airport in Toruń at that time. Moreover, no single genuine DL is known on flown correspondence after 1928, and the “directional label” shown here, although somewhat similar with type IVc (DO LWOWA), has never been recorded on AEROLOT-flown items. Of note, similar forged labels

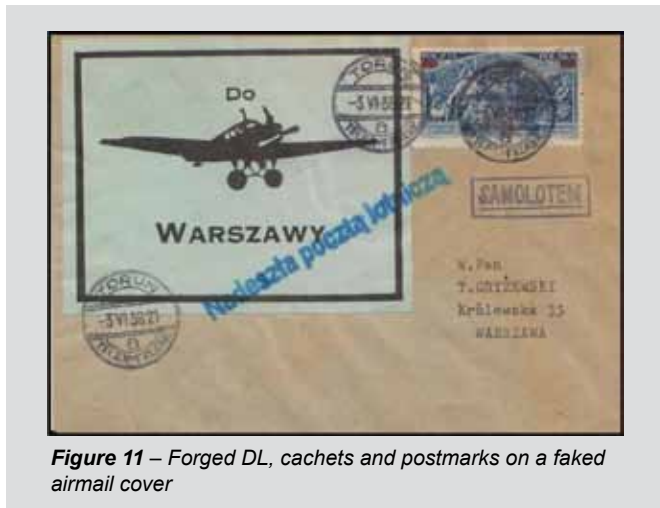


Figure 11 – Forged DL, cachets and postmarks on a faked airmail cover

“DO LWOWA” and “DO KRAKOWA” on light-salmon and yellowish paper respectively, have also been encountered. Printed in the 1970s in Canada, these “directional labels” on faked airmail correspondence are infrequently offered at philatelic internet auctions.

DLs AND THE PHILATELIC MARKET

Postally used DLs of four major types are only found in the 1926-1928 pioneer period of airmail services in Poland. Later usages are not known to exist. Today, mint DLs and those on AEROLOT-flown correspondence may occasionally be seen at US and European philatelic auctions. They are highly valued and sought after. It is a reasonable guess that between 25 and 50 of each DL type may have been used in airmail service. With all the varieties that are identified, combined with almost 90 years of turbulent Polish history, DLs are scarce indeed. Based on our own observations, a collector would be considered lucky to get a domestic airmail cover, in good condition, bearing a neatly postmarked type I or type II DL, for \$200. Covers with DLs flown abroad are more expensive. Those less frequently seen, such as types III and IV, may each easily realize \$500. Mint DLs

are also hard to find and these can cost from \$100 up. Prices for these items in Poland, if one can still find them, are comparable, yet certainly higher than the Fischer Catalogue quotes (2010 edition).

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Polonus 75 Years Ago

The name of **POLONUS** was suggested at the first meeting of the stamp club on February 26, 1939 by Dr. L. Kozakiewicz and won unanimous acceptance. He informed the gathering that the name **POLONUS** goes back to the days of Mikołaj Kopernik, the Polish astronomer and one of the great men in science. While attending the University of Padua in Italy, Kopernik registered at the school as “Kopernik, Nationality **POLONUS**”, which was in Latin, the equivalent translation for a “Pole”. In fact, it was from his time in Italy that he became known as “Nicolaus Copernicus”, the Latin equivalent for “Mikołaj Kopernik”. In the fall of 1939 a charter was granted and the newly formed stamp club became known officially as Polonus Philatelic Society

The Story Behind an 1898 Picture Postcard

The Story Behind an 1898 Picture Postcard From Danzig/Gdańsk

By: Dr. Stanley R. Sandler

Editor's Note: This article first appeared in the July 2013 issue of the American Philatelist. We are grateful to Dr. Sandler and to the American Philatelic Society for allowing us to reprint it in the Polonus Bulletin.

As a way of introduction to this subject, my parents immigrated to the United States from the city of Kolomyja, Poland, and I have always had an interest in the city of Danzig and its stamps. Located on a delta arm of the Vistula River, Danzig was an important port and trade center on the Baltic Sea, and goods from all over the world were shipped to Kolomyja from that area. Many of the things my parents used came through the port of Danzig. The city has a documented history showing that historically it was Poland's territory on or before the year 997. On the other hand, German historians can cite documentation that their people were the early settlers of the Danzig area [1]. Nevertheless, the Germans/Prussians seized control many times over the years. Danzig is the city's German name, and Gdańsk is the city's Polish name.

Before World War I, the city was under total German control, but when the war ended in 1919, under an agreement arrived at by the League of Nations, it was jointly administered by Poland and Germany, and was named the "Free City of Danzig". In 1920 the first stamps used by the Free City of Danzig were overprints of Germany's Germania stamps (in denominations issued between 1905-1919, Germany Scott 82/95, 111/114, 120, 132). Initially, the word "Danzig" was simply overprinted in black over

"Deutsches Reich"; however, throughout the year additional overprints appeared in various styles, though always with "Deutsches Reich" blocked out (Danzig Scott 1-7, 14-15, 19-23, 25-40, 42-46). Some overprints were also produced on Germany Scott 92-95 (Danzig Scott 8-13, 47-48). See **Figure 1** below.

In January 1921, new Danzig stamps were issued with the wording "Freie Stadt Danzig" in their design. These stamps were used (with various surcharges) from 1921-1939 (Danzig Scott 49-240). These stamps could be used for mail from Danzig to Germany, Poland, or other countries. The Polish government also established a post office at the Port of Danzig using Polish stamps from 1925-1938 that were overprinted with the words "Port Gdańsk" (or had them as part of the stamp design) and could only be used for mail to Poland (Poland Scott 1K1-1K36). See **Figure 2** below.



Figure 2 – Poland Scott 1K25 and 1K32

The Free City of Danzig became a member of the Universal Postal Union on October 1, 1920; however, the use of two post offices as well as the use of joint control over the city led to disputes and to serious conflicts. Ultimately, the German army invaded Danzig (the Westerplatte Polish garrison was totally destroyed) on September 1, 1939 and then burned the Polish Post Office in Hevelius Square. There were approximately fifty people in the Polish Post Office that day, including the building keeper and his wife. After holding out against the German army for fourteen hours, the surviving thirty-five workers surrendered. All were executed as "illegal combatants" by a German military firing squad on October 5, 1939. Germany's successful invasion of Poland was the action that finally precipitated the start of World War II. At the end of the war, Danzig became known as Gdańsk. Unfortunately, it was placed un-



Figure 1 – Danzig Scott 1, 2 and 9

The Story Behind an 1898 Picture Postcard (cont.)

der Russian domination by the Allied Powers and it took until 1990 to achieve independence from Russia.

Danzig/Gdańsk has always been a key city for Poland since it provided the country's only access to the Baltic Sea. Apart from the Gulf of Gdańsk, Poland is landlocked and has no other way to facilitate ocean-going trade. In the early 1920's, Poland built a neighboring port on the Baltic Sea coast known as Gdynia, approximately fifteen miles from Gdańsk. The Gdańsk shipyards are also known in more recent history as the site where Lech Wałęsa, head of the Solidarity Union, obtained the support of the shipyard workers to strike for Poland's independence from Russian Communist rule. Lech Wałęsa won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1983 and was elected the first President of independent and democratic Poland in 1990.

During a chance shopping spree for picture postcards from Danzig/Gdańsk, I was fortunate to spot one from December 8, 1898 that had a picture of the "Great Synagogue" of Danzig (the city was at that time under German rule). See **Figure 3**. This card sparked my curiosity to learn more about the once vibrant Jewish community of Danzig, which had led

to the construction of such a magnificent synagogue. The fact that the Synagogue was included on a picture postcard of the city's scenic views and identified as such indicates that Danzig was proud of this architectural gem.

Early records indicate that there were many Jews acting as traders and tradesmen in Gdańsk from about the eleventh century. After the Teutonic Knights were defeated by the Polish King and his nobility in the fifteenth century, Jewish merchants were welcomed back from all parts of Poland and Lithuania. In 1476 Poland's King Casimir IV Jagiellon gave Jews equal rights with other merchants, but religious freedom was slow to increase and not until 1620 were Jews permitted to live within the city. In the late 1700's Gdańsk came under Prussian rule and the city was named Danzig again.

In 1880 several Jewish communities within the city (these included approximately 2,800 Jews or about 2.4 percent of Danzig's population) united into a Kahilla Board and agreed to build a new synagogue that could be shared in common. Constructed over a two-year period, the "Great Synagogue" held its first service on December 8, 1887. It was a grand,

domed construction with two flanking towers and a large stained glass window depicting the Star of David. More than 2,000 people could attend services in its vaulted interior.

The Danzig Jews lived peacefully and coexisted with the other religious groups in their city until the Nazis came to power in 1933. As attacks on the synagogue began to grow in intensity, community leaders chose to sell their Judaica collections both to safeguard them and to provide funds to help members who were seeking to leave Germany. Some of these collections were sent to the Jewish Theological



Figure 3 – An 1898 Danzig, Germany picture postcard with photographs of some picturesque architectural sites within the city. Among them can be seen the Great Synagogue at the far right of the lower left-hand view.

The Story Behind an 1898 Picture Postcard (cont.)

Seminary in New York City and are now housed in the Jewish Museum there. The Danzig Jewish community requested that the objects be returned if the community still existed in fifteen years. If not, they were to remain in New York “for the education and inspiration of the rest of the world” [2-4]. Finally, on January 8, 1939, the Senate of Danzig bought all the properties held by the Jewish community, including the Great Synagogue, for 300,000 gulden. The last service was held on April 15 and a month later the synagogue was leveled; only a few low sections of its foundation walls remain today.

More than half of the city’s Jewish population was able to flee to Great Britain, the United States, South America, and Palestine. Those who remained in Danzig eventually were murdered by the Nazis during the Holocaust. Today the Jewish population numbers about 100. In 2001 the only remaining synagogue in Danzig/Gdańsk was returned to the Jewish community (the “New Synagogue” in Gdańsk-Wrzeszcz). Built in 1927 and partially destroyed in 1938, the building was used as a furniture warehouse by the Communists following the war. In 2001 the surviving structure, which includes the hall that once housed the main sanctuary, was returned to the Jewish community. (see **Figure 4**)



Figure 4 – The “New Synagogue” today.

In 2009, after a great amount of renovations, the Synagogue is used again for religious services, although much work continues to be needed to restore and maintain the original building [5]. There are no plans to rebuild the Great Synagogue and the site remains vacant.

Acknowledgements:

I would like to acknowledge the philatelic help of Richard Pyznar, a long-time dealer of German stamps and an APS stamp expertizer, for taking the time to read and proof this manuscript and for his helpful philatelic comments. I would also like to thank him for supplying me with many Danzig picture postcards, one of which is the subject of this article.

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75 Years Ago....Westerplatte



Gdańsk’s picturesque Westerplatte peninsula has the unhappy distinction of being the site of the official start of the Second World War. Beginning

on 1 September 1939, German naval forces and soldiers assaulted the Polish Military Transit Depot, manned at the time with fewer than 200 soldiers. The Poles held out for seven days in the face of heavy attack, an incredible feat that served as an inspiration for the Polish Army and people. On 1 September 1945, the Polish Post issued a stamp (Fi 374 / Sc B41) commemorating the 6th anniversary of “the Stand at Westerplatte. This year marks the 75th anniversary of this event.

Postal Wax Seals in the Kingdom of Poland (Part 2)

By: Wiesław Kostka

Translated by: Roman Sobus

Editor's Note: This is the second of a two-part article on "Postal Wax Seals in the Kingdom of Poland 1815 – 1871" and it covers the remaining two groups of seals, namely, the Polish-Russian and Russian only language seals. Bulletin #554 included the first part of this article which covered the Polish only language seals.

The "official" wax seals introduced in 1844 differed from the earlier types. The coat of arms of the Kingdom of Poland was still at the center of the design, however instead of a single post horn, two crossed post horns were depicted. The names of the post offices and postal stations that were previously noted in the Polish language began to appear in both Polish and Russian in 1844, and in Russian only from 1851 forward. On the "postal procedure" wax seals the differences are more pronounced. The text is very similar to that appearing on the "official" wax seals with additional markings indicating the type of service to be provided. The center of the design no longer contains a crown and post horns but, as in the design of the "official" wax seals, it is replaced with the coat of arms of the Kingdom of Poland with two crossed post horns.

During my research for this article, I discovered that the literature in my possession contained very little, if any, information on wax seals for this period. In continuing my search in Polish Philatelic publications, I was only able to find bits of general information about several seals used in this time period. As a

result, I decided to abandon attempts to document the number of known impressions of these seals.

Polish-Russian Language Wax Seals

Warszawa – The Court Post Office was created in 1815. The name was changed to the Main Court Post Office in 1827, and it was changed again to the Warsaw Post Office in 1843. The insured letter shown in **Figure 1**, accepted at the post office on the 16th of February and expedited to Łódź through Łowicz on the 17th February (year unknown), was documented by two 18mm red type IIIC town hand stamps.

The cost for sending the letter, which weighted 2 luts, was 43 kopeks, the correct tariff in 1851. It was paid for in cash as verified by the red "Franco" hand stamp and the handwritten annotation "43f". The paper of the letter contained a watermark fragment with a depiction of the coat of arms of the Kingdom and the text "**ROKU / 1852**". The letter was sealed using two wax seals at the time of mailing: one with the design belonging to the sender, and the second a "postal procedure" seal (**Figure 2**) having a diameter of 22 mm with a red wax impression of the coat of arms of the Kingdom of Poland in the center and two crossed post horns underneath.

The Russian language text appears at the top of the design and reads: "**WARSZ.EXSP.PRIJEM. PROSTYCH / PISM**" and the Polish language inscription at the bottom: "**EXPEDYCJA PRZYJMO / POCZTAM WARSZA**" ("WARSAW POST OFFICE / RECEIVE ORDINARY LETTERS"). From the information presented we can deduce this seal was most likely used in 1852.



Figure 1 – Insured letter sent from Warszawa to Łódź via Łowicz



Figure 2 – Red wax seal on letter from Warszawa

Augustów – A Border Post Office existed here from 1815 to 1817. On 1 January 1818, that function was transferred to the post office in Suwałki and Augustów immediately assumed the role of a postal and horse-changing station. In **Figure 3** we can see an

Postal Wax Seals in the Kingdom of Poland (Part 2) (cont.)

“official” seal impressed in red wax having a diameter of 24 mm with the coat of arms of the Kingdom of Poland in the center, two crossed post horns beneath, and text in Russian and Polish. The Russian text, in two lines is placed at the top of the design and reads: **“AWGUSTOWSKAJA POCZTOWAJA / EXPEDICIJA”** and a two line inscription at the bottom reading **“EXPEDYCJA POCZT / w AUGUSTOWIE”** (“POSTAL STATION/ in AUGUSTÓW”). This seal, along with four others belonging to the sender, secured the money letter containing 13 rubles and 50 kopeks (**Figure 4**) sent from Augustów to Łomża. Unfortunately, the “black ink 24 mm type IIIA” Augustów town hand stamp does not contain any date. From literature we know that it was in use between 1857 and 1865. The letter weighed 2 luts and the tariff of 37 kopeks was paid for in cash. This was the correct rate for the money letter as of 1851, so we can assume that this letter was sent within that timeframe.



Figure 3 – Red wax seal on letter from the Postal Station in Augustów



Figure 4 – Money letter sent from Augustów to Łomża



Figure 5 – Reverse side of money letter from Warszawa to Poznań



Figure 6 – Red wax seal on letter from the Post Office in Warszawa

Russian Language Wax Seals

Warszawa – **Figure 5** shows the reverse side of a money letter with documents mailed on 16 April (year unknown) to Poznań. The “red ink 24 mm type IXA” Warszawa hand stamp, the “black ink 23 mm type IIIC” Stupca transit stamp with illegible date, and the Poznań arrival hand stamps, all trace the letter’s route. The first of the arrival hand stamps is a “black ink type IX” Posen within a frame with the date 30.04, while the second, a “black ink type C”, has the date 1.5. This letter contained bonds totaling 60 silver rubles and weighed 2 ¼ lutes. Transit costs to the Prussian border of 123 kopeks, which was the correct rate in 1851, were paid for in cash. The letter was secured with two wax seals, one belonging to the sender and the other a 32 mm Warszawa “postal procedure” wax seal (**Figure 6**) with the coat of arms of the Kingdom of Poland in the center and two crossed post horns immediately below. The text centered in the upper part of the border reads **“WARSZAWSKIJ POCZTAMT”**. The text to the left of the coat of arms reads “No”, to the right reads “1”, and at the bottom in two lines it reads **“PRIJEM / DIENIEG I POSY- LOK”** (“WARSAW POST OFFICE / NO.1 / RECEIVE / MONEY AND PARCELS”).

Determining the exact date of usage based on the limited information is at this time impossible. I surmise this letter was mailed after 1865.

Warszawa - A 30 mm “postal procedure” seal, impressed in red wax, is shown in **Figure 7**. The coat of arms of the Polish Kingdom is located in

Postal Wax Seals in the Kingdom of Poland (Part 2) (cont.)

the center with two post horns immediately below and the Russian text: “**EKSP INNOSTR / POCZT**”. The upper part of the border contains the text: “**WARSZAWSKIJ POCZTAMT**” and the bottom part of the border contains: “**DI-ENIEZNAJA KORRESP**” (“WARSAW POST OFFICE/ DISPATCH OF FOREIGN POSTS / MONEY CORRESPONDENCE”). This seal secured a letter of recommendation (**Figure 8**) sent from Warszawa on 3 June 1869 to Schrimm, Prussia. A black ink “Recommandirt” in a framed hand stamp was applied in Warszawa. A red ink “Franco” handstamp, a red ink “Recommandirt” surrounded by a wavy line border, and a dual border “Aus Russland uber Eisenb.Post-Bur.XI/Franco/3.3 II/69” were applied in Bydgoszcz. The cost of delivery was paid for in cash. This is one of the few examples where we know the exact date of the usage of a wax seal.

Michałowice - A Border Post Office was opened here in May of 1831. It continued to function in that capacity until June of 1837. On 1 July 1837 it was re-designated as a Main Postal Station. From 16 December 1846 it resumed its functions as a Border Post Office. **Figure 9** shows an envelope from a money letter containing 14 rubles, mailed from Warszawa on 19 January (year unknown) as indicated by two “red ink 24 mm type IXA” town hand stamps. Its routing to Kraków was via the Border Post Office in Michałowice as indicated by a “black ink 23 mm type IIC” town handstamp. The tariff for carrying the letter to the border of the Polish Kingdom with the Austrian Empire was 27 kopeks, which was paid for in cash. The tariff represented the correct rate in effect in 1851. At the time of mailing, the letter was secured with four wax seals belonging to the sender and one postal service wax seal belong-



Figure 7 – Red wax seal on letter from Warszawa to Schrimm



Figure 8 – Letter of recommendation from Warszawa to Schrimm, Prussia via Bydgoszcz



Figure 10 – Black wax Customs Bureau seal from Michałowice



Figure 11 – Black wax “Postal Procedure” seal from Michałowice

Figure 9 – Money letter from Warszawa to Kraków via Border Post Office in Michałowice

Postal Wax Seals in the Kingdom of Poland (Part 2) (cont.)

ing to the Warsaw Post Office. This “official” seal is a poor impression in red wax, which is why I was only able to read fragments of the Russian text located around the bottom portion of the border: **“PRIJEM / DIENIEG I POSYLOK”**. Prior to being relayed to the Austrian Post, this letter was opened by the customs bureau in Michałowice for the purpose of verifying its value. This is indicated by the application of the following wax seals on the letter. The first is the seal of the Customs Bureau (Figure 10). It has a diameter of 30 mm, an impression in black wax of the coat of arms of the Kingdom of Poland in the center, and a Russian inscription around the border: **“PIECZAT MICHAŁOWICKOJ TAMORZNI”** (“SEAL of the MICHAŁOWICE CUSTOM”). The second seal, also in black wax (Figure 11), is a “postal procedure” seal with a 24 mm diameter containing the coat of arms of the Kingdom of Poland, two crossed post horns,

and a three line inscription in Russian: **“MICHAŁOWICKAJA/POGRAN. POCZTOWAJA KONTORA / PRIJEM / DIENIEG I POSYLOK”** (“BORDER POST OFFICE MICHAŁOWICE / RECEIVE / MONEY AND PARCELS”). With so many elements available on this letter, it is still difficult to establish the exact dates of their usage. The only certainty is that it was mailed after 1851.

Piotrków - An Intermediate Post Office was created here in 1815. Figure 12 shows the reverse side of a money letter envelope which contained 195 silver rubles mailed from Piotrków on 28 March (year unknown) to Poznań in Prussia. The letter was directed by rail through Katowice as documented by a black ink “Kattowitz 28 3*3-4” within a framed hand stamp and, also in black ink, the framed inscription: “Aus Russland / per Kattowitz” on the front of the envelope. This hand stamp has known usage from 1864. Also visible

is a circular “black ink type C3” Poznań arrival hand stamp, dated 29/3. At the time of mailing, the letter was secured with four wax seals belonging to the sender as well as a “postal procedure” wax seal (Figure 13) having a 24 mm diameter with the coat of arms of the Kingdom of Poland, two crossed post horns, and three lines Russian text. The text reads: **“PIOTRKOWSKAJA / POCZTOWAJA KONTORA / PRIJEM DIENIEG I POSYLOK”** (“PIOTRKÓW / POST OFFICE / RECEIVE MONEY AND PARCELS”). From information I have researched, it appears this seal was used after 1864.

Chełm - A postal and horse changing station was opened around 1815 and subordinated to the Lublin post office. Figure 14 shows the “postal procedure” seal impressed in black wax, having a diameter of 24 mm, with the Kingdom of Poland coat of arms, two crossed post horns in the



Figure 12 – Reverse side of money letter from Piotrków to Poznań



Figure 13 – Red wax seal from Intermediate Post Office in Piotrków



Figure 14 – Black wax seal from Postal Station in Chełm



Figure 15 – Money letter sent from Chełm to Hrubieszów on 25 June 1863

Postal Wax Seals in the Kingdom of Poland (Part 2) (cont.)

center, and below that, the Russian language text: **“CHEŁMSKAJA / POCZTOWAJA EKSPEDYCJA / PRIJEM DIENIEG I POSYŁOK”** (“CHEŁM / POST OFFICE / RECEIVE MONEY AND PARCELS”). Two such impressions are located alongside three other wax seals belonging to the sender on a money letter (**Figure 15**) containing 42 rubles and 66 kopeks. This mailed from Chełm on 25 June 1863 (“black ink, type VIIIB” town stamp) to Hrubieszów, at cost to the recipient. The tariff of 46 kopeks was collected in Hrubieszów on 27 June. An exact dating is possible due to a hand-written receipt of the porto payment found inside the letter. The receipt was written by the postal dispatcher in Hrubieszów but the signature was illegible.

Sokołów - This postal and horse-changing station was opened in 1829 and was subordinated to the Siedlce post office. **Figure 16** illustrates an impression of the 24 mm “postal procedure” seal in red wax with the coat of arms of the Kingdom of Poland, two crossed post horns, and Russian language text divided into three lines: **“SOKOŁOWSKAJA / POCZTOWAJA EKSPEDICJA / PRIJEM DIENIEG I POSYŁOK”** (“SOKOŁÓW / POSTAL STATION / RECEIVE MONEY AND PARCELS”). This seal, along with four others belonging to the sender secured the letter (**Figure 17**) at time of mailing. The contents were 1 silver ruble and mailing took place on the 17 April 1868 from Sokołów (“red ink type IIB” town hand stamp) to Łódź. Tariff in the amount of 24 kopeks, which was the correct rate after 1851, were paid for in cash. Determining the exact

date of mailing was possible due to the preservation of text from the contents of the letter.

Ink Impressions of Wax Seals

When writing about wax seals used in the Kingdom of Poland, it is necessary to mention that ink impressions of these seals can also be found on letters as well as on documents. While my article is about the seals made in wax, I would like to present two examples of these seals used to make ink impressions. The first example is an official letter (**Figure 18**) addressed to the mayor of the city of Konin. The letter was delivered to the local postal station which is indicated by a red ink impression of the station's wax seal and an official hand stamp reading “**Ślužba Pocztowa**” enclosed within a frame. The text reads **“STACYA POCZTOWA / crown / w KONINIE / post horn”** (“POSTAL STATION in KONIN”). The letter lacks an origination hand stamp or a date, although is most likely from the 1830-1840 time period.



Figure 16 – Red wax seal on money letter sent from Sokołów



Figure 17 – Money letter sent from Sokołów to Łódź

Postal Wax Seals in the Kingdom of Poland (Part 2) (cont.)



Figure 18 – Red ink impression of wax seal at Konin on official letter

The second example is a fragment of a postal document (Figure 19) dated 18 January 1868. A black ink impression of a seal can be found on this document, with the coat of arms of the Kingdom of Poland, two crossed post horns, and the inscription “**EKSPEDYCYA POCZT W KOWALU**” (“POSTAL STATION in KOWAL”). Literature available to me mentions such impressions, however, it does not elaborate on specific details, such as locations and types of impressions known to exist.

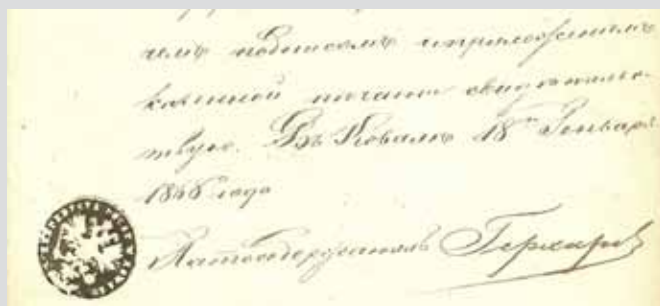


Figure 19 – Black ink impression of a wax seal on postal document at Postal Station in Kowal

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- [1] Czernik M. *Pocztą Królestwa Polskiego w Latkach 1815 – 1851*. Wrocław 1987.
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- [3] *Polskie Znaki Pocztowe. Tom I*, s.30-92. Warszawa 1960.
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Auction News

By: Bob Ogrodnik

The first news to report is a recent message I received from Regency-Superior (Polonus member) reminding us of an auction that they will conduct in November at CHICAGOPEX. “Regency-Superior’s November 21-23 CHICAGOPEX auction consignment deadline is August 8, 2014. This will be a live auction conducted at the show, (enhanced by prior internet bidding which closes 1 hour before the live floor auction). It will be conducted at the Westin Chicago Northwest and feature Stamps, Postal History/Covers and Picture Postcards, both US and foreign. If you have any of the above, you may want to consider submitting it for auction. Your material could be perfect for the several thousand collectors who get our catalogs. Please understand that getting your consignment in earlier is better than later with regard to our deadline. We try to abide by a “first come / first serve” procedure. If interested in consigning, please call me at [800-782-0066](tel:800-782-0066) ext.123 Thanks, Tom Jozwik, Consignor Relations, Regency-Superior Auctions.”

The second news to report is that Polonus members may participate in auctions conducted by the Society for Polish Philately in Great Britain (SPP). The SPP have a quarterly bulletin (*Dylizans*) and conduct semi-annual auctions. Michael Stempczyk is the Auctioneer and does a fine job. I have personally participated in the bidding via e-mail and experienced paying for the winning bids with PayPal. My experience has been very satisfactory.

If you are interested in participating in the SPP Auction, send me an e-mail (krpsl@earthlink.net) indicating your interest and I will send you (electronically) a copy of the auction catalog. At this time, the auction catalog will be made available only by attachment to e-mail distribution.

Please let me know if you have any questions or comments about the above mentioned reports. Also, let me know if there is anything related to auctions that you would like to see covered in future issues of our Bulletin.

Polish War Itineraries

By: Jan Niebrzydowski

I will return to Mrs. Bardziłowska's story in future articles but today, I would like to present the story of one extraordinary Polish man and his interesting journey through life. There are many similar stories in Poland's recent history but very few with surviving documents or with survivors who could have testified about them.



Figure 1

Alfons Jacewicz (shown in **figure 1**), who is the subject of my story, was a Pole born in Tsarist Russia in 1900 when Poland was still partitioned between Russia, Prussia and Austria. In 1917-18 he fought against the Bolsheviks in the Crimea under the command of General Anton Denikin, one of the "White" Russian commanders. He then managed

to get to Poland and joined the Polish Army which was reclaiming territory for the restored independent Polish state. He took part in the 1919-20 Polish-Bolshevik war.

After the war, he completed his studies and became a secondary school teacher. When Hitler invaded Poland in September 1939, he was called-up and fought against the Germans. After the fall of Poland, he escaped via Hungary, Yugoslavia and Italy to France where he joined Polish Army units to fight once again against the Germans. Following the French capitulation, he was sent to an internment camp for Polish servicemen in Switzerland. After a few months, he escaped to the south of France, which was nominally under French rule, with the intention of making his way to join the Polish forces in Great Britain. However, he was arrested by Spanish border guards and was first sent to Gerona prison and then transferred to Miranda de Elbro concentration camp. He was freed two years later and finally joined the Polish Army in Great Britain.

In 1944 the Polish Government in London sent him to Mexico to teach Polish orphans who had been given temporary shelter by the Mexican government in Santa Rosa. After the closure of the camp, he

stayed in Mexico where he worked in trade with Latin American countries. He travelled extensively, with one of his trips literally taking him around the world. He settled in London in the 1970's and died there in 1979. He wrote four books about his experiences.

Presented below are seven cards and covers illustrating the stages of his journey from internment in Switzerland to the Polish refugee camps in Mexico.



Figure 2

Figure 2 shows a card dated 26 December 1940 sent from Grindelwald internment camp in Switzerland to Mrs. Helena Lübke, censored by the military censor in Interlaken. Jacewicz wrote that he had completed a long and arduous journey which had taken him via Hungary, Yugoslavia, Italy and France. He was worried about the fate of his family who were living under the Soviet occupation and with whom he had lost contact.



Figure 3

Polish War Itineraries (cont.)

Figure 3 shows a card dated 21 May 1941 from Hauteville in the south of France, written shortly after his escape from the Swiss internment camp. He let it be known that he had started work at the Polish Red Cross and was rebuilding his strength in preparation for a new journey.



Figure 4

Figure 4 shows a card written on 23 June 1941 in Girona prison in Spain. Jacewicz said that the Spaniards had arrested him while he was on his way to join the Polish Army in Great Britain and that he was to be transferred to the concentration camp at Miranda de Ebro. This card bears a framed Spanish censorship cachet "CENSURA GUBERNATIVA BARCELONA".



Figure 5

Figure 5 shows a card sent from General Franco's Miranda de Ebro concentration camp in Spain, dated 21 October 1941, bearing a framed Spanish censorship cachet "CENSURA GUBERNATIVA San Sebastian". Jacewicz described conditions at the

camp where food was so poor and insufficient that the inmates were reduced to eating dogs. Some of his fellow prisoners wanted to join the Spanish Foreign Legion or even to go back to German-occupied Poland.



Figure 6

Figure 6 shows a card written on 19 May 1943 with the return address of a Polish Army unit in Scotland (P/64 – Army Recruiting Command nr. 1) sent after Jacewicz's release from Miranda de Ebro camp. Note the dumb ink cancellation applied to mask the location of the Polish Army unit in Scotland. He wrote that he still had no contact with his family who were living in the Soviet Union.



Figure 7

A special cover¹ is pictured in **Figure 7** with the following overprint in Polish and Spanish: *Polish*

Polish War Itineraries (cont.)

Secondary School in Colonia Santa Rosa, León, GTO (Guanajuato) Mexico. This letter was sent by registered post on 23 February 1944 to a local Polish community activist in Chicago – R. Mutuszczak. At that time Jacewicz was teaching at the camp for Polish orphans (**Figure 8**).



Figure 8 - Polish refugee children at school in Santa Rosa

The story behind this cover has been made into a documentary film called “*Santa Rosa – odyssey in the rhythm of mariachi*”. This is the untold story of 1500 Polish refugees who were welcomed by Mexico in 1943 after the President Roosevelt refused to accept them for fear of upsetting Stalin. Their incredible ordeal included survival of forced labor in Siberia and, after Russia reluctantly agreed to release the Poles enslaved in Siberia, a journey that took them through camps in Iran, India, New Zealand and finally, Mexico. In 1946, the refugee camp was closed and the refugees relocated to a more permanent status, with a very small number electing to return to Poland and a majority electing to move to the USA through family or Polish organization sponsorship. I suspect Mr. Mutuszczak was involved in helping in the relocation process.

Another special cover is pictured in **Figure 9** with Spanish overprint from Tlalpan orphanage in Mexico and sent to Chicago in 1947. Following the closure of the Santa Rosa camp in 1946, some of the Polish children who had come from the Soviet Union and lost their parents did not have anywhere to go. In 1947, individual Mexican benefactors and Father Józef Jarzembowski, a Polish priest of the Marian Order, set up another orphanage for the Polish children in Tlalpan, on the outskirts of Mexico City, where Jacewicz continued to teach.

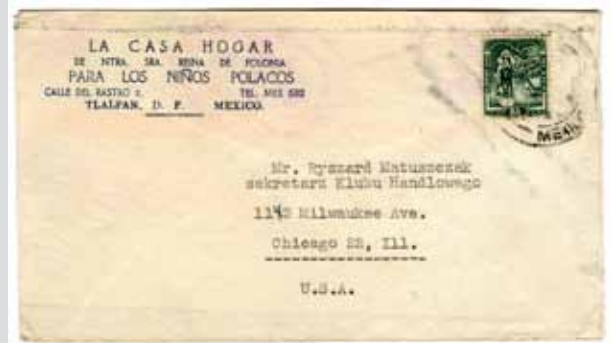


Figure 9 - Polish refugee children at school in Santa Rosa

Footnotes:

¹ - This cover was featured in a book authored by Przemysław Drzewiecki and titled, “*Scattered over four continents 1942 – 1950*”. This book is a history of Polish refugees from the USSR based on historical postal documentation. The cover is part of Jan Niebrzydowski’s personal collection.

Endnotes:

You will note that five of the seven covers used in this article are addressed to “Helena Lübke”, who was a prolific correspondent, much like Mrs. Bardziłowska. Helena Lübke was the secretary to Ignacy Paderewski, who supported her role in helping reunite families and find missing persons. She relocated with the Paderewski family in 1940 to Switzerland and served as a go-between facilitating contact with Poles in Nazi-occupied Poland and those who had escaped to the West. She used a variety of underground addresses in the process of carrying on her correspondence. More information on Helena Lübke can be found in Jan Niebrzydowski’s article titled, “*A Letter from Murnau*”, which can be found on pages 19 and 20 in the Spring 2010 issue (#538) of the *Polonus Bulletin*.

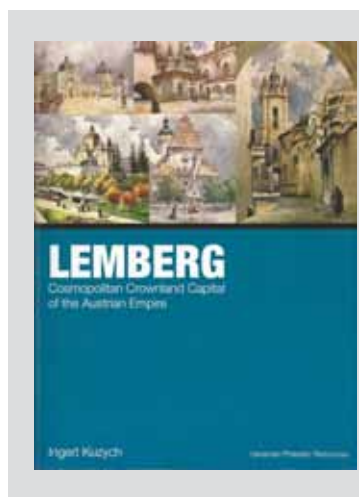
Classified Ads

Member to Member Ads are available to Polonus members **free of charge**. In addition to the limit of 500 characters defined on page 2 of this Bulletin, the following conditions apply:

- Ads to buy, sell, trade, or seek information are acceptable.
- Ads must relate to Poland’s stamps and postal history.
- One ad per issue per member.
- Unless otherwise requested, ad will run for a single issue.

LEMBERG: Cosmopolitan Crownland Capital of the Austrian Empire

*Editor's Note: The book described below is an exceptional accounting of postal history during the Habsburg Era, supplemented by a reproduction of the pages from Dr. Inger Kuzych's diamond award-winning exhibit. I found this book to be a high quality production from the weight of the paper; to the layout; to the print and color of the images. Overall a ***** (5-star) rating. The following is taken from a Press Release prepared by the publisher.*



Ukrainian Philatelic Resources is proud to announce the release of its first full-color publication, the long-awaited record of Dr. Inger Kuzych's diamond award-winning exhibit **LEMBERG: Cosmopolitan Crownland Capital of the Austrian Empire**. This volume, however, is much more than just a reproduction of Dr. Kuzych's exhibit – which is a chronicle of the postal history of Lviv/

Lwów during the century and a half that it was under Austrian Habsburg rule (1772-1918). Introductory chapters present information on the evolution of the postal system in Central Europe in the three centuries prior to the Austrian period. In the concluding chapter Dr. Kuzych presents his personal observations on each of the display pages, presenting his comments on why certain items were included or why they were presented as they were. Three pages of extraordinary postal history material for which Dr. Kuzych was out bid at auctions are also incorporated to give some idea of the amazing diversity of Lemberg items that still exist.

The heart of the book, however, is a complete record of the LEMBERG exhibit – slightly reduced to 90% of actual size. Readers will delight in the high-quality reproductions on heavy glossy paper stock. Included are extraordinary materials from each of the five time periods covered in the display. The opening **Pre-Stamp Austria (1772-1850)** section includes virtually all of the cancellation types used in the city during the seven decades leading up to Austria's first stamp release. The **Austrian Monarchy (1850-1867)** section includes mind-boggling franking examples of Austria's first stamp issues. The following

Austro-Hungarian Monarchy (1867-1914) section presents the expansion of the postal system in the Dual Empire and shows outstanding usages for an amazing range of postal services.

Anarchy always creates interesting postal history and the next portion of the exhibit, **The Great War (1914-1918)**, introduces many examples. Included are mails from the nine-month Russian occupation of the city, an array of interesting military unit mailings, and many of the finest preserved letters sent on the world's first regular air mail service, the Vienna-Krakow-Lemberg route. (Extension of this service to Kyiv, Ukraine made this the world's first regular international air mail service and a couple of such covers are also shown.)

Fighting continued in the year following the formal end of World War I as Poland and Western Ukraine struggled for Lemberg and Eastern Galicia. Some of the conflict is reflected in the last part of the exhibit entitled **The Flame of Nationalism (1918-1919)**.

In summary, this 180-page book is one of the most beautiful and useful Austrian-, Polish-, and Ukrainian-philately-related publications ever created. The LEMBERG exhibit and this follow-on book serve as excellent examples of how to prepare and display postal history. In order to encourage further exhibiting, Dr. Kuzych has deliberately kept the cost of **LEMBERG: Cosmopolitan Crownland Capital of the Austrian Empire** as low as possible. The price for such a full-color, professionally produced volume would normally run at least \$75, but Dr. Kuzych is offering it at a regular price of \$60.

For members of the Austrian Philatelic Society (APS), the Polonus Philatelic Society (PPS), or the Ukrainian Philatelic and Numismatic Society (UPNS) the price will only be \$50 – just slightly over the printing costs – plus postage and packaging. (In order to qualify for this special price reduction, APS, PPS, or UPNS customers **must** include their membership numbers with their order.)

The weight of this tome is almost one kilogram (two pounds) and postage costs are as follows: to US addresses \$5, to Canada \$12, and overseas \$25. Orders (in US currency only) may be placed with Mr. Kuzych at the following address: **Inger Kuzych, Ukrainian Philatelic Resources, P. O. Box 3, Springfield, Virginia 22150, USA**

Request for a Polonus Article

By: Sam Ginsburg

Editor's Note: We have taken the liberty of including this request from Sam Ginsburg as the benefit of delivery could potentially benefit the entire membership. If this resonates with you and you are willing to accept the challenge, whether in total or in part, contact Sam Ginsburg at samgins1730@yahoo.com and/or Bob Ogrodnik at krpsl@earthlink.net.

Issue: I do not know whether a comprehensive review and detailed explanation of the postal system in Poland has ever been published, but if so, probably not recently. Authors tend to assume we know "stuff" but we don't. This is about the structure of the postal system, not about postal rates for this and that. An appropriate title may be, "*The Evolution of the Postal System in Poland*". The following is an outline of what I would like to see in as many articles as it takes:

- A. Pre-partition Poland:** What were the various classes or categories of post offices? How did they differ, identifying each by name in Polish, including the English translation. The "*Before Lemberg*" series, featured in our bulletin, provided a good base of understanding for this period but there is probably more that can be added.
- B. Partitioned Poland:** Same as above, but separated by "occupation zone" with dates of changes. The articles on "*Postal Wax Seals in the Kingdom of Poland*" make reference to post office, border post office, postal station, intermediate post office and main post office. How and why do these differ; how and why are they similar, what made the differences necessary or desirable, etc.
 - 1. The German partition adopted the Prussian postal system, I believe, but I don't know what that was, and how it changed over time.
 - 2. I don't know what the Austrians did, although the article on Lemberg by Dr. Ingerit Kuzych shed some light on this matter.
 - 3. The Russian system changed over time. We need an explanation of the various classes of post offices, stations, etc. Russian names should be included both in Cyrillic and Latin letters, along with the Polish and English equivalents.

C. Independent Poland to 1 September 1939: Again, types of postal facilities with the Polish and English names.

D. German-occupied Poland: Information is available on the kind of stamps used, but to what extent did civilian mail exist during WWII? Did the Germans simply keep the same post offices? In many cases the old ones had been destroyed by bombs, artillery, etc.

E. Peoples' Republic of Poland: What changes were made during post-war Poland?

F. Independent and Free Poland after 1989: What changes were made in this period and over the past 25 years?

In all cases, include examples of where the various classes of postal facilities were located, perhaps noting some unusual or exceptional cases as a way of indicating that special circumstances may have prevailed. For example, a small town might have had a facility of a higher rank than might have been normally expected for its size, but due to political clout, or an important railway junction, or whatever, the higher rank was justified..

We need more than just the name of each class. We need to understand how the services differed and to get a flavor for the exceptions, without numbing detail. A bibliography and/or list of relevant websites would also be important.

Classified Ads

WANTED: Hi-Res scan of watermark on Przedbórz posthumous issues.

Certain sheets of Przedbórz posthumous issues "VI, VII, VIII" (not catalogued) are watermarked. I am looking for high-resolution scans of a complete watermark and the corresponding stamps. Sam Ginsburg, samgins1730@yahoo.com or (510) 525-3906.

FOR SALE: Fischer Katalog Tom I 2011.....\$20 (incl S&H)

Catalog in very fine condition. Bob Ogrodnik, P.O. Box 240428, Ballwin, MO 63024-0428.

New Issues



Date of Issue	January 28, 2014
Sheet Format	2 Stamps in mini sheet
Printing Method	Engraved & Rotogravure
Designer	Marzanna Dąbrowska

Wawel Cathedral

These 2 stamps, denominated 4.20 zł and 8.30 zł in a numbered souvenir sheet, portray Wawel Cathedral, dating to the 14th and 15th centuries (*"Katedrę Wawelską XIV-XV w."*). The 4.20 zł stamp shows the front of the cathedral and celebrates its 650th anniversary (*"650 Rocznicę Konsekracji Katedry Wawelskiej"*). And the 8.30 zł stamp depicts the rear part of the cathedral, as well as its Zygmunt Bell from the 16th century (*"Dzwon Zygmunt XVI w."*).



Date of Issue	February 22, 2014
Sheet Format	12 Stamps (tete-beche)
Printing Method	Photogravure
Designer	Karol Tabaka

200th Anniversary of Birth of Oskar Kolberg

This 4.20 zł stamp honors the Polish ethnographer, folklorist, and composer, Oskar Kolberg (1814-1890). Born in Przysucha, his best known work was entitled *"Lud"* (People), a compilation of folk traditions from all the regions of Poland. His many compilations reference a total of 12,000 folk songs; 1,250 folk tales; 670 fairy tales; 2,700 proverbs; 350 riddles; and 15 folk spectacles. The stamp shows a black and white photo of him over a blue background. The pane of stamps includes a square digital reader box for scanning purposes. A colorful official first day cover portrays Polish folk in traditional costumes.



Date of Issue	March 7, 2014
Sheet Format	4 Stamps
Printing Method	Offset/Serigraph
Designer	Agata Tobolczyk

IAAF World Indoor Games in Sopot

The World Indoor Games (*"IAAF Halowe Mistrzostwa Świata w Lekkoatletyce"*) were inaugurated in 1985 in Paris, and usually held every 2 years in different locations. Poland hosted the games for the first time on March 7-9, 2014 at the Ergo Arena in Sopot. Poland won a total of 3 medals: Kamila Lićwinko won a gold in the women's high jump; Angelika Cichocka won a silver in the women's 800 meter run;

and Adam Kszczot won a silver in the men's 800 meter run. The 5 zł stamp, colored primarily green and yellow, portrays 3 athletes -- a shot putter, runner, and pole vaulter.



Date of Issue	March 26, 2014
Sheet Format	2 Stamps in Sheet of 100
Printing Method	Rotogravure
Designer	Marzanna Dąbrowska

Easter

These two stamps celebrate Polish Easter (*"Polska Wielkanoc"*). The 5 zł stamp shows a colorfully decorated purple egg (*"Pisanka Opoczyńska"*) and the 1.75 zł stamp shows a colorfully decorated green egg (*"Pisanka Kozienicka"*).

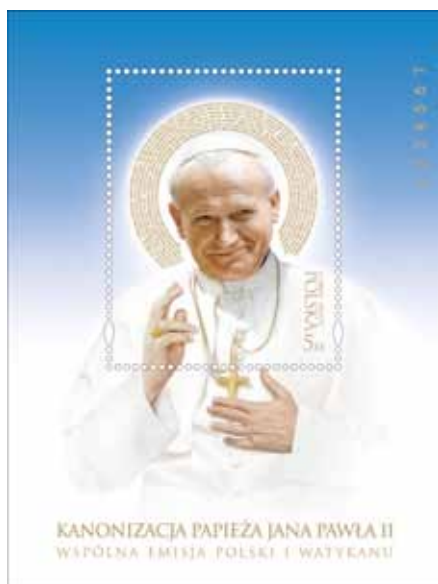


Date of Issue	April 2, 2014
Sheet Format	2 Stamps in Souvenir Sheet
Printing Method	Rotogravure
Designer	Marzanna Dąbrowska

Canonization of Pope John Paul II and Pope John XXIII

Poland issued these two colorful 5 zł stamps to honor the two canonized popes (*"Kanonizacja Papierzy"*) in a joint philatelic issue with Vatican City (*"Wspólna Emisja Polski i Watykanu"*). The stamps show the two popes in red

capes. The canonization occurred in Rome on April 27, 2014 (*"Rzym 27 Kwietnia 2014"*).



Date of Issue	April 2, 2014
Sheet Format	6 Stamps
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Marzanna Dąbrowska

Canonization of Pope John Paul II

In another joint issue with Vatican City, Poland honored Pope John Paul II's canonization with a 2.35 zł stamp showing the pope alone dressed in white with a halo around his head formed by using seven microprinted lines of quotes for which the Pope is known. A stamp of similar design was issued as a single 5 zł stamp in a numbered souvenir sheet; and as a similar 8.50 zł stamp in a numbered black print souvenir sheet. (the 5 zł souvenir sheet is shown above)