



BULLETIN OF THE POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



*Christmas card from 1941 issued by the 2nd Pieszych Rifle
Division interned in Switzerland.*

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POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Officers & Directors

President	Bob Ogradnik P.O. Box 240428 Ballwin, MO 63024-0428 krpsl@earthlink.net
Vice President	Hank Bieniecki P.O. Box 760 Maryville, IL 62062 hank@biistamp.com
Secretary	Roman Sobus 1110 N. Oakley Blvd. Chicago, IL 60622 Rsobus9013@cs.com
Treasurer	Dan Lubelski 111 Helen Drive Rossford, OH 43460 dlubelski@accesstoledo.com
Directors	Dr. James Mazepa, C.O.B. jmazepa@comcast.net Richard Jaraczewski rjara@sonic.net Dr. Paul Phillips PaulXLPE@gmail.com Chris Kulpinski chris@kulpinski.net

Publication Committee

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

Website Committee

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

Committee Chairpersons

Expertizing	Hank Bieniecki hank@biistamp.com
Librarian	Dr. Mary Ann Frost mafros@earthlink.net
Membership	Richard Jaraczewski rjara@sonic.net
POW Camps	Roman Sobus Rsobus9013@cs.com
DP / Intern Camps	Chris Kulpinski chris@kulpinski.net
Aero-Philately	Dr. Jerzy Kupiec-Weglinski jkupiec@mednet.ucla.edu
Cinderellas & Labels	Chris Kulpinski chris@kulpinski.net

Study Groups

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

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

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

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

Membership queries to be sent to: Membership Chairman.

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

Bulletin Advertising:

Member to Member Ads – Members have the opportunity to post ads to fellow members **free of charge**. Limit of 500 characters, defined as a letter, space, number or punctuation mark. Member's 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.

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

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

Message From The President

By: Bob Ogrodnik

As 2010 races to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who contributed over the past year to the success of our Society. I would also like to extend to all my Best Wishes for the Holiday Season and for a Happy New Year 2011.

Your favorable comments on bulletin #540 and the new membership packet are appreciated. We hope this encourages members to become “missionaries” in spreading the word about Polonus and encouraging their friends and colleagues to join our Society. While on the subject of membership, be sure to read the “2011 Membership Dues Modification” article by Richard Jaraczewski. The message is that we are taking advantage of enabling technology in delivering the Society’s benefits and value. We trust you too will take advantage of this opportunity.

One of the milestones this year was the 600th Anniversary of the Battle of Grunwald and the Chicago Chapter of Polonus joined with the Lithuanian Philatelic Society to organize LITHPEX-POLPEX 2010 to celebrate this occasion. Do not miss reading about the results of this event in the Society News section of this bulletin.

Congratulations to Julian Auleytner, Frank Wiatr and Jan Niebrzydowski for their exhibiting success in Portugal and to Paul Phillips for winning the Grand Award at the Omaha Stamp Show. More on these events and our members’ participation can be found in this bulletin.

A personal highlight of this past year was my trip to Poland and the opportunity to meet with our philatelic colleagues in Kraków and Warsaw. Included in the Society News section of this bulletin is a summary of the highlights and photos from my visit.

Members considering participation in our 9th Annual Meeting and Exhibition at the Philadelphia National Stamp Exhibition (PNSE 2011) take note.... by the end of this month (December) there will be 90 days remaining until we meet in Philadelphia. Included in this bulletin is a “Countdown to Philadelphia – PNSE 2011” with updated highlights of our

plan to make this a “best ever” Polonus show.

This is the time of the year we conduct our planning for the New Year and balance the list of objectives with the reality of our financial position. As you can well imagine, the sum total of revenue generated from annual dues does not provide us with sufficient funds to cover existing operating expenses (primarily printing and mailing the bulletin) and support new projects that require resources beyond what is available from volunteering members. I cover this in an article “Contributions – A Catalyst for Society Growth”. Please take time to read this article and reflect on what you can do to help us grow.

In keeping with the holiday season, you will find an interesting article in “Holiday Cards from Soldiers Interned in Switzerland” authored by Piotr Pelczar, with help from Roman Sobus and Jan Niebrzydowski. This subject is a highly specialized area of collecting (deltiology), however, the theme of the material should appeal to all. I also want to bring to your attention the article by Jan Niebrzydowski titled “Stefania Bardziłowska”. Bardziłowska was a charitable activist, who through her prolific correspondence with internees and Polish soldiers has provided us with a unique philatelic history. This is, to my knowledge, the first time her story is being told to a philatelic audience.

In the October 19th issue of Linn’s, an excellent article titled “Allenstein and Marienwerder: a tale of two plebiscites” was presented in Steve Pendleton’s “Small World” column. These are categories for Poland collectors under the title “Olsztyn and Kwidzyn”. The 1918 -1920 period in Polish philatelic history is fascinating, as typified by the story of these two plebiscites. If you would like a copy, send me an e-mail with your request.

Once again, on behalf of the Publication Committee, I want to express our appreciation for the response from members contributing articles for our bulletin. You will notice this bulletin has four more pages than earlier issues. Our goal is to maintain a minimum of 20 pages. Please continue to send us comments and to contribute articles.

LITHPEX-POLPEX 2010 Highlights



Program Cover Page

The Chicago Chapter of the Polonus Philatelic Society joined with Lithuania Philatelic Society in presenting LITHPEX-POLPEX 2010 on October 15-16-17 at the Balzakas Museum of Lithuanian Culture in Chicago. This event celebrated the 600th Anniversary of the Battle of Grunwald, in which united Polish and Lithuanian forces were victorious over the powerful Teutonic Knights.

An impressive opening ceremony was held Friday evening with the Polish and Lithuanian Consul Generals and Honorary Consuls in attendance. On display were a total of 17 philatelic and 2 numismatic exhibits (total 42 frames). Polonus members exhibiting were: Chester Schafer, Arkadiusz Walinski, Adam Giegel, Roman Sobus, Dzintars Grinfelds, and Bob Ogradnik. All exhibitors were awarded a Grunwald commemorative medal issued by both societies and minted in Lithuania in limited quantities

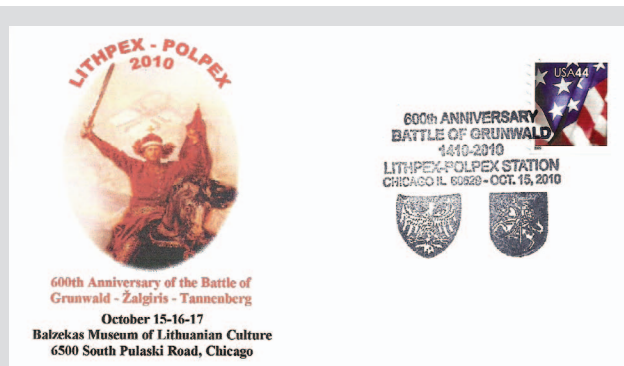


Opening ceremony ribbon cutting (l to r) Honorary Consul Balzakas, Consul General Matynia, Consul General Aniliene and Honorary Consul Ogradnik



Awards banquet (l to r) Bob Ogradnik, John Variakojis and Chet Schafer

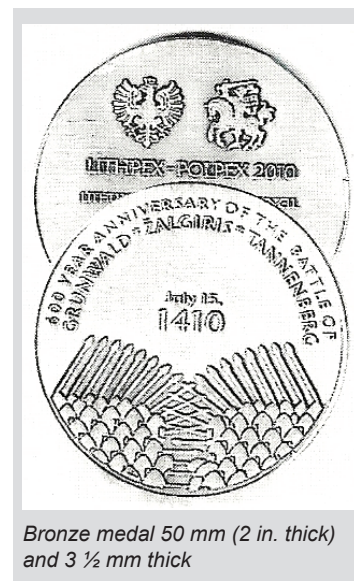
exclusively for the event. The program included lectures, a movie of the Grunwald Battle Enactment of 2010 and a fabulous diorama exhibit that illustrated the battle scene and combatants in three dimensions. Tasty Lithuanian dishes were served at the Awards Banquet on Saturday evening followed by the presentation of medals.



Commemorative Show Cover

Attendance over the three day period was estimated at 350, with full attendance at the lectures and movie. With an objective of bringing the Polish and Lithuanian communities together in celebration of this great milestone, the event was a resounding success.

Show covers were printed and special cancellation was provided by the USPS. These are available to Polonus members for \$2 each plus a stamped self-addressed larger envelope. A small quantity of commemorative bronze medals is also available for \$32 postpaid. Make checks payable to: **Polonus**, and send orders for covers and medals to: **Polonus, P.O. Box 410452, Chicago, IL 60641.**



Bronze medal 50 mm (2 in. thick) and 3 1/2 mm thick

Editor's Note: Congratulations to Chet Schafer from the Polonus Philatelic Society and John Variakojis from the Lithuania Philatelic Society, Co-Chairs of LITHPEX-POLPEX 2010, for a job well done.

Phillips Wins the Grand Award in Omaha

Polonus member, Dr. Paul J. Phillips was the recipient of the Grand Award for his exhibit, "Innovation & Negotiation: British Overseas Mails 1840-50", at the 2010 Omaha Stamp Show, held on 11-12 September. The Omaha Stamp Show is an APS-certified national stamp show, which means that the Grand Award-winning exhibit will be invited to compete at the World Series of Philately, Champion of Champions, at the APS StampShow 2011 scheduled for Columbus, Ohio on 11-14 August 2011.

World Exhibition of Philately: Portugal 2010

Lisbon, Portugal, was the site of one of this year's World Exhibitions of Philately, the largest and most prestigious class of philatelic exhibitions. This event was held October 1-10 in several of the halls of the Park of Nations situated on the Tejo river. Lisbon is a world class city with a beautiful colonial history not only in the city itself, but in many of the surrounding towns. The food, especially the sea food, is exceptional, and the people very friendly.

Polish exhibits were sparse; however, Polonus members did well. Member Julian Auleytner received a Gold medal (90 points) for his "Beginnings of the Post in Independent Poland 1918 -1920", and a Silver Bronze (68 points) for his book "Polish Gems in the Crown of the II Republic." Frank Wiatr received a Large Vermeil (88 points) for "Cracow Postal History: Middle Ages to the Postage Stamp." Jan Niebrzydowski was awarded a Vermeil medal (88 points- one-frame exhibits have different point systems) for his one-frame exhibit "One Polish Family's WW II Ordeal."

The next World Exhibitions will be in India (2/2011) and Japan (7/2011). Member Dr. Jerzy Kupiec-Weglinski has already been accepted to show in India. The exhibits for Japan have not yet been finalized.

Countdown to Philadelphia - PNSE 2011

By: Bob Ogrodnik

Our 9th Annual Meeting and Exhibition will be held at the Philadelphia National Stamp Exhibition (PNSE 2011) on April 1-3, 2011, at the Greater Philadelphia Expo Center in Oaks, Pennsylvania. Polonus is one of the participating societies featured at this event. We will have a society table, schedule meetings (board of directors, annual membership, etc) and organized activities for attending members and guests. As plans are finalized, updated information on this event will be posted on our website, www.polonus.org, under "Current Polonus Activities". Final plans and an agenda will also be included in our next bulletin. However, I would not wait until our next bulletin to decide to attend. The following is a summary of our plans:

- A call to members who normally exhibit at our annual meeting and exhibition was made in early September. Of the 24 members contacted, we have received responses from only nine (9), of which six (6) have committed to exhibit with a total of 25 frames. **We have a commitment for 70 frames!** To those who have received my letter dated 6 September, please return the SASE with your reply. An exhibitors' prospectus and entry form is available on the PNSE website, www.pnse.org. Deadline for entry forms with payment (received by PNSE) is February 13, 2011. However, **we recommend that you submit your entry by January 15th to insure frames are available.**
- The Board of Directors Meeting will be held at 8:00 am on Saturday, April 2nd with attendance by officers, directors and committee chairs only. Meeting room location to be determined (check for updates on our website).
- The Annual Membership Meeting will be held at 10:00 am on Saturday, April 2nd. We have scheduled two hours for this meeting, which will include an open forum for members and guests.

Continued next page...

PNSE 2011 (Cont.)

Meeting room location to be determined (check for updates on our website).

- A members' reception is being planned for Friday evening following the close of the show (6:00 pm). Location for the reception and details to be determined (check for updates on our website).
- Space will be available for up to 50 dealers. We will be working with the Show Bourse Leader to encourage participating dealers to bring their best Polish material. Check with the PNSE website for an updated list of participating dealers.
- The Homewood Suites by Hilton, located at 860 Shannondell Avenue in Audubon, PA is the recommended hotel with a **"Special PNSE**

Show Rate is \$119". You can call direct (610) 539-7300 for reservations and be sure to ask for Nicole Ream and the special rate. The room rate includes a kitchenette and a cooked breakfast. The hotel is about 2 miles from the Expo Center and the hotel provides complimentary van service to and from the Expo Center.

Please send me an e-mail (krpsl@earthlink.net) if you are planning to attend so that we can plan our reception and hospitality accordingly. Members informing me of their attendance will receive a "Member Packet" available at the Polonus Society Table, to include: nametag, schedule, agenda, etc. Help us make this a "best ever" Polonus show.

A VISIT WITH POLAND'S PHILATELISTS

By: Bob Ogrodnik

My most recent trip to Poland this past September and October was filled with many "things to do", with one of them to meet with Polonus members, collector friends, and philatelic organizations. This turned out to be one of the highlights of my visit, some reflections of which you might find interesting. Hence this article with photos from my visit.

Kraków was my first stop. Across from the Francuski Hotel is a stamp shop named "Marka". I had been to this shop during past visits and it is always a pleasure meeting with Ryszard Łakomy, owner. Looking for material for a Grunwald thematic exhibit, Ryszard suggested I attend the Cracoviana Stamp Club (Klub Filatelistyczny) meeting held every Monday afternoon between 4:30 and 6:00 pm. This was an excellent suggestion as I attended the meeting (entrance fee of 2 zł), was introduced to the attendees, gave a brief presentation on Polonus, and was made an Honorary Member of the Cracoviana Stamp Club.

What I found interesting was the meeting format, i.e., members sitting across from each other at long tables with their albums and/or boxes of stamps trading, buying and selling among each other. Most of the attendees appeared to be interested in stamps but I did meet a couple collectors who had covers, post cards and related philatelic material. I did find some Grunwald material and made a couple purchases.

Next stop was finding and meeting fellow Polonus member, Grzegorz Marzec and his Firma Filatelisty-





czna. Grzegorz moved his retail shop on Floriańska to an office location on Zwirzyńska where he conducts a more selective business with clients rather than the previous “walk-in” type business. It was good to see Marzec again and he was a big help in providing me with some excellent material for my exhibits and collection. I suggest you check out his website, www.filatelistyka.sklep.pl, which is in Polish and English.



My next three stops in Kraków were all with Janusz Adamczyk, a noted Polish philatelist and expertizer listed in Fischer. I say three stops because Janusz needed time to locate some of the material that was on my want list and trips to his home became a regular occurrence. Fortunately, my apartment on the Rynek was two blocks from the Adamczyk apartment so the visits were not a problem. Janusz

and his wife were splendid hosts on every visit, providing heart-warming and belly-filling hospitality in the traditional Polish manner. The net philatelic result was finding some great material for my Grunwald exhibit and forging a wonderful friendship with a very knowledgeable and helpful Polish philatelist.



The tail-end of my three weeks in Poland was spent in Warsaw, where fellow Polonus member Jacek Kosmala graciously arranged for a meeting with the Officers of Polski Związek Filatelistów (PZF). I found this meeting very encouraging in that we discussed ways in which our respective organizations might work together in the future. Other than encouraging joint membership, we see opportunities to collaborate on projects such as, sharing articles from our respective bulletins, working on website projects, sharing programs focused on youth, promoting participation in exhibitions (in Poland as well as in North America), etc. This meeting was a start to hopefully an ongoing communication and collaboration on topics of common interest. At the close of our meeting, I was presented with a certificate and lapel pin in honor of the 60th anniversary of PZF.

Overall, the time that I managed to spend on Polish philately away from my family proved to be very interesting, productive and definitely one of the highlights of my visit. If you are planning a trip to Poland in the near future, I would highly recommend you too sample the Polish philatelic scene.

2011 MEMBERSHIP DUES MODIFICATIONS

By Richard Jaraczewski

The last Polonus membership dues increase was implemented in January 2000. In the interim Polonus has (1) improved the quality of the Bulletin, (2) significantly expanded the features on it's website (3) developed professional tools for promoting Polonus and recruiting new members, (4) established a Polish Philatelic Library (5) produced a Membership Directory and (6) absorbed significant increases in the costs of producing and mailing the Bulletin. While our membership has grown, the additional revenue is not sufficient to cover the annual operating costs of the Society.

Given this situation Polonus is increasing its dues structure effective 2011 and using technology to reduce fixed costs. All members are being offered the option of paying increased dues, or electing to use technology to receive their issues of the Polonus Bulletin in electronic format via the internet.

I. 2011 Dues Options Compared with Current Dues for Members in North American and Members Outside of North America:

	North America	Outside North America
Current Dues	\$25	\$30
2011 Dues Options		
Printed Bulletin	\$30	\$40
Electronic Bulletin	\$25	\$25

II. Receive Electronic Version of Polonus Bulletin

At this point some of you may be wondering how do I receive an "Electronic Bulletin" versus the printed copy I have received in the past, and what are the pro's and con's of this option to me as a member.

If you are currently a registered member of the Polonus Website at www.polonus.org, you may go to the website, login and select Polonus Bulletin from the menu. (If you are not registered, request registration information from hank@biistamp.com) This will take you to a page where you may select Bulletin 539 or 540. They are both now available on the website in PDF format. If you have the free Adobe PDF reader software loaded on your computer, the selected Bul-

letin will open on your computer. Members will have (1) the option of reading the selected Bulletin online, (2) printing out the entire Bulletin, or (3) only printing out selected material of interest. All Bulletins from 539 forward will be maintained on the website. Current and future members will be able to refer to them whenever they wish. **Non-members are not able to access the Bulletins.**

If you don't have a color printer and want to have hardcopies of certain articles printed in color you may simply download them to a CD or flash drive and take them to your local print shop for reproduction. Alternatively, if a member wishes, they may order a hardcopy of an article from Polonus at info@polonus.org at a fixed price per page plus postage. Members outside of North America will not have to wait several weeks to receive their hard copy of Bulletin, and they are not penalized by having to pay higher dues to cover the additional postage costs. **All members subscribing to the electronic version of the Bulletin will pay the same dues irrespective of their geographical location.**

III. Change From Calendar to Pro-Rated Dues:

To encourage prospective members to join at any point during the year, Polonus will no longer require payment of full annual dues and automatically supply all Bulletins issued for that year to new members. Dues will instead be pro-rated per the following pro-rated schedule:

Period	Percentage of Applicable Dues Required
Jan - Mar	100%
Apr - Jun	75%
Jul - Sep	50%
Nov - Dec	125% Includes full payment for following year
Note: Members may purchase hard copies of Bulletins issued earlier in the year for \$5.00 each.	

The changes enumerated above are one step in trying to ensure the financial viability of your Society and make it possible for Polonus to continue to provide the quality level of professional philatelic services it has in the past. Should you have any questions, please feel free to email your comments to me at rjara@sonic.net.

CONTRIBUTIONS – THE CATALYST FOR SOCIETY GROWTH

By: Bob Ogrodnik

The objectives of this article are: (1) to outline a new formalized “Donor Designation” program for members to make financial contributions to our Society in excess of their annual dues; and (2) to point out the need to support our Society in excess of normal annual dues in order to continue enhancing the benefits to the membership.

The three “Donor Designations” will be:

Designation	Contribution Level
Sponsor	\$10 to \$25
Benefactor	\$50
Patron	\$100

When you receive your 2011 dues notice it will be designed so that you may in addition to paying your dues, also check one of the three “Donor Designations” and remit the appropriate level of contribution with your payment. In addition to being recognized in our bulletin and on a new section of the Polonus website (unless you choose not to have your name listed), you will receive an acknowledgement for your tax deductible contribution to Polonus which is a 501(c)(3) organization.

Over the years we have been fortunate to have approximately 10% of our members voluntarily adding contributions to their normal dues. Significant contributions by a few members have enabled Polonus to (1) continue development of the Polonus website, (2) upgrade software required to administer the Society as well as create useful reports such as the Membership Directory, (3) produce professional promotional materials for recruiting members. However, we need more members “sharing the load”. Review the new Donor Designation program and select the one that is appropriate for your financial situation. If you don’t want to wait until you get your dues notice, you may make contributions to Polonus via Pay Pal from the Polonus website.

Now for the rationale to support our Society in excess of the normal annual dues. In 2010 Polonus dues generated income of \$4,700. However, the average cost to produce and distribute one issue of

the Polonus bulletin is \$1,130. (see below)

Production & Distribution	Avg. Expense
Graphic Layout	\$175
Printing	\$600
Discount Postage for Mailing	\$255
Labor Cost to Prepare Mailing	\$100
Total Cost	\$1,130

One does not have to be a financial expert to understand that the income generated from annual dues barely covers the cost of four bulletins issued annually. The options for our Society are: (1) to increase dues; (2) to reduce bulletin expense by converting to electronic distribution via the Polonus website starting in 2011; (3) to establish a program to encourage a broad spectrum of members to contribute in excess of annual dues.

In the preceding article by our Membership Chair, you were informed about the modification in our annual dues. Whereas dues have increased slightly for the first time in 10 years, the option to convert to an electronic bulletin mitigates the dues increase and reduces it for international members. We anticipate that over time this will reduce the expense related to our bulletin; however, this does not appreciably change our financial situation.

Polonus has been fortunate to receive generous support from a few members, who in the past contributed in excess of \$3,000. This has enabled us to make enhancements mentioned earlier in this article. However, we cannot rely solely on this generosity of a few. Therefore, we are asking each member to reflect on the value that we are delivering through our various programs and resources, and consider supporting the Society’s growth initiatives with your tax-deductible contribution.

Virtually all viable non-profit organizations rely on members who volunteer their time and skills in addition to contributing financially. Whereas this article is focused upon “contributions”, we continue to seek members who are willing to volunteer their time and skills. I will greatly appreciate hearing from you if you are interested in volunteering. E-mail me at krpsl@earthlink.net or call me at (314) 821-6130.

LOCAL MAIL IN THE EASTERN TERRITORIES: GRODNO 1919

By: Dr. James Mazepa

While the local mail in the former German and Austrian occupied Western and Southern parts of Poland are well known, there are only two local mail issues in the Eastern territories. One is the well-known KOWEL issue of July 1919. Here seven Ukrainian and Russian stamps were overprinted "Pocztą Polska" with new values of either 30 fennig or 50 fennig. However, little is known of the Grodno issue of May 1, 1919. The Fischer catalog lists five stamps and states they were in use until June 17, 1919.

This former Russian occupied area was under German occupation until World War I ended, and during this time German occupation stamps were used. These are the Germania stamps overprinted "Postgebiet Ob. Ost." After the armistice of November 1918, the areas around Grodno and Wilno were in Lithuanian hands and the German occupation stamps were withdrawn on December 20, 1918. On March 4, 1919, the Lithuanians issued an emergency set for the Grodno District. Five hundred sets of overprinted Russian stamps were made (Scott L1-8). These stamps, and especially letters, are very difficult to find.

During this time a German communication officer, Lieutenant Bauer, was stationed in Grodno. He sent letters bound for Germany through the German post office in Suwałki. For this service he charged in cash 40 fennings for a private letter and 2 marks for a commercial letter.

On April 26, 1919, the Polish Army was on the offensive in the Northeast territories and was approaching Grodno. Anticipating the arrival of the Polish forces, the Polish Citizen's Committee in Grodno acquired four Russian stamps and a Russian stamp already overprinted into a Ukrainian stamp by a Ukrainian trident, and surcharged them all "40 Gr. Pocztą Polska." When the Polish Forces arrived, the Citizen's Committee gave these overprinted stamps to the



Figure 1

Polish Field Post Commanding Officer to be used on mail. However, the Field Post Officer had orders from Warsaw that Polish stamps were to arrive on May 1st and he was not to open a Polish Post Office until then. Besides, the 40 gr. rate made no sense at all in the Polish Post's rates.

Not to miss an opportunity to create local issue, Lieutenant Bauer purchased one hundred sets of the overprinted stamps, and added a further red overprint in German, "V.P. Grodno." (Verbindungspost Grodno – Liaison Post Grodno). His plan seems to have been to use them on the correspondence he was sending to Suwałki where some connection to the German mail system still existed. He "cancelled" the stamps by writing a "B" in the upper right hand corner of the stamp.

The overprinted stamps are the Russian coat-of-arms issue 1, 2, 3, and 5 kopeck imperforate, and a 1 kopeck Russian imperforate overprinted with a Kiev type III Ukrainian Trident. While the "40 Gr. Poczta Polska" surcharge is uniformly placed, the

German "V.P. Grodno" shows shifts, inverts, doubles, and sideways prints, as well as the overprint in the sheet margins.

As one would expect, these stamps are very difficult to find. The largest recorded block is an irregular block of eight of the 1 kopeck cancelled with the "B" in the upper right corner (**Figure 1**). This block sold for over \$19,000 U.S. in a recent German auction. Other recorded multiples include two blocks of four of the 2 kopeck (**Figure 2**), one of which has the German overprint in the margin, one block of four of the 3 kopeck (**Figure 3**), and one block of the 5 kopeck.

Only one (very philatelic) letter is recorded. It is addressed to Suwałki and was last sold in 1967. Its current whereabouts is unknown.

The Grodno 1919 overprints are not an official issue of the Polish Post, or of a local Polish postal authority. They have more the character of a private issue. However, like so many such curiosities, over time they have found their way into some catalogs and now command high prices.



Figure 2



Figure 3

Holiday Cards from Soldiers Interned in Switzerland

By: Piotr Pelczar

Translated by Roman Sobus

Cards furnished by Jan Niebrzydowski

Editor's Note: This article is a continuation of an earlier article on a highly specialized area of Polish philately – the correspondence card used by Poles interned in Switzerland during WW II. [2]

The 2nd Division of the Pieszych Rifles, as part of the Polish Armed Forces in the Western European theatre, made significant contributions to the allied cause during WW II. During the 1940 French campaign, the division carried the battle in Alsace, France despite poor equipment and supplies against a superior Wehrmacht force. Once the possibility of further attack was hopeless, the greater part of the division crossed the Swiss border and there they remained interned until 1945.

As mentioned in a previous article [2], internees were issued Formula Cards, a designation for a correspondence card without a printed stamp. The most interesting Formula Cards were those inspired and created by the Poles themselves. Such cards were issued separately for Christmas and Easter [1]. In a previous article [2], you became acquainted with Włodzimierz Prochaska, author of countless holiday illustrations and cards issued for Christmas in 1940 and 1941. Here we will discuss Christmas cards from 1941 and later. We are thankful to Polonus member Jan Niebrzydowski of New Britain, Connecticut for allowing us to use cards from his collection for this article.

Some of the issued cards were selected through contests. These were advertised in the camp bulletin and all willing parties were encouraged to participate. A Contest Committee was used to select the winners of the contests. Emphasis by the Committee was placed on artistic execution and the use of a Polish motif. Artists employed a variety of techniques to create these items. Some were monochromatic, others in two colors, and the nicest were multicolor. There is, however, no definite information as to where these cards were printed.

Some of these holiday cards were mailed without

envelopes, as “open” cards. They were issued in formats similar to that of postal stationery cards, 148 x 105 mm. The vast majority of these cards were issued in a smaller format, a commonly used dimension in Switzerland (about 109-110 x 87-88 mm after folding) and were mailed in small envelopes.

Please note, the cards presented in this article are not of a philatelic nature. They are not postal issued items and should be treated as occasional stationery. The hobby of collecting post cards, view cards and similar items is called Deltiology.

Our first Christmas card was issued in 1941. Shown on the back side (**Figure 1**) is Santa and an opened package with four Polish soldiers from the Swiss internment inside, next to a Christmas tree. The process of reproduction of the hand drawn image is not known. The card was sent in an open format, with postage stamps applied, and was most certainly mailed from outside the camp (**Figure 2**).



Figures 1 & 2

In 1942, two different cards in a larger format appeared, “Święta Noc (Holy Night) 1942” (**Figure 3**) and “Boże Narodzenie (Christmas) 1942” (**Figure 4**). These cards were mailed postage free from the internment camp, with a camp designation stamp and censor mark, but without an origination city (**Figure 5**).



Figures 3, 4 & 5

From 1942, the first cards in a new smaller format also appeared. These were issued in two designs. The first design, “Szopka Betlejemska (Bethlehem Nativity)” (Figure 6) is shown in a green color but is known to exist in light brown and red colors. This design was issued in the vertical format. The second design, “Święta Rodzina (Holy Family)” (Figure 7) is shown in light brown color but it is known to exist in red colors. This design was issued in a horizontal format.



Figures 6 & 7

Cards of the smaller format were mailed in small envelopes (Figure 8) with a stamp of the internment camp, censor stamp and frequently the city of mailing.

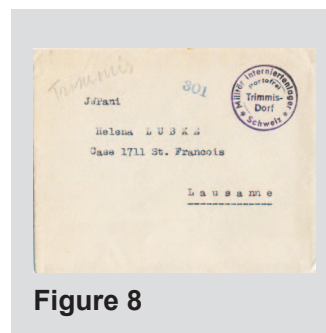


Figure 8

Two card designs were also issued for the 1943 holidays. The first design, “Świeczka na Świerka Galazce (Candle on Fir Branch)” (Figure 9) is shown in a red and blue color but a red and brown color variation is also known to exist. This card was

issued in a horizontal format. The second design, “Anioł z Skrzypcami i Szopka (Angel with Violin and Nativity)” (Figure 10) is shown in a brown and red color combination but a brown and green color variation is also known to exist. This card was issued in a vertical format



Figures 9 & 10

Another two designs were introduced for the 1944 holidays. The first design, “Carolers with Children” (Figure 11) is shown in a green and red color combination, but a blue and red combination is also known to exist. This card was issued in a horizontal format. The second design, “Three Kings” (Figure 12) is shown in a blue and red color combination, but a green and red combination is also known to exist. This card was also issued in a horizontal format.

Holiday Cards from Soldiers (Cont.)



Figures 11 & 12

Not all Polish soldiers returned home after the end of the war in 1945. By the latter part of that year a new card design was issued in dark blue, having dimensions of 116 x 85 mm with a Nativity scene illustration (Figure 13). A second design was issued for 1945, a card having dimensions of 147 x 104 mm. and bearing the design of a candle and the formation emblem of the 2nd Pieszych Rifles (Figure 14). If any readers know of other holiday cards for internees, please send information to the Polonus' POW Camps study group or to Piotr Pelczar at Piotr.Pelczar@wp.pl. Although this subject is not considered philatelic matter, there is interest in learning



Figures 13 & 14

how these cards document the Polish internment in Swiss POW camps.

Bibliography:

[1] Pelczar, P., *Przegląd Filatelistyczny* 2009, pp 106, 246-247, 391-392, 483-484, 534

[2] Pelczar, P., "Illustrated Holiday Formula Cards for Polish Soldiers Interned in Switzerland", translated by R. Sobus, *Bulletin of the Polonus Philatelic Society*, 2009, No. 537, pp 10-15

Mr. Pelczar is a member of Polonus and an expert of the Polish Philatelic Union specializing in Polish Postal Stationery. He is a regular contributor to this bulletin.

New Members

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

Jan Korzeniowski - #1702
30 Watling Street
Dartford, Kent
DA1 1RF United Kingdom

Robert Jarzen - #1703
2418 Hazelwood Lane
Clearwater, FL 33763

Ann R. Saari - #1704
414 NE Fir
P.O. Box 104
Ilwaco, WA 98624

Andrzej Ciborowski - #1705
615 Union Ave. #3R
Brooklyn, NY 11211

Leonard Sosnowski - #1706
7814 W. Old Sauk Road
Verona, WI 53593

Chester J. Zaremba - #1707
716 Kosciuszko Street
Nanticoke, PA 18634

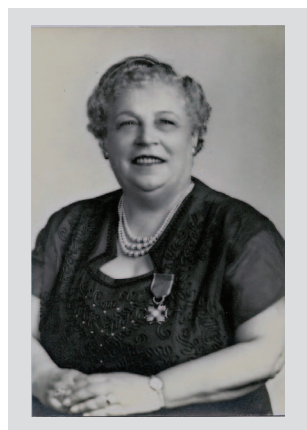
Craig Johnson - #1708
4332 NE 11th Street
Renton, WA 98059

Stefania Bardziłowska (1895-1968)

By: Jan Niebrzydowski

There are many existing letters addressed to Mrs. Stefania Bardziłowska, a Polish émigré from Boston and a social and charitable activist, who was involved in aiding Polish civilians as well as soldiers of the Polish Armed Forces in WW II. It might be interesting for those who did not know her, to learn a little about her life and activities.

She was born Stefania Walczewska in 1895 in Zagórze, near Sanok, a part of Poland that was under Austrian occupation at that time. She emigrated to the US shortly before WW I. In 1917, she married Władysław Bardziłowski, a tailor from Boston. They had two daughters and two sons.



Stefania Bardziłowska was greatly affected by the tragedy of WW II and determined to do everything that she could to help her compatriots, especially those soldiers who were in internment camps or with no means of livelihood, far away from their home country. She managed to make contact with them by

placing a newspaper advertisement saying that she was keen to help those in need to the extent possible.

Within a short space of time she began to receive letters from internees in Hungary and Romania, and also from Polish Army units in France. As the war spread to other parts of Europe, requests for help came from oflags (a prisoner of war camp for officers) and stalags (prisoner of war camp for enlisted men) in Germany, internment camps in Switzerland, the Carpathian Brigade, Polish Forces in Britain, the air force, naval personnel, the Parachute Brigade, General Stanisław Maczek's Division, the special operations unit "Cichociemni" and the Red Cross.

Stefania Bardziłowska also received requests for help from civilians especially in the immediate aftermath of the war. Most of the letters asked for assistance in tracing missing persons in the US or establishing contact with family or friends in occupied Poland. Others asked for aid parcels. The most touching letters came from those who sought a compassionate soul whom they could tell about their deportation and traumatic experiences in the Soviet Union. Mrs. Bardziłowska had about 1000 correspondents. Her two daughters, Marysia and Zosia, helped her.

After the war, many of her correspondents who felt unable to go back to Poland, which in the meantime fell under Soviet Communist rule, and wished to migrate to the USA, asked her to sponsor them. Most of her correspondence from this period was deposited in the Piłsudski Institute in New York. The collection comprises 25 volumes consisting of several thousand letters. It is a valuable archive which could well serve as a primary source for historians wishing to write about the struggle and suffering of the Polish people during WW II.

Mrs. Bardziłowska also gave away some thousand cards and letters to individual collectors. These were available on the philatelic market in the USA some 25-30 years ago. I was able to purchase some of these cards and letters for my collection and I hope to present the most interesting items in a series of articles in future issues of the *Polonus Bulletin*.

The covers featured in this article are from the Independent Carpathian Rifle Brigade and the beginnings of General Anders 2nd Polish Corps ME 1942 – 1943 from locations in Egypt, Libya, Palestine and Iraq.

All the letters presented here have been stamped on the front and back by other FPOs (British, Indian and Polish) in addition to bearing various censorship cachets, labels and marks. I will not, however, list them here, as it is my intention to show these extremely rare postal objects and the great diversity and geographical spread of Mrs. Bardziłowska's contacts rather than interpret the routing, censorship and related markings.

Stefania Bardziłowska (Cont.)



Figure 1

Figure 1 shows a registered letter with content (special Australian Army form) sent by J. Pater serving with the Independent Carpathian Rifle Brigade from the area of El Gazala in Libya to Mrs. Bardziłowska in Boston. The postage was paid with Egyptian stamps valued at 150 mills and sent through the Polish Field Post Office (FPO) no. 101 but was actually dispatched through the Egyptian FPO (Egypt Postage Prepaid 64) on the 12 February 1942. This was because FPO no. 101 did not at that time have its own seal with dater. The return address of the Carpathian Brigade is listed as: Polish Forces Cairo ME Egypt. This letter is stamped on the back by the receiving post office in Boston on 14 April 1942. The sender, J. Pater, took part in the siege of Tobruk, Libya in 1941 and fought at Monte Cassino, Italy in 1944.

Figure 2

Figure 2 shows a registered air mail letter sent through FPO no. 111 in Quastina in Palestine on 8 September 1942 with British stamps valued at 27 d. Receiving date in Boston is 3 October 1942.



Figure 3

Figure 3 shows a registered air mail letter sent through FPO no. 121 in Jalaula, Iraq on 20 November 1942 with Indian stamps valued at 28 asa. Receiving date in Boston is 3 January 1943.



Figure 4

Figure 4 shows an air mail letter sent from FPO 111 in Mosul, Northern Iraq on 9 April 1943 with Indian stamps valued at 1 rupee and 5 annas.

Figure 5

Figure 5 shows a registered air mail letter sent through FPO 112 from As Sadiya, Iraq on 27 May 1943 with Indian stamps valued at 25 asa. Receiving date in Boston is 27 June 1943.



Figure 6

Figure 6 shows an air mail letter sent through FPO 121 in Altun Kopru, Iraq on 4 June 1943 with Indian stamps valued at 28 asa. In writing this letter, the sender, J. Pater, attached a pressed flower, which has remained intact until this day. In a time of war, it was the only gift he was able to give Mrs. Bardziłowska in return for her help.

By: Dr. Paul Phillips

It is not often that one comes across a cover that is worth a whole article, especially if it is from the modern era. About 20 years ago while attending one of the monthly Strand Stamp Fairs in London I was able to pick up a few Polish WWII items from an elderly Polish dealer, who was selling off much of his collection. The most beautiful item is the one illustrated in **Figure 1**, which I obtained for about \$20.



Figure 1: *The Cover*

The cover was of interest because it was amazingly clean and fresh and it bore a Polish Field Post Office receiving mark (Type L5 of Kay & Negus, Polish Exile Mail in Great Britain 1939-49), allowing the arrival to be dated. The British policy with all naval covers was that they should bear a dumb cancel and that no evidence of the name or location of the ship or sender should be present anywhere in the mailing. The cover was not sent by ordinary sea mail, as that would have been free, but bears a 5d stamp to pay for airmail.

The naval censor mark in the bottom left corner was overwritten in manuscript By Air Mail. It also bears

the date of censorship (6 II 43) and the initials of the censoring officer (A.O.) The addressee was Stefan Osóbka at P/31 Polish Forces, Scotland, which was the cryptonym of the 10th Supply Column of the 1st Army Division (10 Kompania Zaopatrywania, 1 Dyw. Panc.).

So, it is a nice cover, but what makes it so special? Unknown to the Polish gentleman who sold me the cover, and also to me for about five years, is the fact that the sender had found a way (totally illegally) of writing his name and that of his ship on the envelope!

One day, when I was going through some covers to see if there were any contents, I found that the personal information had been written on the inside of the flap. Obviously it had eluded the censor also. Inside is written:

J Nowicki
O.R.P. Błyskawica
GPO London

So what does this mean? It means that Pan Nowicki was serving on the pride of the Polish Navy, the 2,144 ton escort destroyer with a complement of 180 personnel. ORP Błyskawica was a Grom-class destroyer serving with the Royal Navy during World

War II and is currently preserved as a museum ship in Gdynia. It is the only ship of the Polish Navy awarded with the Virtuti Militari medal, as well as the oldest preserved destroyer in the world (Polish Navy website www.navy.mw.mil.pl).

She was the latter of two Grom (Thunder)-class destroyers, built for the Polish Navy by J. Samuel White, of Cowes on the Isle of Wight. The name means Lightning. The two Groms were some of the most heavily armed and fastest destroyers on the seas before World War II. The Błyskawica was built between 1935 and 1937 and accepted by the Polish Navy on 25 November 1937. By agreement with

the Admiralty in London, the Błyskawica, the Grom and the Burza (all modern destroyers) left Gdynia on the 30th of August 1939 and arrived in Rosyth, Scotland, on the day that the German attacked their homeland. They were immediately given patrol duties in the North Sea by the Royal Navy. All three spent most of the war in home waters (British) generally escorting convoys.



Figure 2:
Wartime photo of the Błyskawica

Remarkably the first action for the Błyskawica was on the 7th of September 1939 when she sank the first German U-boat! The Grom was sunk on 5 May 1940 in Norwegian waters

after participating in the Narvik campaign a month earlier. The Błyskawica escorted the Queen Mary and the Queen Elizabeth when they served as troopships, as it was one of the few warships available that could keep up with them! Both the Burza

and the Błyskawica survived the war and returned to Poland.

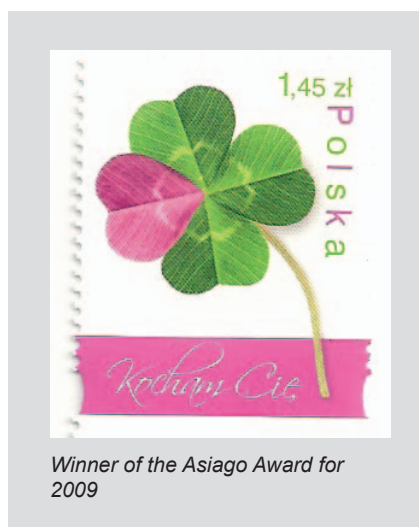
After a career too long to detail here the Burza was towed back to Poland and became a museum ship in Gdynia in 1962, but was broken up in 1977. The Błyskawica sailed back under its own steam and became the flagship of the Polish Navy until the late 1960s. In 1976 it replaced the Burza as the museum ship in Gdynia and can still be visited there.

One of the greatest stories about the ship relates to a major German attack on Cowes, Isle of Wight, the Błyskawica's birthplace, on May 4 - 5, 1942. Coincidentally, the Błyskawica was there for emergency repairs and was able to defend the town and its docks from the enemy. It is generally believed that without this defensive action, it would have been much worse. In 2002, the crew was honoured by a celebration to mark the 60th anniversary of the event. In 2004, an area of Cowes was named Francki Place in honour of the ship's commander. The Isle of Wight Council wants the Błyskawica to return to Cowes in 2012 to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the event and the 75th Anniversary of the ship's commissioning.

Polish Stamp Wins Top Design Award

By: Bob Ogrodnik

Poland's Valentine's Day stamp won the Asiago International award for philatelic art for stamps issued in 2009. Designed by Magdalena Błażków, the 1.45 zł stamp features a four-leaf clover with heart-shaped leaves, one pink and the others green. The inscription on the stamp is "Kocham Cię" which translates to "I love you". This small work of art has been printed using the offset method on fluorescent paper in a 20 stamps per sheet format. The stamp was issued on February 6, 2009 and has a circulation of one million.



The Asiago awards are considered the "Oscars of the stamp design field". Asiago is a town in north-eastern Italy normally known for its cheese. Now we have another reason to appreciate Asiago. Poland continues to gain recognition for its stamp designs. This is the second consecutive year in which Poland received the Asiago award for philatelic art. Last year, the 3 zł stamp commemorating the Post Europe Plenary Assembly in Kraków and designed by Janusz Wysocki won the award.

Porto Stracono – Payment Removed

By Chris Kulpinski

The franking for this advertising postcard from Germany (**Figure 1**) was inadequate because the sender paid the German local postcard rate rather than an international postcard rate. The red box notation, applied in Germany, reads Nachgebühr (Payment Due), with the numeral “28” in red.

The card was delivered to the post office in Katowice where the normal procedure was for the postman to adhere the postage due stamps, deliver the card and collect the fees from the recipient.

However, the recipient very likely read the card and refused to accept it because of the postage due. The postman had no recourse but to take the card back to the post office where he stamped the card NIEPRZYJĘTE // Réfusé (and wrote) because of the postage due. He then signed the notation stating why he didn't collect the monies. (**Figures 2 & 3**)



Figure 1 -
Card mailed from Osnabrück, Germany to Katowice, Poland and dated 21.5.1928

Since there were no monies collected, the clerk then invalidated the postage due stamps with the Porto Stracono hand stamp. (**Figure 4**)

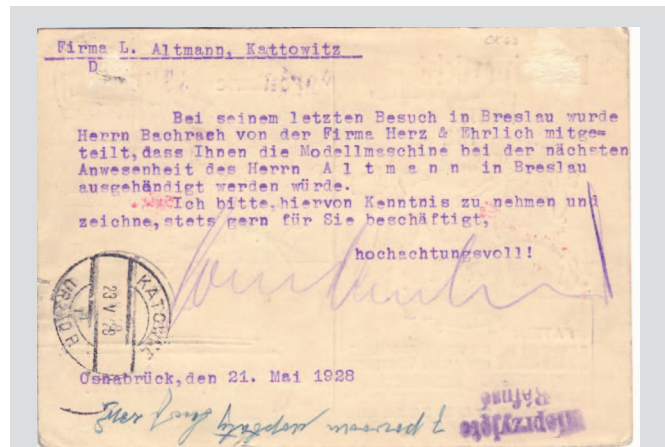


Figure 2: Reverse of the above post card with a Katowice receiving mark, dated 23.V.28

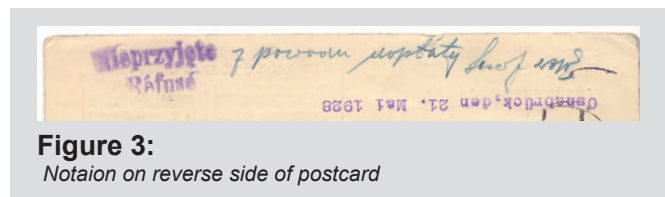


Figure 3:
Notation on reverse side of postcard



Figure 4: Invalidation of postage due

For Sale

Contact: Bob Ogrodnik
P.O.Box 240428
Ballwin, MO 63024-0428
Tel: (314) 821-6130
E-mail: kpsl@earthlink.net

Fischer Katalog 2003, TOM I, in excellent condition. \$12 (includes postage within USA).

Fischer Katalog 2007, TOM I, in excellent condition. \$17 (includes postage within USA).

BOOK REVIEW: Poczta Polska / Gen. – Gouv. Warschau

By: Dr. James Mazepa

POCZTA POLSKA / GEN. – GOUV. WARSCHAU
by Lesław Schmutz and Kazimierz Sztaba, Kraków
2009, published by Fischer Poligrafia, Bytom, Poland, 156 pages, in color, soft cover.

Without a doubt, the “Poczta Polska / Gen. - Gouv. Warschau” issue of 1918-1919 is one of the most complex issues of Poland. Scott lists 11 different basic values. The two different Polish overprinting forms, used to obliterate the Gen.- Gouv. Warschau occupation overprints, increases the list to 21 values. When one adds the different color varieties of the Deutsches Reich mother stamp, the list expands to 56 values. Finally there are constant (as opposed to transient) printing varieties that increase the list to 328 varieties, not counting inverted and double overprints!

Many articles have been printed on various facets of this issue, but not until now has there been such a definitive and comprehensive study in one source. The authors start with analysis of the basic Germania (mother stamp) issue and the different types of inks used to overprint those issues to produce the occupation issue. This is followed by an extensive description of the printing process of the Polish (Poczta Polska) overprint. This is the only stamp issued, first for domestic use by a country, subsequently overprinted for use by that country as an occupation issue, and finally overprinted by the occupied country for use as a provisional issue. (*Editor's Note: For a basic overview of this issue refer to the article “Overview*

of 1918 Second Provisional Issue – ABCs of Philately printed in Bulletin 523).

In addition to the Polish overprint varieties included in The Fischer Catalog the authors have identified several additional constant and transient printing varieties. Collectors of this issue should to be aware of these new varieties. They may be already hiding in your collection or a dealers stock waiting to be discovered.



The authors also provide, just as Mikstein did with the Kraków issue, a study of each of the 100 positions of forms I and II. They give enlarged photos of the particular characteristics of the “Poczta Polska” and bars of each position which could now enable a collector (with a great deal of patience) to plate this issue. They also give the key characteristics of each position of the “5” and “25” numeral overprints.

Information on the proofs, forgeries, and fantasy issues conclude this work. The book is in Polish. However, the book is fully illustrated with hundreds of color plates and contains all the printing data and error tables in a

single source. The Polonus Polish/English Dictionary on the Polonus website will assist the user with this book. Ultimately we hope to obtain an English translation of the text in the future.

The book is available from Bieniecki Int'l. Inc for \$40 including P/H in North America. You may order by email at hank@biistamp.com or via mail at P.O. Box 760, Maryville, IL. 62062



Date of Issue	June 6, 2010
Sheet Format	20 Stamps
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Jacek Konarzewski

Beatification of Father Jerzy Popiełuszko

This 1.95 zł stamp celebrates the beatification of Father Jerzy Popiełuszko, the famous Catholic priest associated with the Solidarity Union who was murdered by agents of the Polish Internal

Intelligence Agency (Służba Bezpieczeństwa) in 1984. A staunch anti-communist, he openly voiced protest from the pulpit during the period of martial law. Many of his sermons were regularly broadcast by Radio Free Europe. On June 6, 2010, his mother (now 100 years old) attended the beatification ceremony at Warsaw's Piłsudski Square. The official first day cover depicts numerous and different rosaries arrayed across the top of the envelope, and the cancellation appears to show hand-written text from one of his sermons.



Date of Issue	June 24, 2010
Sheet Format	50 Stamps
Printing Method	Rotogravure
Designer	Jacek Brodowski

Anniversary of the Dominican Convent of Ursuline Sisters in Sieradz

This 1.55 zł stamp commemorates the establishment of the Ursuline Convent in Sieradz (German: Schieratz) one of Poland's oldest

towns, on the Warta River in central Poland. The Ursuline religious order was founded by St. Angela de Merici of Lombardy for the purpose of educating young girls. The habit of this order is characteristically black and white, with a black veil. The stamp and the first day cover and cancellation depict views of the old historic convent.



Date of Issue	July 15, 2010
Sheet Format	Single Stamps in SS
Printing Method	Rotogravure
Designer	Marzanna Dąbrowska

600th Anniversary of Battle of Grunwald

This 8.30 zł stamp in a souvenir sheet celebrates the July 15, 1410, victory of the military forces of King Władysław II Jagiełło of Poland-Lithuania over the army of the Grand Master of the Teutonic Knights, Ulrich von Jungingen. This battle was fought on the plains

between three villages: Grunwald (German: Grunfelde), Stębark (German: Tannenberg), and Łodwigowo (German: Ludwigsdorf). Before the battle the Knight's Grand Master sent 2 swords to "assist" the combined Polish-Lithuanian forces, who deemed this an insult and provocation. The decisive victory of the Polish-Lithuanian forces made the Polish-Lithuanian union the dominant political and military power in North-East Europe for many years. The stamp design depicts part of Jan Matejko's famous painting of the battle scene. [This same painting was utilized in the 550th anniversary stamp issued in 1960.]



Date of Issue	July 17, 2010
Sheet Format	
Printing Method	Rotogravure
Designer	Małgorzata Osa

100 Years of the Polish Scouts Association

Today in Poland there are 12 independent scouting organizations, with a total membership of 190,000 scouts and guides. The largest organization is the Polish Scouting and Guides Association (Związek Harcerstwa Polskiego) (or ZHP) which was started in 1910 in Lwów by “Zarzewie”-activist Andrzej Małkowski; Zarzewie was a grassroots movement whose aim was to preserve Polish culture during the time of its partition. During its 100 years, ZHP has experienced many challenges, including the Nazi occupation and subsequent Communist persecution. In World War II the heroism

of the Grey Ranks (Szare Szeregi) is legendary in the resistance movement. This 1.95 zł stamp depicts a group of boy scouts signaling with flags – the message “sto lat” (a wish for long life). The first day cover cachet portrays the scout emblem and the first day cancellation shows a campfire.



Date of Issue	August 10, 2010
Sheet Format	
Printing Method	Rotogravure
Designer	Marzanna Dąbrowska

Flowers and Fruits (Forget-Me-Nots)

This 4.15 zł stamp depicts beautiful blue flowers with yellow centers, along with pink seed pods – Forget-Me-Nots (Niezapominajka). These flowers

bloom in the spring and historically represent love and devotion in Europe.



Date of Issue	August 31, 2010
Sheet Format	
Printing Method	Offset with dry embossing
Designer	Agnieszka Sobczyńska

30th Anniversary of the Creation of NSZZ “Solidarność”

This 3.75 zł stamp recognizes NSZZ “Solidarność” (Niezależny Samorządny Związek Zawodowy “Solidarność”) (English: Independent Self-governing Trade Union “Solidarity”). In commemorating the founding of the Solidarity trade union, this 3.75 zł stamp pictures the large cranes of the Gdańsk shipyard in the background and Lech Wałęsa in the right foreground. The first day cover is colored a bright red with a black and white photo insert showing a crowd of protestors listening to a speaker at a union rally.



Date of Issue	September 3, 2010
Sheet Format	
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Anna Niemierko

Minerals of Poland

These four different stamps each depict a specific mineral that is found in Poland. The 1.5 zł stamp shows Sfaleryt (Sphalerite); the 1.95 zł stamp shows Gips (Gypsum); the 2.4 zł stamp shows Agat (Agate); and the 3 zł stamp depicts Chryzopraz (Chrysoprase/Chrysoprasus). In addition, four different first day covers

were issued, each with a distinctive colorful cachet.



Date of Issue	October 9, 2010
Sheet Format	
Printing Method	Rotogravure
Designer	Maciej Jędrzyk

World Post Day

This humorous 1.95 zł stamp shows five blue-uniformed mailmen standing and configured in a 3-tier pyramid formation. The first day cover cachet shows a single mailman walking a tightrope to deliver the mail.



Date of Issue	October 24, 2010
Sheet Format	20 Stamps
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Magdalena Błażków

Capital Cities of EU States

These two stamps constitute part of a continuing series of Polish issues entitled "European Capitals,"

this time recognizing Sofia, Bulgaria (1.95 zł denomination) and Bukareszt or Bukarest, Romania (3 zł denomination). Each stamp shows an historic site in the respective cities, together with a ring of twelve 5-pointed stars. The first day cover for the Sofia issue includes a Cyrillic spelling of the city.