

## **February 2022 New Stamp Issues Polonus Bulletin**

### **Chinese Zodiac Signs**

One more in a series of annual issues on this subject, this 4-zł stamp celebrates the Chinese zodiac sign for 2022, the Year of the Tiger (*Rok tygrysa*). The Tiger embodies the characteristics of courage and bravery, resilience and strength, and perhaps hope for positive change. The sign of the Tiger recurs every 12 years: those born in these years are said to be born leaders who command respect.

The bright red stamp shows the head of a tiger and the Chinese hǔ character for tiger. It is perforated for either a circular or square shape. The pane includes QR and numeric bar codes in the margin. The official first day cover depicts Chinese lanterns. Over 40 countries have issued commemorative stamps in 2022 to recognize the Year of the Tiger [Bitter Grounds Magazine website].

<b>Date of Issue</b>	<b>February 1, 2022</b>
<b>Sheet Format</b>	<b>Pane of 8 Stamps</b>
<b>Printing Method</b>	<b>Offset</b>
<b>Designer</b>	<b>Andrzej Gosik</b>



## 80th Anniversary of the Founding of the Home Army

Poland's Home Army (*Armia Krajowa* or AK) is honored on this 3.60-zł stamp that celebrates the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding on February 14, 1942. Immediately after the invasion of Poland by Germany and the Soviet Union in September 1939, the armed resistance group known as Service for Poland's Victory (*Służba Zwycięstwu*) was formed; this organization was merged into the Union of Armed Struggle (*Związek Walki Zbrojnej*) in November 1939; and then it became the AK by the direction of Supreme Commander General Władysław Sikorski at the Polish Government-in-Exile in London. The size of the AK grew from about 100,000 to over 300,000 members from 1942 to

1944. It operated as part of Poland's famous Underground State (*Państwo Podziemne*), constituting Europe's largest resistance movement in World War II [Norman Davies, *God's Playground*, 1979].

The AK sabotaged German operations in Poland, including the derailment and destruction of trains and railroad bridges. It supplied intelligence information to the Allies, including information documenting the Holocaust. It executed Nazi commanders and prominent Nazi collaborators. And it fought against the Germans in many localized operations, and most famously in the unsuccessful Warsaw Uprising in August – October 1944. Following the war, many thousands of former AK operatives were arrested by the communist authorities and deported to Soviet gulags and prisons, and senior officers were executed. A few of the former AK soldiers continued underground activities against communist rule, becoming known as *Cursed Soldiers* (*Żołnierze wyklęci*). Recently Polish President Andrzej Duda honored the AK by placing wreaths on the graves of AK commanders in Warsaw. Unfortunately, the AK's posture toward Polish Jews during the war remains a controversial subject [Joshua Zimmerman, *The Polish Underground (AK) and the Jews...*, 2019].

The scope of philatelic recognition of the AK has been extensive: in 1991, five stamps were issued to honor generals associated with the AK; in 1992, two stamps and a souvenir sheet recognized the AK; and in 1993, AK soldiers were again honored in a souvenir sheet. More recently, a stamp was issued on September 27, 2019, on the Polish Underground State - a summary description of this stamp appeared in *Polonus* Issue 582 in March 2021. Several different stamps have honored the *Cursed Soldiers*. A postal card issued on September 27, 2021, on the Heroes of the Gray Ranks (*Armia Krajowa-Szare Szeregi*) will be described in an upcoming issue of the *Polonus* Bulletin.

This stamp portrays Iwona Krugłowska, a female operative in the AK, who served as a liaison officer to administer and control financial resources in the AK, while also working at the Main Post Office in Warsaw. She was arrested in May 1944, tortured and then shot to death by the Nazis. The Polish eagle and AK anchor symbols are shown on the tab in the pane; the anchor (*kotwica*) actually consists of the letters P and W crossed together, standing for *Polska Walcząca* or *Fighting Poland*. The pane includes informative QR and numeric bar codes.

<b>Date of Issue</b>	<b>February 14, 2022</b>
<b>Sheet Format</b>	<b>Single in Pane of 5 with Tab</b>
<b>Printing Method</b>	<b>Offset</b>
<b>Designer</b>	<b>Jarosław Ochendzan</b>



### **100th Anniversary of the Civil Service**

On February 17, 1922, the Polish Parliament passed an act regulating the legal and social status of civil servants in the Second Republic of Poland, entitled the State Civil Service Act. This 3.60-zł stamp commemorates this law, which has been modified several times, most recently on November 21, 2008.

The law, as amended, establishes the terms and conditions for entering national government service, defines the employer-employee relationship, including disciplinary procedures, and sets forth the rights and duties of state administrative employees.

There are 3.4 million government workers in Poland (2020); this number does not include police, teachers, members of the armed forces, and local government officials. [Jolanta Itrich-Drabarek, "The Civil Service in Poland...", 2015]. The margins of the pane include informative QR and numeric bar codes.

<b>Date of Issue</b>	<b>February 17, 2022</b>
<b>Sheet Format</b>	<b>Single in Sheet of 50</b>
<b>Printing Method</b>	<b>Photogravure</b>
<b>Designer</b>	<b>Jacek Konarzewski</b>



### **30th Anniversary of Polish-Azerbaijani Diplomatic Relations**

This A-denominated (3.60-zł) postal card commemorates the 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Poland and Azerbaijan, restored anew in 1992 after the fall of communism in Poland and the disintegration of the Soviet Union. The entire history of the two countries' diplomatic relations was summarized in the description of the stamp issued for the 100th anniversary of their diplomatic relations on February 20, 2020, and included in Polonus Bulletin 583 in June 2021.

The imprinted postage on the card shows the flags of the two nations; and the remainder of the card shows the two nations' flags intertwined as puzzle pieces, signifying their similar history and continuing close relationship.

**Date of Issue**  
**Printing Method**  
**Designer**

**February 21, 2022**  
**Offset**  
**Jan Konarzewski**



## **Diplomatic Missions after Regaining Independence**

After its re-emergence as a sovereign state in 1918, Poland endeavored to secure a place in the world community by establishing diplomatic relations with other nations. These developments have been recognized in recent years by the Polish Post's issuance of stamps and postal cards that commemorate Poland's long-term amicable diplomatic ties with a total of 11 different countries. However, in general, the Second Polish Republic experienced internal political dissension, a weak economy and little foreign trade, and difficult diplomatic relations with its neighbors.

This 4-zł stamp recognizes in general Poland's early foreign diplomatic efforts, and specifically displays the ornate Polish embassy in Ankara, Turkey. Official diplomatic relations between the precursors of the two states were first established in the 15th Century. Over time, their relations have been complex and often adversarial. In the 17th Century, their armies fought at the Battle of Vienna. However, the Ottoman Empire

later refused to recognize the final partition of Poland in 1795. After the end of World War II, Poland was one of the first countries to recognize the new state of Turkey. Nevertheless, Poland also condemned the Turkish invasion of Cyprus and has acknowledged the Armenian genocide. More recently, Turkey supported Poland's accession to NATO in 1999, and Poland now supports Turkey's accession to the EU. In 2009, the two nations signed a *Declaration of Turkish-Polish Strategic Partnership*. In 2017, Turkish President Erdoğan paid an unofficial visit to Poland. Bilateral trade between the two nations has grown and now exceeds \$6.45 billion (2018). The pane of stamps displays both QR and numeric bar codes.

**Date of Issue**  
**Sheet Format**  
**Printing Method**  
**Designer**

**February 28, 2022**  
**Single in Pane of 12**  
**Offset**  
**Poczta Polska SA**

