

# New Issues

Frank Karwoski

## Easter

This year's two Easter (*Wielkanoc*) stamps, denominated 6 zł and A (2.60 zł), each show traditionally decorated Easter eggs (*pisanki*). The stamps specifically recognize the Easter Egg Bourse, an annual event held in Leipzig, Germany, where exhibitors show their traditional art.



This year exhibitors came from Germany, Hungary, Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia, Netherlands, Belgium, Serbia and United Kingdom.

All kinds of eggs are selected for decoration, ranging from tiny wild bird eggs to ostrich eggs, and many of the creations are for sale. The decorated eggs are said to symbolize renewed life in spring.

In Poland, eggs are decorated using the molten-wax technique on the Saturday before Easter. Egg painting is thought to date back to talismanic pagan rituals more than 5,000 years old.

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| <b>Date of Issue</b>   | March 15, 2017                       |
| <b>Sheet Format</b>    | 2 different stamps each sheet of 100 |
| <b>Printing Method</b> | Photogravure                         |
| <b>Designer</b>        | Agnieszka Sancewicz                  |

## 700 Years of Lublin

This 2.60-zł stamp recognizes Lublin, the ninth largest city in Poland, and the nation's largest city east of the Vistula River. Located about 106 miles southeast of Warsaw on the Bystrzyca River, the original settlement developed around a medieval castle established by High Duke Casimir II the Just.



In 1317 it received town rights, and following the Polish-Lithuanian Union of Krewo in 1385, its economic development accelerated because of its strategic location between Vilnius and Kraków. The city's residents had the benefit of free trade in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania.

Following World War I, the first independent Polish government was proclaimed in Lublin in 1918 and 13 famous

postage stamps were issued on overprinted Austrian issues. The picturesque and historic Old Town in the city has been preserved, as shown in the panoramic view on the stamp and official first day cover.

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| <b>Date of Issue</b>   | March 15, 2017        |
| <b>Sheet Format</b>    | Single in sheet of 50 |
| <b>Printing Method</b> | Photogravure          |
| <b>Designer</b>        | Andrzej Gosik         |

## We Remember (*Pamiętamy*) 10.04.2010

This 5 zł stamp solemnly marks the tragic 2010 Smolensk plane crash in which Lech Kaczyński, president of Poland, his wife Maria Kaczyńska, Ryszard Kaczorowski, the last president of Poland in exile, and 93 other dignitaries died. The names of all the other deceased are recorded in the lower part of the souvenir sheet.



The delegation of highest ranking Polish military and civilian leaders were on a mission to commemorate the Katyń Massacre in Russia, when their plane, a Tupolev TU154M, crashed trying to land in foggy weather, leaving no survivors.

Polish Parliamentary Speaker Bronisław Komorowski immediately became acting president and a week of national mourning was declared. Not since World War II has Poland experienced such grief.

Some 196 countries and 13 international organizations expressed condolences. Russian President Dmitry Medvedev ordered an investigation of the crash, headed by Prime Minister Vladimir Putin. Although bad weather and pilot error were blamed, many in Poland still believe that the crash was the result of Russian foul play.

In 2016 the Law and Justice Party, led by Jarosław Kaczyński, twin brother of the deceased Lech Kaczyński, began a Polish inquiry into the crash and requested return of the wreckage of

the plane, including the two flight recorders, from the Russians, but Russia has refused.

The remains of many of the victims have recently been exhumed for analysis and in many instances the coffins were found to contain body parts of other people, thus indicating to some that the Russian post-crash effort was grossly deficient.

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| <b>Date of Issue</b>   | April 10, 2017          |
| <b>Sheet Format</b>    | Single in numbered SS   |
| <b>Printing Method</b> | Offset and dry printing |
| <b>Designer</b>        | Andrzej Gosik           |

### Europa

One more in a series of annual issues devoted to the designated Europa theme, this year's 5 zł stamp depicts a fictional castle (*zamek*) complex rising from the clouds.



Europa stamps are joint stamp issues sharing a common design theme of member states of the European Community from 1956-1959, the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications (CEPT) from 1960-92, and the PostEurop Association since 1993.

Europa stamps are intended to encourage cooperation among the various European postal administrations and promote thematic or topical stamp collecting. Each year's EUROPA theme aims to build awareness of the common roots, culture, and history of Europe.

Next year's theme is bridges.

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| <b>Date of Issue</b>   | May 5, 2017         |
| <b>Sheet Format</b>    | Single in pane of 6 |
| <b>Printing Method</b> | Offset              |
| <b>Designer</b>        | Karol Tabaka        |

### 150th Anniversary of Birth of Władysław Reymont

This 2.60-zł stamp honors the Polish novelist Władysław Stanisław Reymont (born Rejmont). Born in 1867 in the village of Kobile Wielkie, near Radomsko, the young Reymont had an unsettled early life, wandering to explore many different places in Poland and abroad.



Lacking much formal education, he nevertheless found his calling in writing. He published *Correspondence from Rogów, Koluszki, and Skierniewice* in *The Voice (Głos)* in Warsaw in 1892. Three years later he published his experiences traveling to Częstochowa, entitled *Pilgrimage to the Mountain of Light*. Thereafter, he began writing novels, including *The Deceiver*

(*Komendantka*), *The Promised Land (Ziemia Obiecana)*, *The Peasants (Chłopi)*, and *Revolt (Bunt)*.

In 1924 he won the Nobel Prize in Literature over such rivals as George Bernard Shaw, Thomas Hardy, Thomas Mann and his fellow Pole, Stefan Żeromski. It was his knowledge of grounded reality, not literary theory, that was his great strength in writing.

His novel *The Deceiver* tells the story of a rebellious young girl who joins a theatre group to escape from her ordinary life, only to find no fulfillment in her journey. *The Promised Land* describes the social panorama of the city of Łódź during the industrial revolution, where the struggle for survival destroys all who accept the rules of the rat race, as well as those who don't. It presents a dark vision of cynicism and a denunciation of both industrialization and urbanization.

In *The Peasants* he created a vivid picture of country life, describing the material reality, customs, behavior and spiritual culture of the people, written in the local dialect. The action takes place in Lipce, a real village, over a 10-month period, or one farming cycle, which regulates the eternal and repeatable rhythm of village life.

His last novel, *Revolt*, describes a revolt of farm animals as a metaphor for the Bolshevik Revolution and was later banned in communist Poland (along with George Orwell's similar later work, *Animal Farm*). He died in 1925 and is buried at Powązki Cemetery in Warsaw.

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| <b>Date of Issue</b>   | May 7, 2017          |
| <b>Sheet Format</b>    | Single in pane of 12 |
| <b>Printing Method</b> | Photogravure         |
| <b>Designer</b>        | Ewa Szydłowska       |

### The Magical World of Disney

Two stamps, denominated 5 zł and 3.20 zł, celebrate the popular 3-D, computer-animated, comedy-adventure film *Cars 3*, created by Pixar Animation Studios and released by Walt Disney Pictures in June 2017.



The film highlights the adventures of Lightning McQueen, a red race car. The film, a sequel to two earlier releases, has grossed over \$380 million worldwide.

Other video versions of the film have also been released, as well as remote-controlled toys.

The official first day cover includes an attractive yellow race car in the margin.

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| <b>Date of Issue</b>   | May 30, 2017             |
| <b>Sheet Format</b>    | 2 stamps in numbered SS  |
| <b>Printing Method</b> | Offset & screen printing |
| <b>Designer</b>        | Agnieszka Sancewicz      |

### *100th Anniversary of the Blue Army*

This 2.60-zł stamp recognizes the Polish Blue Army (Błękitnej Armii) organized by Gen. Józef Haller von Hallenburg in France during the later stages of World War I. The formation of the Blue Army was closely associated with America's entry into the war in April 1917.

Ignacy Jan Paderewski submitted a proposal to the U.S. House of Representatives to accept Polish-American volunteers for service in the war in the name of Polish independence. About 24,000 Polish-Americans, including many women volunteers, were sent to France to join Haller. U.S. President Woodrow Wilson formally promised in January 1918 to recreate a sovereign Polish state as a result.

The remainder of the army later transferred to Poland to join in the fighting for an independent Poland after fighting on the Western Front during the war.

The Blue Army played a pivotal role in the Polish victory in the Polish-Ukrainian War and later in the defeat of the Bolshevik forces during the Polish-Soviet War. Blue Army forces regrettably have been documented to have carried out anti-Semitic operations during the Polish-Ukrainian War, based on alleged Jewish collaboration against Poland.

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| <b>Date of Issue</b>   | May 31, 2017          |
| <b>Sheet Format</b>    | Single in sheet of 20 |
| <b>Printing Method</b> | Photogravure          |
| <b>Designer</b>        | Ewa Szydłowska        |

### *Astana EXPO 2017*

This 2.60 zł stamp recognizes the international energy exposition held from June 10 to September 10, 2017, in Astana, capital of Kazakhstan. The expo's theme was Future Energy.

The aim of the gathering was to create a global debate between nations, non-government organizations, companies and the general public on the critical question: How do we ensure safe and sustainable energy for all, while reducing carbon dioxide emissions? More than 100 countries participated.

The expo showcased future energy solutions, tackling social, economic and environmental challenges. Renewable energy sources were emphasized.

As shown on the stamp, the center of the 62-acre expo site was Nur Alem, an eight-story sphere with a diameter of nearly 250 feet; it is powered by a photovoltaic system and two wind turbines.



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| <b>Date of Issue</b>   | June 6, 2017                |
| <b>Sheet Format</b>    | Single in pane of 12 w/tabs |
| <b>Printing Method</b> | Offset                      |
| <b>Designer</b>        | Andrzej Gosik               |

### *Polish Credit Unions — Common Good*

This 2.60-zł stamp recognizes the value of Poland's credit and savings unions, an important source of funds for millions of poor and working class people, mainly in the country's rural areas and smaller cities.

Poland's savings and credit unions (known as SKOKs) (Spółdzielczych Kas Oszczędnościowo – Kredytowych) contain an estimated 3.7 billion euros in savings and 4.1 billion euros in total assets.

The stamp portrays Franciszek Stefczyk (1861-1924), founder of the credit cooperative movement in Poland. He promoted saving and thrift among low-income families. In 1890 he founded the first savings and credit union in Czernichów, near Kraków.

Many of Poland's credit and savings unions recently experienced financial problems; two have declared bankruptcy, two have been acquired by banks at deep discounts and two have been forced to merge with other credit and savings unions.

The Polish regulatory agency, the Polish Financial Supervision Authority (known as KNF) (Komisja Nadzoru Finansowego) is investigating credit unions it considers to be bankruptcy risks and has initiated appropriate reform actions.



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| <b>Date of Issue</b>   | June 8, 2017          |
| <b>Sheet Format</b>    | Single in sheet of 50 |
| <b>Printing Method</b> | Photogravure          |
| <b>Designer</b>        | Karol Tabaka          |