

New Issues

Frank Karwoski

150th Anniversary of Birth of Józef Piłsudski

This 10-zł stamp honors Poland's famous patriot and statesman, Józef Klemens Piłsudski; it shows him in uniform on his favorite horse, Chestnut (*Kasztanka*). Piłsudski was born in 1867 in the village of Zalavas (*Zulów*), Lithuania, which prior to 1939 was located in Poland. He considered himself a descendant of the culture and traditions of the historic Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. During World War I, Piłsudski founded and led the Polish Legions in the Austro-Hungarian Army. After the war in 1918 he returned home a national hero, and until 1922 was Poland's first chief of state. Under his rule, Poland fought the Red Army to reclaim lost territory, and at the Miracle of the Vistula in August 1920, successfully defeated far superior forces through the sheer determination of his troops. As a leader, Piłsudski sought a lasting balance of power in central Europe, seeking the self-government of its people against both Western and Eastern imperialism. He retired from government service in 1922, but returned in 1926 to seize dictatorial control. Refusing to accept the presidency, he instead concerned himself with military and foreign affairs until his death in 1935. Between 1945 and 1989, the Polish communist regime defined him as *persona non grata*. Since then however, his memory has been held in high esteem in Poland.



Date of Issue	December 5, 2017
Sheet Format	Single in Sheet of 35
Printing Method	Photogravure & Intaglio
Designer	Agata Tobolczyk & Przemysław Krajewski

Anders' Army – Trail of Hope

Organized by Władysław Albert Anders in 1941, this 5-zł stamp recognizes Anders' Army, a military force of Polish nationals; Anders' Army was organized in the Soviet Union. Through efforts of the British, the



Polish government-in-exile in London signed an agreement with the Soviet government. After the German invasion of the Soviet Union in June 1941, the Soviets sought to reestablish Polish-Soviet relations (terminated since 1939), and grant amnesty to thousands of Poles interned in POW camps; they were apprehended for the purpose of creating an army to help the Soviets fight the Germans. Prime minister and commander in chief of the Polish government-in-exile, Władysław Sikorski, nominated Anders as commander of the new army; Anders had just been released from detention at the Lubyanka prison in Moscow. By the end of 1941 the new army had grown to three infantry divisions. As the Soviets were unable to provide adequate rations to the growing Polish army, Stalin agreed to evacuate the army to Iran where operational control was transferred to the British government. Anders' Army moved through Iran to Palestine, and under British command, became the Polish II Corps which famously fought in the Italian campaign, including the Battle of Monte Cassino. While in Palestine, several thousand Jewish soldiers, including Menachem Begin, left Anders' Army to join the early efforts of creating a Jewish state. In 2015, Norman Davies published a book titled *Trail of Hope, An Odyssey across the Continents*, which tells the story of Anders' Army. These stamps are printed *tête-bêche*, and the official first day cover shows the route of Anders' Army across Asia, North Africa, and Europe.

Date of Issue	December 6, 2017
Sheet Format	Single in Sheet of 12
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Andrzej Gosik

Nine from Wujek Mine

This 2.60-zł stamp pays recognition to the nine coal miners massacred at the Wujek Coal Mine (*Kopalnia Wujek*) in December 1981, an incident often referred to as the Pacification of Wujek.



After the introduction of martial law by General Wojciech Jaruzelski, the Polish police and army attempted to break a workers strike at the mine as part of a large-scale national action against the Solidarity free trade union. During the strike the miners repeatedly fought government forces with their tools.

Eight companies of riot police with water cannons, three companies of military infantry fighting vehicles, and a company of tanks (30 vehicles total) were employed against the strikers. Government forces opened fire on the strikers, at the peak of events December 16, 1981, killing nine and wounding 21. The fatalities – their faces are depicted on this stamp – were: Jan Stawisiński, Joachim Gnida, Józef Czekalski, Krzysztof Giza, Ryszard Gzik, Bogusław Kopczak, Andrzej Pełka, Zbigniew Wilk, and Zenon Zajac. Although the strike was suppressed, it was one of many events leading to the collapse of the authoritarian communist regime in Poland, and ultimately to the collapse of the communist Eastern bloc. There is now a large memorial at the Katowice mine. The tragedy was portrayed in the 1994 film, *Death like a Slice of Bread* (*Śmierć jak Kromka Chleba*) by Kazimierz Kutz.

Date of Issue	December 16, 2017
Sheet Format	Single in a sheet of 100
Printing Method	Photogravure
Designer	Maciej Jędrzyk

Poland in the United Nations Security Council 2018-2019

This 3.70-zł stamp acknowledges Poland's election to the United Nations (UN) Security Council as a non-permanent member for 2018-2019. Poland is one of six new non-permanent members of the council; there are five permanent members. This is the sixth time Poland has held this mandate. Foreign Minister Witold Waszczykowski said Poland's priority on the council is to strengthen international law. Poland briefly held the security council presidency in May 2018, and again in late 2019. Poland's permanent representative at the UN is Ambassador Joanna Wronecka. Poland was not present at the inaugural conference of the UN in San Francisco in 1945. Nevertheless, it is one of the founding members. The UN was actually founded in January 1942 with the signing of the Declaration of the United Nations; there were 26 founding governments, which included the Polish wartime government-in-exile based in London.



Date of Issue	December 29, 2017
Sheet Format	Single in Pane of 6
Printing Method	Photogravure
Designer	Andrzej Gosik

100th Anniversary of the Creation of the Supreme Court

This 3.70-zł stamp commemorates the founding of the Polish Supreme Court (*Sąd Najwyższy*) in 1917; the court is the last resort of appeal against judgments of the lower courts, including all general and military courts. The Polish parliament in December 2017, approved legislation to give the Law and Justice Party control of judicial appointments and the Supreme Court. The Venice Commission of the Council of Europe has described this legislation as a grave threat which puts at risk the independence of all Polish judiciary. Proponents of the changes said the legislation is necessary to speed up the process of issuing judgments and to break the grip of a privileged caste of lawyers and judges. The new legislation will force all Supreme Court justices over age 65 to retire unless their terms are extended with Presidential approval; about 40 percent of the 86 Supreme Court judges are over age 65. The new legislation also includes a mechanism for extraordinary appeal; almost any case settled since Poland's present constitution was adopted in 1997, can be reopened if doing so has the support of the prosecutor general (who is also the justice minister).



Date of Issue	December 29, 2017
Sheet Format	Single in Pane of 9
Printing Method	Photogravure
Designer	Agata Tobolczyk

The Never Again! (Nigdy Więcej!)

This 2.60-zł stamp solemnly remembers the horrific Auschwitz Birkenau Concentration and Extermination Camp (1940-45) built and operated by Germany in occupied Poland during World War II. The facility was actually more than one camp. Auschwitz I was first constructed to house Polish political prisoners beginning in May 1940; exterminations began in September 1941. From early 1942 until late 1944, the much larger Auschwitz II-Birkenau became part of the Nazi's final solution to the Jewish question during the Holocaust. Jews were transported there from German-occupied Europe by transport trains for extermination in the camp's gas chambers. Staffed by 7,000 members of the German Schutzstaffel, more than 1.1 million people were killed at the camp; approximately 12 percent of the staff was later convicted



of war crimes. Some, including camp commandant Rudolf Höss, were executed. Despite early reports of atrocities at the camp, the Allied Powers did not bomb the camp or its railways during the war, an issue that remains controversial. The camp was liberated by Soviet troops on January 27, 1945, a day now commemorated as International Holocaust Remembrance Day. In 1979 the camp was designated by UNESCO as a world heritage site and now houses a museum.

Date of Issue	January 27, 2018
Sheet Format	Single in Pane of 12
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Marzanna Dąbrowska

XXIII Olympic Winter Games PyeongChang 2018

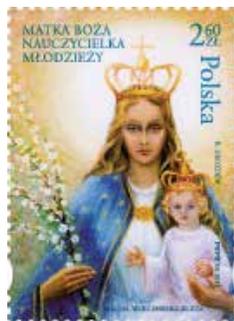
This 5.20-zł stamp recognizes the XXIII Olympic Winter Games held in PyeongChang, South Korea, in February 2018 (XXIII Zimowe Igrzyska Olimpijskie PyeongChang 2018). The Polish team had 62 athletes participating in 12 sports, the largest team ever. The stamp portrays conceptual images from the games: a mountain, snowflake, skis, and a course. The official first day cover emphasizes the unity of the team: *Jesteśmy jedna drużyna* (We are one team).



Date of Issue	February 1, 2018
Sheet Format	Single in Pane of 4
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Michał Korolec

Mother of God Teacher of Youth

This 2.60-zł stamp is dedicated to the Mother of God Teacher of Youth (*Matka Boża Nauczycielka Młodzieży*), an apparition reported by a young girl during World War II, and later memorialized in a painting. Beginning in May 1943, in the Siekierki district of Warsaw, a 12-year-old girl (Eugenia Władysława Ironczak) saw from her window multiple images of Mary with Jesus. The timing of the apparition also related to the feast day of Our Lady Queen of Poland. A sanctuary was constructed in Siekierki in 1946 to honor the apparition. In 1988, the sanctuary was expanded and became a church. The Polish painter Maria Wallenberg-Kluza painted the apparition, which is now displayed at the sanctuary



and portrayed on this stamp. The Catholic Church has not formally expressed its opinion on the apparition, however, there are ongoing plans to expand the Siekierki facility for pilgrims.

Date of Issue	February 4, 2018
Sheet Format	Single in Sheet of 20
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Bożydar Grozdev

XII Paralympic Winter Games PyeongChang 2018

The XII Paralympic Winter Games (Zimowe Igrzyska Paraolimpijskie), held in March 2018 in South Korea, are recognized on this 5.20-zł stamp. A total of 569 athletes from 49 nations participated in this international multi-sport event for athletes with disabilities; 80 events in six winter sports were featured. The U.S. won the most medals with a total of 36, while Canada was second with 28. Igor Sikorski won Poland's lone medal, a bronze, in Alpine skiing, giant slalom, sitting. The stamp shows him skiing down a mountain.



Date of Issue	March 1, 2018
Sheet Format	Single in Pane of 9
Printing Method	Photogravure
Designer	Karol Tabaka

Gorget of Cursed Soldiers

The second in a series on this subject, these two 6-zł stamps with tabs honor two of Poland's cursed, doomed, or damned resistance soldiers (*żołnierze wyklęci*) who fought in Poland in World War II, and later during communist rule. The stamps show the symbolic gorgets worn around the necks of two such soldiers; the tabs show photos of the soldiers.

One features Witold Pilecki (1901-48) (nom de guerre: Witold or Druh) a Polish cavalryman and intelligence officer. Pilecki co-founded the Secret Polish Army (*Tajna Armia Polska*), a resistance group in German-occupied Poland, and later became a member of the underground Home Army (*Armia Krajowa*). He is most famous for writing the first comprehensive Allied intelligence report (1941) on Auschwitz and the Holocaust after boldly entering the camp and then escaping. He continued his resistance activities through the Soviet-backed communist takeover of Poland, until his arrest for espionage in 1947, and his execution in 1948. Since the fall of communism in 1989, he has received numerous official honors.

Danuta Siedzikówna (1928-46) (nom de guerre: Inka) was a Polish national heroine who served as a medical orderly in the

Polish Home Army. She continued her resistance activities after the war until her capture and arrest in 1946 for subversion. She was found guilty, tortured, and executed at the age of 17 by firing squad at a prison in Gdańsk. She has received numerous honors in recent years. Poland's cursed soldiers are now recognized as heroes every March 1, a national holiday. A Museum of Cursed Soldiers is in Warsaw.

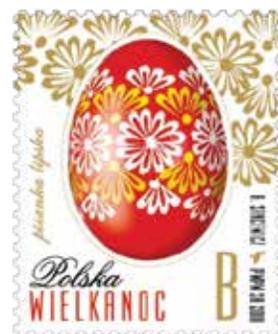


Date of Issue March 1, 2018
Sheet Format 2 Single Stamps with Tabs in SS
Printing Method Offset & Dry Printing
Designer Marzanna Dąbrowska

Easter (Wielkanoc)

This year's Easter stamp, with a "B" value or 3.20 zł, shows a colorfully decorated Leipzig Easter egg (Pisanka Lipska). An Easter Egg Market takes place in Leipzig each year, with over 30 exhibitors who provide insight into this traditional art.

The decoration of eggs dates back 5,000 years to Assyria and ancient Mesopotamia. In Polish lands, the oldest decorated eggs date to the 10th century (based on excavations in Ostrówek (near Opole) and Giecz). Sharing and gifting decorated Easter eggs (pisanki) symbolizes wishes for health and abundance. The decorated eggs are then placed in baskets and shared on Easter morning in a manner similar to sharing the wafer (*opłatek*) at Christmas. (Information from Lamus Dworski on the internet.)



Date of Issue March 6, 2018
Sheet Format Single in Sheet of 100
Printing Method Photogravure
Designer Marzanna Dąbrowska

Flowers and Fruits (Daffodil)

One more in a series on flowers and fruits (*kwiaty i owoce*), this 25-gr stamp depicts the Narcissus daffodil (*Narcyz żonkil*). The Narcissus is a genus of predominantly spring perennial plants of the Amaryllidaceae family; common names of plants in this genus include daffodils, amaryllis, and jonquils. The Narcissus has flowers with six petals crowned by a cup- or trumpet-shaped corona. The plants are native to meadows and woods in Southern Europe and North Africa. Historical accounts suggest that cultivated Narcissi became increasingly popular in much of Europe after the 16th century. The flowers have come to symbolize rebirth and new beginnings, and are virtually synonymous with spring. Poland issued a similar stamp showing a daffodil in 1964.



Date of Issue March 9, 2018
Sheet Format Single in Sheet of 100
Printing Method Photogravure
Designer Marzanna Dąbrowska

The Year of Irena Sendler

This 2.60-*zł* stamp honors the famous social worker, nurse, administrator, and humanitarian, Irena Sendler (1910 - 2008) (aka: Irena Sendlerowa; nom de guerre: Jolanta). Irena was a left-wing activist while attending the Free Polish University in Warsaw. In her job at the City Department of Social Welfare and Public Health, she participated in the Polish Underground. With dozens of others (mostly women), she aided smuggling Jewish children out of the Warsaw Ghetto, sheltering them from the Holocaust. From October 1943 she headed the children's section of Żegota, the underground Polish Council for Aid to the Jews (*Rada Pomocy Żydom przy Delegaturze Rządu RP na Kraj*). For her humanitarian efforts she has received many honors, including Poland's Order of the White Eagle; and inclusion in Israel's Righteous Among Nations at Yad Vashem.

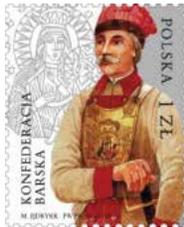


In 2007 and again in 2008 she was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. Several books, plays, and films honor her.

Date of Issue	March 9, 2018
Sheet Format	Single in Sheet of 100
Printing Method	Photogravure
Designer	Marzanna Dąbrowska

Bar Confederation

This 1-zł stamp commemorates the founding of the Bar Confederation (*Konfederacja Barska*), an organization of Polish nobles (*szlachta*) formed to defend the internal and external independence of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth against Russian intervention and the Polish King Stanisław II Augustus, who attempted to limit the power of the wealthy nobles. The Bar Confederation was formed in 1768 at the Bar fortress in Podolia under the leadership of Adam Krasiński, Karol Stanisław Radziwiłł, Kazimierz Pułaski, Maurycy Beniowski, and Michał Krasiński. With the aid of France, they waged war on Russia and loyalists to the Polish crown until their final defeat at the siege of Jasna Góra in 1772. This resulted in Poland's neighbors claiming anarchy existed in Poland, and that there was a need to step in and save the country and its citizens. The result was the First Partition of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth among Russia, Austria, and Prussia. The Bar Confederation is considered the first *Polish Uprising* of patriots who remained true to their motherland, inspiring later groups such as the Polish Legions and Polish forces-in-exile.



Date of Issue	March 31, 2018
Sheet Format	Single in Sheet of 100
Printing Method	Photogravure
Designer	Maciej Jędrzyk

Champion Kamil Stoch

This 3.70-zł stamp recognizes Kamil Wiktor Stoch, Poland's famous ski jumper. Born in 1987 near Zakopane, Stoch started skiing at the age of 3 and began ski jumping a year later. He has won numerous national and international ski jumping competitions. At the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia, he won two gold medals in ski jumping (both the normal and large hill). In 2016 in Pyeongchang, South Korea, he won another Olympic gold in large hill ski jumping. Stoch was a member of Poland's bronze medal large hill team in 2018. His widespread popularity in Poland has led to *Stochomania* in social media.



Date of Issue	April 14, 2018
Sheet Format	Single in Sheet of 100
Printing Method	Photogravure
Designer	Studio Konart & Ewa Bilan-Stoch

History of Polish Photography

These four stamps, part of a continuing series on this theme, recognize the photography of Ignacy Krieger (1817-89) and his photographic studio in Kraków. His ethnographic photos depicted various folks such as peasants, highlanders, and Hutsuls. In addition to his portraits and group photos, he documented many of the city's buildings and monuments. Two of these stamps, each valued at 2.60 zł, show a peddler selling boots and workers with brooms. The other two stamps, valued at 3.20 zł each, show a young man selling pretzels and an old man in a suit, sitting, which is Krieger himself. Approximately 9,000 of his plates were donated by his family to the Industrial Museum, and later to the Library of the Academy of Fine Arts. Since 1967, the Krieger collection has been housed at the Historical Museum of the City of Kraków (*Muzeum Historyczne Miasta Krakowa*). The two official first day covers show a couple of his historic photographs of buildings in Kraków. Krieger is buried at the new Jewish cemetery on Miodowa Street in the Kazmierz district of Kraków.



Date of Issue	April 24, 2018
Sheet Format	4 Different Stamps in Pane of 12
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Jarosław Ochendzan

My Homeland

This "A" denominated stamp (2.60 zł) recognizes the work of Mirosław Wiśniewski, whose major illustrated book titled *Poland Colors of My Land* (*Polska Barwy Mojej Ziemi*) was published in 1993. In this book, Wiśniewski shares his love for his native Poland, its majestic landscapes and natural beauty; it is profusely illustrated with his color his color photographs. Since 1992,

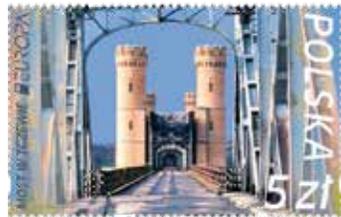


he and his wife have published 10 original photo albums picturing the landscapes of Poland. Besides being a photographer, Wiśniewski is an accomplished mountaineer, spelunker, and medical doctor. He participated in the first winter expedition to Mt. Everest in 1980 and assisted in the construction of the Polish Antarctic Station. The official first day cover shows symbolic images of Poland's forests, mountains, waters, skies and buildings.

Date of Issue	May 2, 2018
Sheet Format	Single in Sheet of 100
Printing Method	Photogravure
Designer	Bożydar Grozdew

Europa

This 5-zł thematic Europa stamp shows the steel Bridge of Tczew, or Vistula Bridge. The bridge was constructed between 1851 and 1857; its length of 837 meters made it one of the longest bridges in the world at the time. Originally the bridge had 10 towers and two gateways, but today only four towers remain. On September 1, 1939, this road bridge and an adjacent railroad bridge were destroyed by Polish sappers to prevent access to the city by the German Army. The bridges were rebuilt in 1940 and destroyed again in 1945 by the Germans. The last reconstruction of the bridges occurred in 1958-1959.



The town of Tczew is located in Eastern Pomerania, about 22 miles southeast of Gdańsk; the town's population is now over 60,000. In World War II, Tczew was one of the most damaged cities in Pomerania; its factories were destroyed and its population was reduced to 18,000 - 20,000 people.

Date of Issue	May 2, 2018
Sheet Format	Single in Pane of 6
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Roch Stefaniak

Flowers and Fruits (Lily of the Valley)

The lily of the valley (*Konwalia majowa*) is shown on this 6.80-zł stamp, another in a continuing series on flowers and fruits (*kwiaty i owoce*). This sweetly scented, highly poisonous, flowering woodland plant is classified in the family *Asparagaceae*, subfamily *Nolinoideae*, and genus *Convallaria*. Its white flowers bloom in April; each flower has



six white tepals at the base to form a bell-shape, 5-10 mm in diameter.

Although it is native to the cool temperate northern hemisphere in Asia and Europe, it has escaped cultivation and naturalized in much of temperate of the North America. The plant spreads underground using stems called rhizomes; it is widely cultivated in gardens as ground cover. Lily of the Valley is grown commercially for use in bouquets and has become a notable part of weddings, including those of Princess Grace of Monaco and Dutchess Catherine Middleton of England. It is the birth flower of May, and in religious paintings it is a symbol of humility.

Date of Issue	May 11, 2018
Sheet Format	Single in Sheet of 100
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Marzanna Dąbrowska

Mother of Zagłębie

This "B" stamp (3.20 zł) honors the Mother of Zagłębie (*Matka Zagłębia*), statue of the Most Holy Angelic Virgin Mary (with baby Jesus) from Dąbrowa Górnicza (*Najświętoza Maria Panna Anielska z Dąbrowy Górniczej*). The official first day cover shows a photo of Pope John Paul II's visit to the Cathedral of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Sosnowiec in 1999, while the statue was being transported. John Paul II is often called the "Pilgrim Pope" because of his 104 foreign trips, including nine to Poland; his eighth visit included the stopover in Sosnowiec. (The Venerable Mother Teresa Kierocińska (Janina) (Mother Teresa of St. Joseph) has also been called the Mother of Zagłębie.)



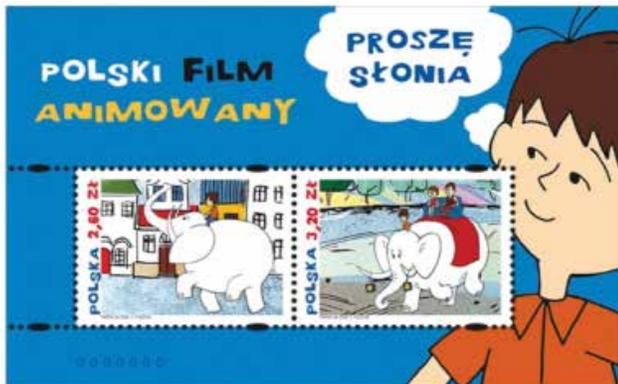
In 1921, together with Father Anzelm Gadek, Venerable Mother Teresa Kierocińska founded the Congregation of Carmelite Sisters of the Infant Jesus. During World War II she engaged in numerous humanitarian activities, helping homeless children and sheltering Jewish children.

Date of Issue	May 19, 2018
Sheet Format	Single in Sheet of 100
Printing Method	Photogravure
Designer	Agnieszka Sancewicz

Polish Animated Cartoon

These two stamps, denominated at 2.60 zł and 3.20 zł, recognize the Polish Animated Cartoon (*Polski Film Animowany*). The stamps show the boy named Pinio and his elephant friend Dominik; they originated in the children's book *Please, Elephant (Proszę Słonia)*, written by Ludwik Jerzy Kern (published

in 1964). The story describes the friendship and adventures of a young boy and a white porcelain elephant which one day comes alive. The theme of the book became the subject of an animated series directed by Piotr Paweł Lutzyn and filmed at the Studio Miniator Filmowych in Warsaw (1968). Later, the book was the subject of a full-length animated film directed by Witold Giersz (1978).



Date of Issue May 30, 2018
Sheet Format 2 Stamps in SS
Printing Method Offset
Designer Joanna Fleszar

Historic Organs in Poland

One more in a series on this subject, this 6.80-zł stamp recognizes the Mannerist-Baroque Organ at the Franciscan Church of the Holy Trinity in Gdańsk (*Kościół Świętej Trójcy w Gdańsku*). This cross-shaped, brick church is a towering Gothic building that adjoins a former Franciscan monastery (now a national museum) built in the 15th century. The organ is installed on two adjacent balconies in the church's transept. The lower selvage of the stamp sheet includes the Latin phrase "Pax et Bonum," the motto of St. Francis of Assisi, understood by Catholics to mean "Peace and Goodness be with You."



Date of Issue June 3, 2018
Sheet Format Single in SS
Printing Method Offset & Dry Printing
Designer Marzanna Dąbrowska

Robert Lewandowski

This stamp, valued at 6 zł, celebrates one of Poland's present-day super star athletes, Robert Lewandowski. He is a

professional footballer (soccer player) who plays at the forward position as a striker for the Bayern Munich team. Most recently he played on the Polish national team at the 2018 FIFA World Cup tournament in Russia, serving as captain of the team. Since 2014 he has excelled in his professional league play and won numerous accolades for his performance. In the qualifying rounds of the 2018 FIFA World Cup, he scored a total of 16 goals, a European record. Unfortunately, he was unable to score in the finals as the Polish team lost its final two games and failed to move to the tournament's knockout stage. Lewandowski has used his earnings as a venture capitalist, investing in numerous Polish start-up enterprises.



Date of Issue June 14, 2018
Sheet Format Single in Sheet of 100
Printing Method Photogravure
Designer Bożydar Grozdew

Padre Pio

The focus of this 2.60-zł stamp is Padre Pio (*Św. Ojciec Pio*) (1887-1968), the Franciscan, priest, stigmatist, and mystic, now venerated as a saint of the Roman Catholic Church. Born Francisco Forgione in Pietrelcina, Italy, he was given the name "Pius" (Italian: *Pio*) when he joined the Order of Friars Minor Capuchin. In the early 1900's, Padre Pio suffered an extended illness, leading to his first stigmata experience in 1918; that is, bodily marks, pain, and bleeding corresponding to the crucifixion wounds of Jesus Christ. The phenomena reportedly continued for 50 years until his death. These events resulted in intense public scrutiny and controversy. He was beatified (1999) and canonized (2002) by Pope John Paul II. In 2008 his body was exhumed from his crypt, 40 years after his death, and put on public display, his face covered with a lifelike silicone mask. About 800,000 pilgrims viewed the body until late 2009. His remains are now buried at the Church of St. Pio, adjacent to San Giovanni Rotondo in Italy. There are over 3,000 Padre Pio Prayer Groups worldwide, with 3 million members.



Date of Issue June 16, 2018
Sheet Format Single in Sheet of 50
Printing Method Photogravure
Designer Marzanna Dąbrowska

Jubilee of the Bishopric of Poznań (968-2018)

This "A" denominated stamp (2.60 zł) celebrates the 1,050th

anniversary of the founding of the Archdiocese of Poznań, and the installation of its first bishop, Jordan. In 966, Jordan arrived in the pagan territory of future Poland with Doubravka of Bohemia to baptize Mieszko I. Jordan was an Italian or German missionary bishop, subordinate directly to the pope, who served as the first bishop of Poznan from 968 to 983(?). The Archdiocese of Poznań is now one of 14 in Poland, and has over 400 parishes, over 1,000 priests, more than 1,500 lay religious brothers and sisters, and over 100 seminarians. Since 2002 Bishop Stanisław Gądecki has led the archdiocese's 1,480,000 Catholics.



Date of Issue	June 22, 2018
Sheet Format	Single in Sheet of 35
Printing Method	Photogravure
Designer	Andrzej Gosik

Polish Cities – Żywiec

One more in a series on the cities of Poland (*Miasta Polskie*), this 10-zł stamp recognizes the town of Żywiec in south-central Poland, on the Sola River in the Silesian Voivodeship. The stamp shows Żywiec Castle which dates to the first half of the 15th century; the official first day cover indicates the town was founded in 1268. Today, Old Żywiec (*Stary Żywiec*) is nonexistent, having been inundated with the creation of Żywiec Lake in 1966. The town is home to the famous Żywiec Brewery, originally established by the Hapsburg Archduke Albert in the 1850's; it became part of the Dutch firm Heineken International in the 1990s.



Date of Issue	June 22, 2018
Sheet Format	Single in Sheet of 100
Printing Method	Photogravure
Designer	Andrzej Gosik

Blessed Dorothy of Matowy

This 2.60-zł stamp honors Blessed Dorothy of Matowy; she was born in 1347 in the village of Montau, Prussia, (now Matowy Wielkie), and died in 1394 in Marienwerder, Prussia (now Kwidzyn). Dorothy was said to be unhappy in her arranged marriage to a much older man; her husband had little patience and beat her. She practiced a strict religious

lifestyle and reportedly had visions and spiritual gifts. Upon her husband's death, she became a Benedictine nun and moved to Marienwerder, living in a small cell until her death; many people visited, seeking spiritual advice. A painting of her can be seen today at the cathedral in Kwidzyn. In 1976 Dorothy was beatified by Pope Paul VI, but she has never been formally canonized. She is regarded as patroness of Prussia, and is often prayed to by suffering or divorced women. As seen on the stamp, Dorothy is generally portrayed with five arrows and holding a lantern, the book of Revelation, and a rosary.



Date of Issue	June 24, 2018
Sheet Format	Single in Sheet of 50
Printing Method	Photogravure
Designer	Krzysztof Izdebski-Cruz

550th Anniversary of Polish Parliamentaryism

This 3.20-zł stamp commemorates the beginning of true parliamentaryism (1468) in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth (550-lecie *parlamentaryzmu Rzeczypospolitej*); before 1468 only the nation's high-ranking nobility and officials met in the Sejm (the lower house of Polish parliament); the Sejm of 1468 saw deputies elected from various local territories for the first time (the first Sejm occurred in 1180).



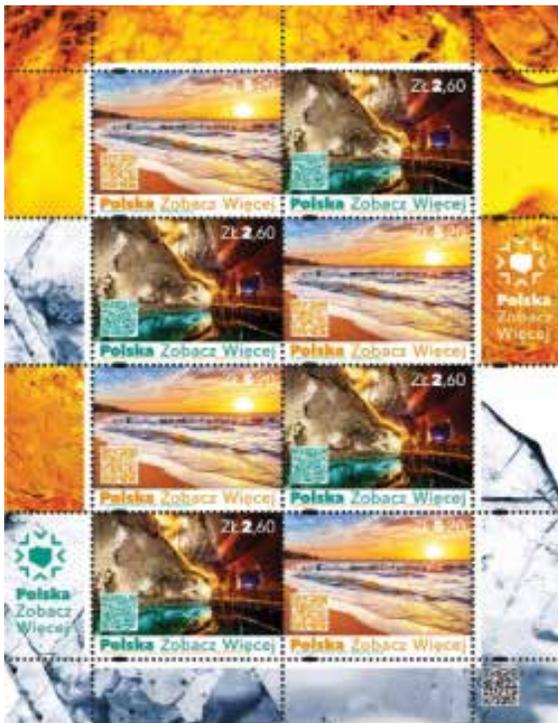
The image on this anniversary stamp shows King Sigismund III Vasa (1587-1632) presiding at the Sejm in 1622. Interestingly, the official first day cover shows a colorful wood engraving of King Alexander I Jagiellończyk (1461-1506) with the Polish Senate in 1506, the same image shown on Poland's 1993 anniversary issue.

Date of Issue	June 27, 2018
Sheet Format	Single in Sheet of 20
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Agnieszka Sobczyńska

Poland See More

These two stamps, titled *Poland See More (Polska Zobacz Więcej)* are intended to promote tourism in Poland. The 2.60-zł stamp shows a scene inside the famous Wieliczka Salt Mine (Kopalnia Soli, Wieliczka – Komora Weimar); the 5.20-zł stamp shows a beach scene along Poland's Baltic seacoast (Morze Bałtyckie).

Each stamp bears a QR code, a machine-readable optical label that contains in-depth information about the scenes shown. Recently issued panes of Polish stamps have included a QR code only in the margin of each pane. The official day cover shows silhouettes of families on vacation.



Date of Issue	June 23, 2018
Sheet Format	2 Different Stamps in Pane of 8
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Marzanna Dąbrowska

300th Anniversary of Coronation of Image of Our Lady of Trakai – Lithuanian Patroness

This 3.20-zł stamp with tab commemorates the 300th anniversary of the crowning of Our Lady of Trakai, Mother Protectress of Lithuania; this is a joint issue with Lithuania (*Wspólna Emisja Polski i Litwy*); a short prayer is in the lower margin of the Polish pane. This oil painting depicting Mary with the baby Jesus is located in the main altar of St. Mary's Church in the town of Trakai, Lithuania (17 miles west of Vilnius). It was painted by an unknown artist in the middle of the 15th century, and partially repainted in the early 17th century. The icon depicts the Virgin Mary with her right hand supporting baby Jesus who is sitting on her lap, while her left hand holds a thornless rose branch with three flowers. The icon has light colors, soft shapes, and specific facial features.



In 1718, Pope Clement XI directed Konstanty Kazimierz Brzostowski, Bishop of Vilnius, to officiate the canonical coronation of the venerable image.

Constructed in the gothic style, St. Mary's Church was founded in 1409. It was significantly altered during the Baroque period to its present appearance. The church was built by the Grand Duke Vytautas following the construction of Trakai Island Castle. Presently, the church houses over 500 registered venerable art objects.

Date of Issue	June 27, 2018
Sheet Format	2 Single Stamps with Tabs in Pane
Printing Method	Photogravure
Designer	Agnieszka Sancewicz

General Władysław Sikorski

This stamp, valued at 2.60 zł, honors the famous Polish military hero and statesman, Władysław Eugeniusz Sikorski. Born in 1881 in Galicia in the Austro-Hungarian Empire, he fought in the Polish Legions in World War I and later in the newly-created Polish Army during the Polish-Soviet War of 1919-21. In the Polish-Soviet War he played a major role in the Battle of Warsaw (also known as Miracle of the Vistula), and for his valor, was promoted to divisional general. During the Second Polish Republic, Sikorski served as Prime Minister from 1922 - 1923, and later as Minister of Military Affairs. However, after Józef Piłsudski's May Coup of 1926 and the installation of the Sanacja (reform) government, Sikorski fell out of favor. He wrote several books on military matters. During World War II he became prime minister of the Polish government in exile, commander-in-chief of the Polish Armed Forces, and a vigorous advocate of the Polish cause in diplomatic affairs. Sadly, in July 1943, a plane carrying Sikorski plunged into the sea immediately after takeoff from Gibraltar, killing all on board except the pilot. Sikorski was returning from an inspection of Polish forces in the Middle East. Mystery still surrounds the circumstances of his death, which continues to be investigated by the Polish Institute of National Remembrance. He was originally buried at the Polish War Cemetery in England, with a eulogy given by Winston Churchill. However, in 1993 his remains were exhumed and transferred to the royal crypts at Wawel Castle in Kraków. No Pole after Sikorski had as much sway with Allied politicians. After World War II in communist-occupied Poland, his historical role was minimized and distorted by propaganda.



Date of Issue July 20, 2018
Sheet Format Single in Sheet of 20
Printing Method Offset
Designer Ryszard Kufel

Polish Regional Products

One more in a series recognizing Polish regional products (*Polskie produkty regionalne*), this 6-zł stamp highlights *kielbasa lisiecka*, a traditional smoked pork sausage; it is produced exclusively in the municipalities of Liszki and Czernichów in Lesser Poland (*Małopolska*) Voivodeship. Since 2010, *kielbasa* has been designated as a protected product by the European Union. In its cross-section, the *kielbasa* has bright pieces of ham surrounded by darker meat, with a delicate aroma of pepper and garlic. It is smoked in a special manner using alder wood, beech wood, and fruit trees.



Date of Issue July 30, 2018
Sheet Format Single in Pane of 9
Printing Method Offset & Dry Pressing
Designer Agnieszka Sancewicz

50th Anniversary of Coronation of Image of Our Lady of Święta Lipka

This 2.60-zł stamp marks 50 years since the crowning of Our Lady of Święta Lipka 50 (*50. Rocznica Koronacji Obrazu Matki Bożej Świętolipskiej*). The silver colored baroque painting shows the Madonna and Child with two angels. It is the most revered object at the basilica in Święta Lipka village in the Warmia-Masurian Voivodeship in northern Poland. The painting hangs within the oldest Marian sanctuary in Poland, sometimes called the Częstochowa of the North. Worship of the Virgin Mary in Święta Lipka dates back to the 15th century when a local prisoner carved a wooden statue of Mary. On his release the prisoner, placed the statue under a tree and it later became a site famous for miracles. In 1511 the Grand Master of the Teutonic Knights, Albrecht Hohenzollern, made a pilgrimage to the site. In August 1968 the painting was officially crowned by Poland's primate, Archbishop Stefan Wyszyński Warsaw, with the participation of Cardinal Karol Wojtyła (later pope) and many other dignitaries. Because of the small size of the village and its limited road access, a field altar was set up and the painting was temporarily moved outside



from the church altar in a procession. Despite these difficulties, an estimated 100,000 people participated in the ceremony.

Date of Issue August 11, 2018
Sheet Format Single in a Sheet of 50
Printing Method Photogravure
Designer Bożydar Grozdew

Patrons of Poland

This 2.60-zł stamp, part of a continuing series on Patrons of Poland (*Patroni Polski*), honors St. Stanisław Kostka (1550-1568). Born to nobility in Rostkowo and schooled strictly at home, he was regarded as pious in demeanor. Abused by his older brother, Kostka escaped to Rome to pursue his religious passion; he walked to Rome in disguise and was there accepted by Jesuit General St. Francis Borgia. After only nine months into his novitiate, Kostka became sick and died. In 1605, he was beatified by Pope Paul V and in 1726 he was canonized by Pope Benedict XIII. He is now a popular saint in Poland and is often invoked for serious illnesses: St. Stanisław Kostka, pray for us (*Święty Stanisławie Koszko modł się za nami*). Many admire his fortitude: I am created for higher things and want to live for them (*Do wyższych rzeczy jestem stworzony i dla nich pragnę żyć*).



Date of Issue August 19, 2018
Sheet Format Single in a Sheet of 50
Printing Method Photogravure
Designer Bożydar Grozdew

Madonnas of the Eastern Borderlands

These four stamps, each denominated 2.60 zł, recognize Madonnas of the Eastern Borderlands (*Madonny Kresowe*). The first stamp depicts the Mother of God of Łuck (now Lutsk, Ukraine); the painting is now located in a church in Siedlice Village near Oława in the Lower Silesian Voivodeship, where the official first day cover was issued. The stamp shows Mary and Jesus with large crowns, and has a gray border.



The second stamp portrays the Crowned Mother of God of Poland, Kałusz-Holdstanow (now Kalush, Ukraine); the painting is now located in the Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Gryfino, West Pomerian Voivodeship, where the official first day cover was issued. The stamp shows Mary and Jesus with worshippers, in front of the sun, and has a blue border.

The third stamp honors the Crowned Mother of God of Porchowa k. Buczacz (now Buchach, Ukraine); the icon is now apparently located at the small Archdiocese Museum in Wrocław, where the official first day cover was issued. The stamp depicts a crowned Mary seated on a throne with Jesus in her arms, with nearby angels, and has a red border.

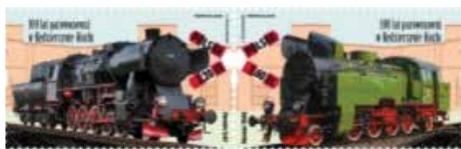
The fourth stamp honors the Mother of God of Zbaraska, named after a wealthy Ruthenian family that lived in the province of Volhynia in the town of Zbaraż (now Zbarazh, Ukraine); today it is found above the altar at the Church of Our Lady of Zbaraski in the village of Prałkowce, near Przemyśl, where the official first day cover was issued. The stamp shows a veiled Mary holding Jesus, and has a dark border.

The four stamps are printed in separate panes and each has an official first day cover that shows the present location of its Madonna.

Date of Issue	August 23, 2018
Sheet Format	Four stamps, each in a Pane of 9
Printing Method	Photogravure
Designer	Agnieszka Sancewicz

100 Years of Steam Locomotive Plant in Kędzierzyn-Koźle

These two stamps recognize the major railroad terminal and locomotive roundhouse (*parowozownia*) at the town of Kędzierzyn-Koźle on the Oder River in the Upper Silesian region of Poland, Opole Voivodeship. The town's extensive rail facilities provide connections to all major cities in Poland.



The two stamps show the Locomotive (Parowóz) Class Ty 42 on the 3.20-zł stamp, and Locomotive Class TKT 48 on the 2.60-zł stamp. The former is a 1942 German Railroad Class 52 war locomotive (*Deutsche Reichsbahn Kriegslokomotiven*). No information on the latter locomotive was identified. The stamps are printed se-tenant, and a QR code is located in the margin of the pane, offering further information for those able to scan the label. There is a museum dedicated to Silesian industry and railroad transport that is located in Jaworzyna Śląska. Each year the museum sponsors a gala to showcase historic steam locomotives from Poland, Czech Republic, and Germany.

Date of Issue	August 31, 2018
Sheet Format	Two Stamps in a Pane of 12
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Jacek Konarzewski

200 Years of the Botanical Garden of the University of Warsaw

This 3.20-zł stamp celebrates the founding of the Botanical Garden at the University of Warsaw in 1818, through the efforts of the botanist Michał Szubert. Originally 22.5 hectares in size, the Botanical Garden (*Ogród Botaniczny*) occupied the northern part of the Royal Łazienki Park. Through the years of Poland's tumultuous history, the Botanical Garden has experienced numerous setbacks and restorations. In 1831, the Royal University closed and the garden was severely reduced in size; it was then managed by incompetent tsarist officials. In 1916 however, the garden became a part of the re-established University of Warsaw and improvements were implemented. During the Warsaw Uprising in 1944, most of the garden's facilities and plant collections were lost. Led by eminent academic officials, reconstruction began again after World War II. Dr. Hanna Werblan-Jakubiec took over its administration in 1987, and continues to oversee the garden's incredible diversity of plants. Today it occupies 5.16 hectares and includes 5,000 species and varieties of trees, shrubs, and plants. A main concern of the garden's technical staff is the local populations of threatened species in northeastern Poland. The garden is open to the public from April thru October.



Date of Issue	September 10, 2018
Sheet Format	Single in a Pane of 8 with Tab
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Jacek Konarzewski

The World Congress of Polish Diaspora and Poles from Abroad

This 2.60-zł stamp calls attention to the fifth World Congress of Polish Communities and Poles from Abroad (Warsaw, September 20-23, 2018). The congress aimed to bring together Poles from around the world to participate in the celebration of Poland's 100th anniversary of independence. As part of the Congress, the Polish Community Educational Forum organized events for teachers from around the world, including the use of new electronic games, in an effort to apply the latest ideas in education to the teaching of Polish history. These events were led by Dr. Mateusz Marek, head of the National Education Office, and Olga Tumińska, coordinator of the expansive educational project termed the Polonia Program. The National Education Office's Polonia Program is a part of



the Institute of National Remembrance established by the Polish Parliament in 1998. Poland's President Andrzej Duda and First Lady Agata Kornhauser-Duda attended the event. The president told the Congress that with the support of Poles living abroad there will be built a Poland . . . of your dreams and ours. He noted that for most individuals of Polish descent living away, or those born outside Poland, "you always feel yourselves to be Poles and therefore you always are." In fact, an estimated 20 million Poles live abroad, compared to 40 million in the motherland itself.

The pane margin includes a QR code and identifies the relative position of the pane as cut from the original sheet of 120, thus showing it to be one of 10 different positions

Date of Issue	September 20, 2018
Sheet Format	Pane of 12
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Roch Stefaniak

Poles in Siberia

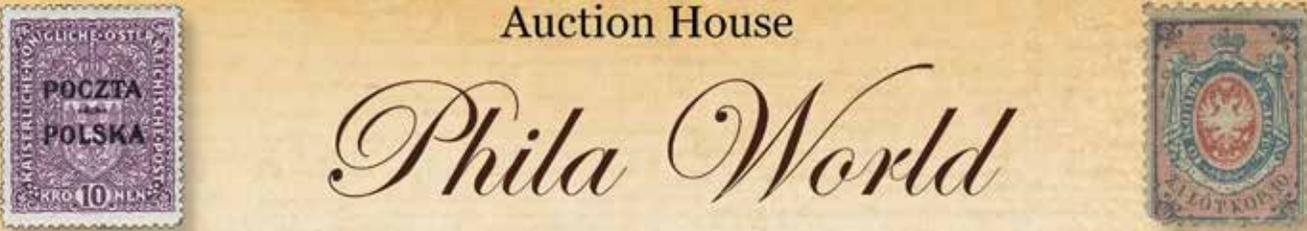
This 5.20-zł stamp recognizes the Polish writer, soldier, and political activist Waclaw Kajetan Sieroszewski. Born in Wólka Kozłowska, near Radzymin, in 1858, he spent many of his younger years in Siberian exile on charges of subversion.

His experiences while in exile became the subjects of many short stories, novellas, and other writings, including *At the Edge of the Woods* (Na Kresach Lasów) (1894); *The Depths of Misery* (Dno Nędzy) (1900); and *The Escape* (Ucieczka) (1904). He is also famous for his *Twelve Years in the Yakut Country* (12 Lat w Kraju Jakutów) (1900), the first extensive ethnologic account of the Yakut people.

Sieroszewski briefly served as a soldier in Piłsudski's Polish Legions in 1914. Later in life he served as president of the Union of Polish Writers (*Związek Zawodowy Literatów Polskich*) from 1927-1930 and the Polish Academy of Literature (Polska Akademia Literatury) from 1933-39. In 1930 he worked on the movie *Exile to Siberia*. In 1945 he died in Piaseczno, near Warsaw.



Date of Issue	September 24, 2018
Sheet Format	Single in Sheet of 50
Printing Method	Photogravure
Designer	Ryszard Kufel



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