

January 2021 New Issues

60th Anniversary of Polish-Cyprus Diplomatic Relations

This A-denominated (3.30 zł) postal card recognizes the past 60 years of formal diplomatic relations between Poland and Cyprus. The earliest recorded contact between the two countries dates back to 1364 when Peter I of Cyprus attended the Congress of Kraków. After the conquest of Cyprus by the Ottoman Empire in 1570, contact between the two countries ceased for almost 300 years, until the British gained control of the island in the 19th Century. During World War II, 500 refugee Polish dignitaries and their families were allowed to enter Cyprus. When the two countries became members of the European Union in 2004, mutual contacts increased; the two countries have concluded 15 agreements on subjects such as air transport, trade, visas, civil and criminal matters, merchant shipping, tourism, and cultural exchanges. Each has an embassy in the other's capital city.

The imprinted stamp on the card shows the Chapel of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in Jaszczurówka, near one of the entrances to the Tatra National Park in extreme southern Poland. The picturesque wooden Roman Catholic church was built between 1904 and 1907 by the architect Stanisław Witkiewicz in the Zakopane style. It has a single nave and was constructed without the use of nails. It has a crested roof with diamond-shaped wooden shingles and a finial atop gable; the main altar inside resembles a highlander's hut. The image on the left side of the card shows the Church of St. Nicholas (Greek: *Agios Nikolaos*), located near the town of Protaras, along Cyprus' beautiful eastern shore. The small Christian Orthodox church is named after the patron saint of sailors.

Date of Issue	January 15, 2021
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Jan Konarzewski



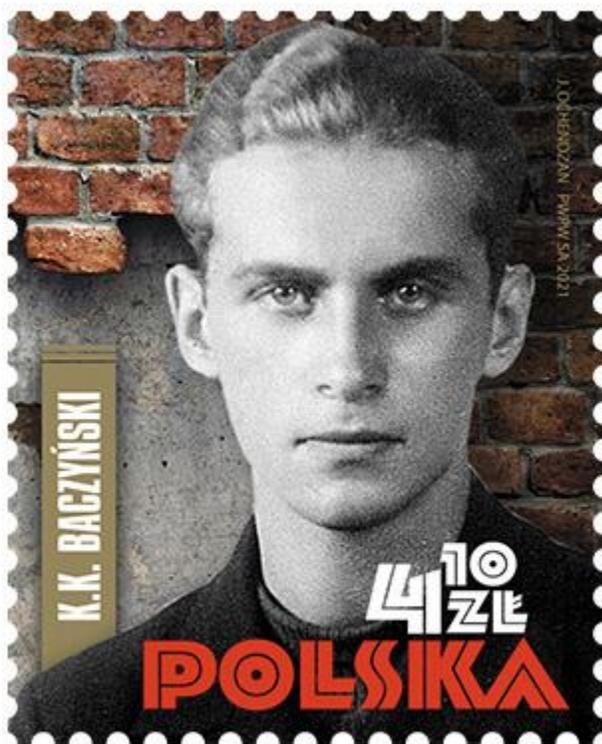
KK Baczyński

Krzysztof Kamil Baczyński (1921-44), Poland's celebrated war-time poet and soldier in the Home Army (*Armia Krajowa* or *AK*), is honored on this 4.10-zł stamp. In his writing and wartime activities, he had various aliases. He debuted as a poet, composing *Accident at Work* (*Wypadek przy Pracy*) in 1938 in the magazine *Shots* (*Strzaly*), a publication of the Organization of Socialist Youth (*Spartakus*). From 1940 on, he composed poetry and verse for left-wing underground publications, including *Flames* (*Płomienie*) and *Road or Way* (*Droga*). In 1942, he began Polish language studies at the secret underground Warsaw University, and entered the *AK's Agricola* NCO's School. In 1943, he gave up his studies and joined the *AK* battalion *Zośka*, engaging in Polish resistance activities; after the Polish Uprising, he joined the *Parasol* battalion. He was killed in action by a German sniper in Warsaw in August 1944 at the age of 23.

He is considered the greatest Polish writer of the *Columbus Generation* that aimed to deal with the shock of World War II. He did not write about the war directly, but in an apocalyptic and dreamlike manner, and often in the plural, speaking for his generation. He portrayed a war full of dreamlike and symbolic images, seeing it as a force destroying existing values and moral norms. He used extensive metaphors from fairy tales and nature; the motif of water was one of the most important. His poem *Choice* (*Wybór*) is a parable about the fates and motives of the youth of the *AK*.

In all, his preserved works include over 500 poems and about 20 short stories, some of which have been made into song. Several hundred of his drawings and graphics have also survived, including illustrations for his poems. The 1984 Polish film *The Fourth Day* (*Dzień Czwarty*) describes the last days of his life. The Polish Sejm has designated 2021 as the Year of Krzysztof Kamil Baczyński.

Date of Issue	January 21, 2021
Sheet Format	Single in Sheet of 100
Printing Method	Rotogravure
Designer	Jarosław Ochendzan



50th Anniversary of the Decision to Rebuild the Royal Castle in Warsaw

This A-denominated (3.30 zł) postal card recognizes the decision of the Polish Sejm to restore the ruins of the historic Royal Castle in Warsaw in 1971. The history of the Royal Castle was described for the 400th Anniversary stamp issued on May 29, 2019. Immediately after the end of World War II, in 1945 the surviving fragments of the Castle's walls, foundations, and cellars were protected, as well as the burnt walls of the

adjacent Copper-Roof Palace and Royal Library Building. Later in 1949, the Sejm agreed to rebuild the Castle, and architectural blueprints were prepared for restoring the framework of the building and furnishing the historical internal rooms. However, Władysław Gomułka, the head of the Polish Communist Party from 1956 to 1970, opposed this restoration work and directed that investments in heavy industry should receive priority.

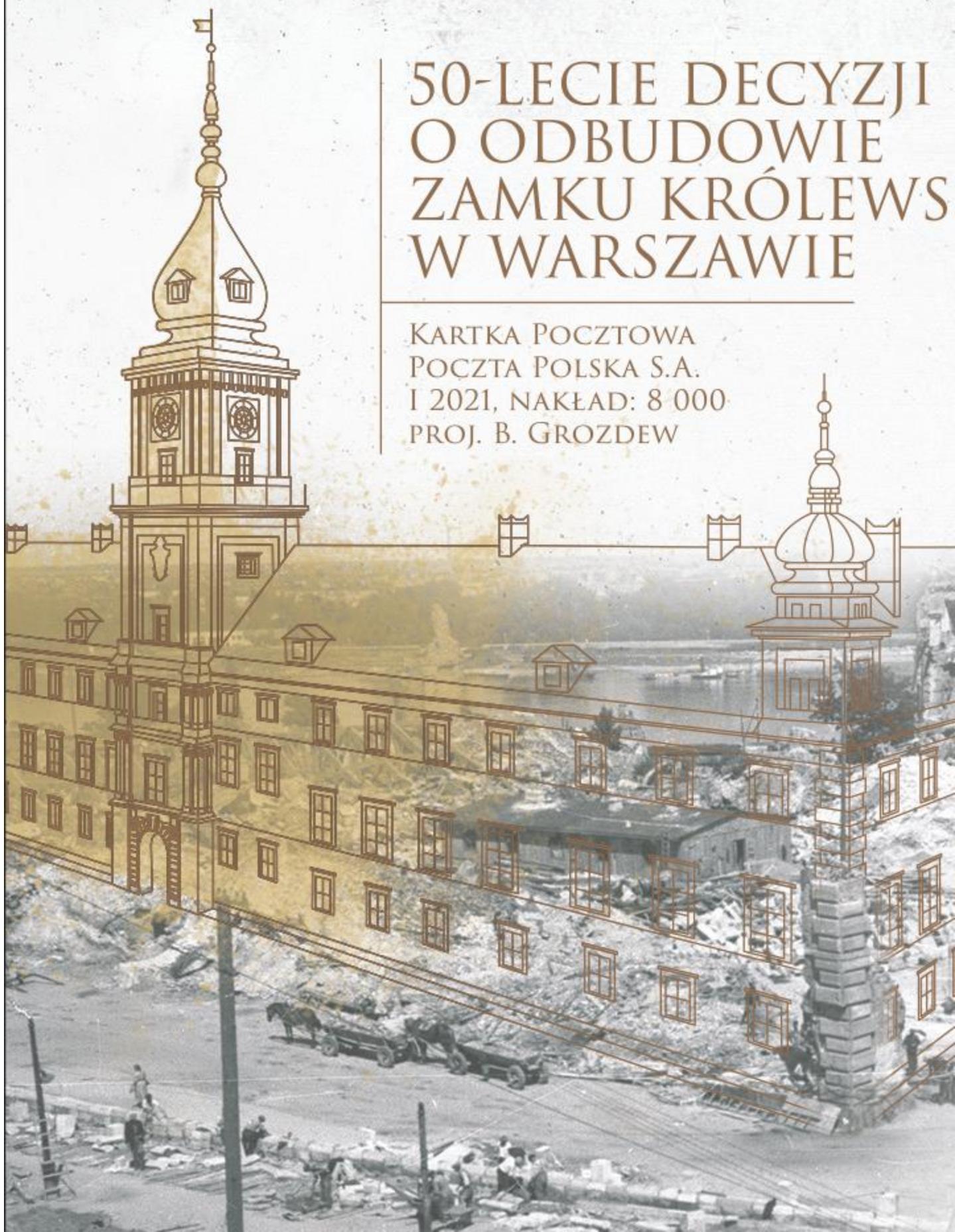
Beginning in January 1971, a final decision on restoration was made by the Sejm, and work began in September 1971 thru a Civic Committee funded from voluntary contributions from within Poland and abroad. Historical works of art were also donated for the interior of the Royal Castle from throughout the world. In January 1974, the first step of reconstruction was completed; and by 1977, the first interiors were ready. In August 1984, the Royal Castle was officially opened to the public.

The Castle's main façade is brick, extending over 300 feet long, facing Castle Square. At the center of the façade is Sigismund's Tower, a huge clock over 200 feet high that dates back to the 16th Century. The interior consists of many different rooms restored to their old splendor, including the Jagiellonian Rooms, the Houses of Parliament, and the Royal Apartments. The imprinted stamp on the card shows a restored eagle ornament on the exterior of the building. The left side of the card shows the outline of the reconstructed castle superimposed over the view of the destroyed Castle in 1949.

Date of Issue	January 21, 2021
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Bożydar Grozdew

50-LECIE DECYZJI O ODBUDOWIE ZAMKU KRÓLEWSKIEGO W WARSZAWIE

KARTKA POCZTOWA
POCZTA POLSKA S.A.
I 2021, NAKŁAD: 8 000
PROJ. B. GROZDEW



Independence Soldiers

This A-denominated (3.30 zł) postal card honors both today's Polish Army 12th Territorial (Wielkopolskie) Defense Brigade, and Stanisław Taczak and the Poles who fought in the Greater Poland (Wielkopolskie) Uprising of December 1918. The imprinted stamp on the card shows Taczak, the first interim commander-in-chief of the 1918 Uprising, together with the present-day emblem of the 12th Territorial (Wielkopolskie) Defense Brigade, a light infantry unit of the Polish Army, based in Poznań, Greater Poland Voivodeship, which consists of regular and part-time soldiers. The left side of the card shows an archival photo of the Polish troops in Poznań in 1918.

The role of Stanisław Taczak in the 1918 Uprising presents a very interesting story in Poland's history. Taczak (1874-1960) was actually a metallurgical engineer who happened to be in Poznań visiting his brother when the spontaneous Uprising broke out in the city. (See description of the stamp issued on December 27, 2018, on the Wielkopolskie Uprising.) He was persuaded by his brother and his brother's friend there, General Wojciech Korfanty (on behalf of the NRL Commissariat), to temporarily assume the position of commander-in-chief over the disorganized Polish forces. (See description of stamp issued on November 11, 2018, for Korfanty, as one of eight stamps on the 100th Anniversary of Poland Regaining Independence.) Taczak had served in World War I as an instructor in the Polish Legions, and in November 1918 had entered the Polish Army and helped organize Polish soldiers from the German Army in Warsaw. Korfanty promoted Taczak to the rank of Major and assigned him the task of quickly integrating the spontaneously emerging units in Poznań into one army. In response, Taczak created the General Staff of the Greater Poland Army, and formed nine Greater Poland Military Districts. Remarkably, in just over two weeks, he performed great organizational work in helping create a cohesive military force. In January 1919, he handed over his command to General Józef Dowbor-Muśnicki. (See description of stamp issued on November 11, 2019, for Dowbor-Muśnicki, as one of six stamps on the First Days of Independence.) Taczak later served in various different positions in the Polish Army, and in March 1924 was promoted to Brigadier General, and eventually retired in February 1930.

Date of Issue	January 26, 2021
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Jarosław Ochendzan



*Żołnierze
niepodległości
gen. Stanisław Taczak*

Kartka Poczta Polska S.A., 2021, nakład: 8 000, proj. J. Ochędzisz

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