



# POLONUS

POLISH PHILATELIC SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER #7 Spring 2024

Dear Polonus Members,

I remember someone saying, “the old can always be new again.” I plan on exhibiting my “Poland Warsaw First Provisionals” at The Great American Stamp Show (GASS) in August where we will celebrate our 85th Anniversary. I first put together this eight-frame exhibit in 2015 and made some slight revisions as well as additions over time. But nothing extensive. After all, it was getting Large Gold medals, so why do any revisions?

Earlier this year I pulled this exhibit out of the bank safe-box and took a hard look at it. I found several things about the exhibit that were now annoying. Not the material, the material is fantastic. But it was how I was communicating the material to the viewer (what we judge’s call “Treatment” and “Presentation”). Some exhibiting techniques have changed over the years. Also, I had received advice from friends and other judges over the years, basically recommending little tweaks here and there. I decided it was time to incorporate all the good advice and “up-date” my exhibit.

An eight-frame exhibit is 128 pages. I made my pages with PowerPoint, so it was not like starting from the beginning. All in all, I modified about half of the pages and did some revisions to improve the “flow” of the exhibit. I am now more pleased with the “Treatment” and “Presentation” than with the original version.

But an “unintended consequence” of this revision is that in researching my original research, I discovered more or new information that I missed the first time, which made me even more knowledgeable about this area of Polish postal history. Moral of this story, never be satisfied with our previous philatelic accomplishments. Never be afraid to revisit our earlier work, we can be surprised there is always more to learn.

Looking forward to seeing all of you in Hartford in August!

Dr. James Mazepa, RDP  
Chairman of the Board  
Polonus Polish Philatelic Society

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## 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Polish Hyperinflation

2024 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Polish hyperinflation and we want to begin highlight the captivating philatelic history it has left behind. In Poland hyperinflation actually began during October 1923 and ended on May 1, 1924 as the Zloty was introduced replacing the Mark.

Below is one of many covers from Ron Klimley's collection that was displayed in his exhibit. This cover reflects a usage in one of the Tariff Unit periods introduced in January 1924 where rates and services were expressed in Tariff Units rather than marks. Each Tariff Unit converted to a published number of marks with the fluctuation of the exchange rate.



Usage: April 9, 1924 –Warsaw to Paris France

Foreign Air Mail Rate: 120 TU = 2,280,000 mk.

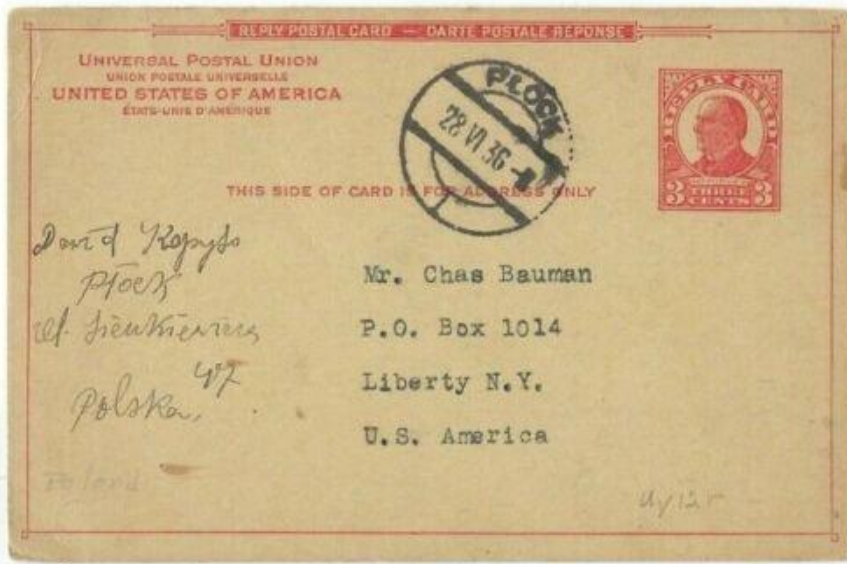
Paid: 500,000 x 4 + 200,000 = 2,200,000 mk foreign registered express air mail rate (80,000 rounded down)

The letter above was sent shortly after the winter break. The air surcharge was 550,000 Mk and was paid in cash at the time of posting. This is recorded in the purple hand stamp with the surcharge fee entered in pencil at the bottom of the letter. For more details please see Ron Klimley's informative presentation for the Collectors Club of New York on April 17, 2024:

**Polish Hyperinflation, the 100th Anniversary of Currency Redenomination**  
presented by Ron Klimley, April 17, 2024 <https://vimeo.com/936269369>

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## Cover of the Month: Reply Paid Postal Card Used From Poland



Beginning in 1892 the United States Post Office issued paid reply postal cards. These were sold to the public as two unsevered cards, one for a message and the attached card for a pre-paid reply. The first cards were one- or two-cent pairs for domestic use. In 1924

a two-cent international reply-paid card was issued. In 1926 a three-cent reply-paid card was issued for international use as seen here (Sc. UY12).

The recipient of the card lived in Płock and returned the card to the sender. The card received a Płock dispatch postmark of June 28, 1936.

The question I have for which I could not find an answer: was the Polish post compensated for handling the card?

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## New Issue highlight– Polish Post continues Crypto Stamps

The Polish Crypto Stamp consists of a traditional postage stamp and an associated digital counterpart. The counterpart is an NFT token represented by an image (graphic or multimedia file) that can be collected, exchanged and sold. A traditional stamp, on the other hand, is a value that can be used to pay for the delivery of a letter or postcard.



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**eBay rogue of the month...**



A letter with a Poland #1 recently appeared on eBay. I immediately recognized that the #1 was added to the letter. The #1 had a circular "1" Warsaw cancel. The merchant's cachet on the letter indicated he was in Riga, which was not in Poland last time I looked, as well as the internal docketing which clearly says "Riga." Also, the cancel on the stamp does not match the part on the letter. Additionally, the letter is dated 1866, too late for a Poland #1.



I politely informed the seller of my analysis and said I did not want him or the buyer to be hurt. He informed me he was a dealer for over 50 years and I was clearly mistaken (even though I did provide some personal credentials). He did not remove the fake from eBay and it had four bidders and sold for \$611.00. His site states "I do not accept returns."

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### Historical highlight: Panna Maria

Panna Maria is the oldest permanent Polish settlement in the United States. Fr. Leopold Moczygemba invited families in Silesia to settle there in 1854. After a two-month journey, the families arrived and their first mass was celebrated on December 24, 1854. This beautifully cached envelope celebrates the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the building of the first church in 1856, Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception. The church is now a Texas Historical Site and is still open and active today. Many descendants of the first settlers still live in Panna Maria.



## Polonus News.....



### COME CELEBRATE 2024 POLONUS 85<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY IN HARTFORD AT THE GREAT AMERICAN STAMP SHOW

You are all cordially invited to join us as we celebrate 85 years at GASS in Hartford. Plans are still being made but I am happy to announce that we will be meeting from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Saturday for our Polonus Membership meeting and our 85th

Anniversary Open House celebration. We are also planning a Polonus dinner which for Friday night. Stop by the Polonus table for additional information and to pick up ribbons identifying you as a Polonus member to hang from your show badge. And we would really appreciate the opportunity to meet you!

### Welcome New Members

Polonus would like recognize the following new members to our society:

- Andrzej Fafara, Texas
- John Morgan, Texas
- Dale Vargo, Kentucky
- David Lapa, Massachusetts
- Douglas Lipka, Mississippi
- Robert Reiss, New York

Welcome! Please encourage your friends and colleagues to join!

### Congratulations!

Ross Marshall for a Gold medal at Westpex for his exhibit – *“Poland - The first officials of 1920”*.

Jerzy Kupiec-Weglinski for a Gold Medal for his exhibit - *“Flown Mail of the Siege of Przemyśl (1914-1915)”* at the EFIRO 2024 the international exhibition in Romania.

Dr. James Mazepa, RDP will be formally honored by the Collectors Club of New York on May 11, 2024 as recipient of the Alfred F. Lichtenstein Memorial Award

for distinguished service to philately. See the last bulletin for a detailed description of his honor.

### **News from the USPS...**

The USPS has proposed a new first class postage rate of 73 cents, up 5 cents from the current rate. The new rate, if approved, would take effect on July 14, 2024.

### **Website updates**

We are constantly updating our website. So come back often to see the changes. We recently added Dr James Mazepa's OFE Grand Gold Medal winning exhibit: Poland: Lublin Postal Administration - Provisional Postal Cards, December 1918-1919. <https://polonus.org/exhibits-mazepa-3/>. If you have an exhibit you would like to appear on the site please let us know.

### **Future Newsletters**

As always, if you have something to contribute to the newsletter or the Bulletin, feel free to email me a [jmazepa@comcast.net](mailto:jmazepa@comcast.net) or Andrew Urushima at [aurushima@yahoo.com](mailto:aurushima@yahoo.com). In the meantime, enjoy this Newsletter!