



POLONUS

POLISH PHILATELIC SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER #8 Summer 2024

Dear Polonus Members,

We are approaching our annual meeting at the Great American Stamp Show in Harford in a few weeks and are busily working on the logistics to make this show a huge success. Our plan includes the celebration of our 85th Anniversary as well as showing 47 frames of Polish related exhibits! Also entered into the GASS Literature Competition is our gold medal winning Bulletin. Fingers crossed hoping we can earn a large gold.

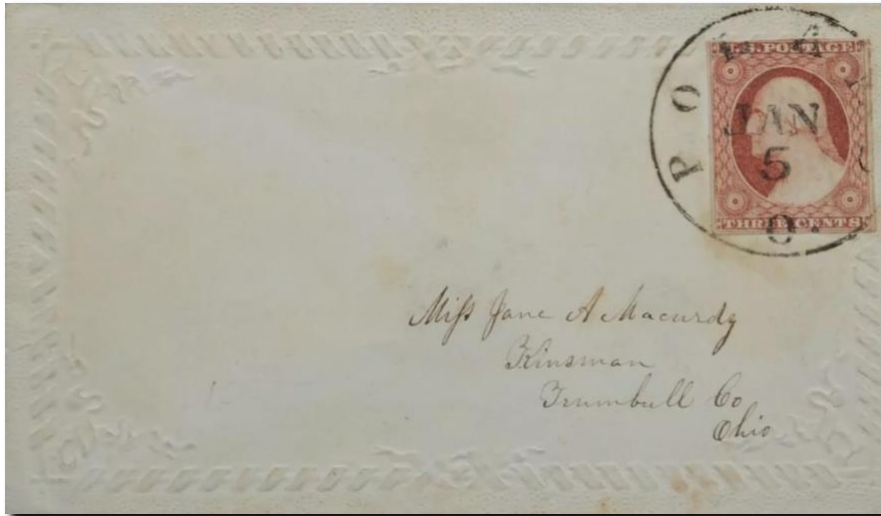
As part of the business side of our annual meeting we will have a presentation by Ron Klimley on Polish Hyperinflation Postage Due: 1924-1928. 2024 marks the 100th anniversary of Polish hyperinflation and Ron has put together his presentation showing some of his rare and unique items from this fascinating period. We will also have a review of the changes to our website and announce the recipient of our Founder's award.

As you can see, we have many exciting things happening with our society, though we cannot do without you. As we move forward we need more volunteers to serve on multiple Polonus committees or to assist other member colleagues in making Polonus stronger and more efficient. Most of our positions require a few hours a month of your time or even less. Our only requirement is that you have a computer and email access along with the desire to help out the society. Please send us an email at info@polonus.org if you are interested in volunteering. At a minimum please refer a friend to become a member!

Looking forward to seeing all of you in Hartford!

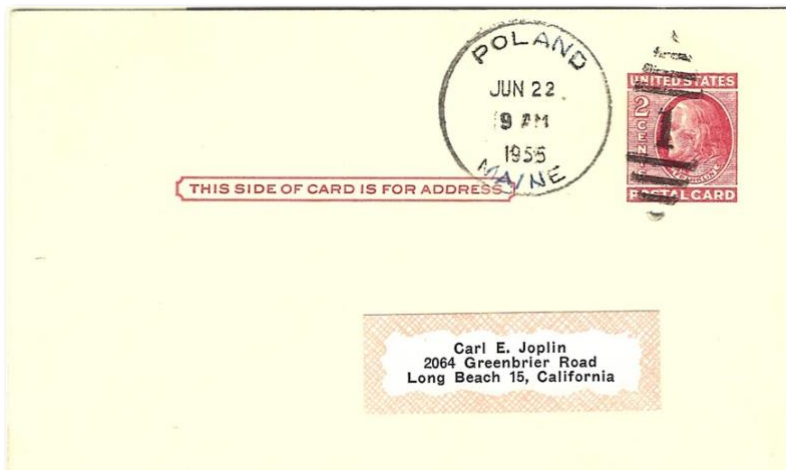
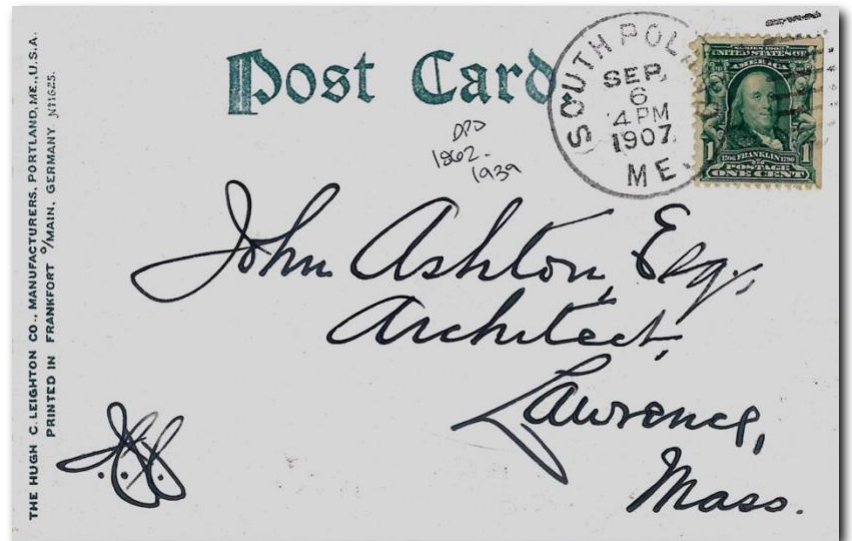
Poland, U.S.A. (The Other Poland!)

An interesting side collection are towns in the United States named "Poland" or "Warsaw". I have always liked towns named "Poland".



One of my favorites is a beautiful embossed "lady's envelope" franked with an 1851 U.S. #11. There is no year date in the postmark which tells us it was sent from "Poland, Ohio on January 5"

There is a variation, a town named "South Poland" in Maine (figure 2). The card is postmarked September 6, 1907. The pencil note on the card indicated the town is a "DPO" (dead post office) and existed from 1862 to 1939.



Yet, there are still some "Poland" towns in the United States including Poland Maine. Here a card that was sent in June 1955.

In doing a quick internet search there are no fewer

than seven cities in the US with the name Poland! It's fun rummaging through dealer's boxes at shows and finding these town names. EBay is also a good source for these towns. Happy hunting! Please share with us if you have any other Poland postmark examples!

Cover of the Month: German Stamps Invalidated in 1918



When Poland became independent on November 11, 1918, one of the first tasks of the new government was to maintain postal services. From the archives, postal officials retrieved the four 1916 Warsaw City Post stamps which Germans did not allow to be issued because they said the designs were too patriotic. These stamps were overprinted with new values and released on November 17 (Fisher #2-5) as the First Warsaw Provisional Issue.

Because of distribution problems and the need to keep the post operational, the postal authorities allowed the use of the German occupation stamps (the German Germania issue overprinted "Gen. Gouv./Warschau") to be used until December 15, 1918. After this date they were invalid. Letters sent prior to December 15 with

mixed “Poczta Polska” and the occupation stamps are rare. Letters used after December 15 with the invalidated German stamps are equally rare.

On the illustrated cover, the sender attempted to use the invalid German stamps to pay the postage on January 27, 1919, more than a month after the stamps were declared invalid. He even overpaid the rate by 5 fenig! The postal clerk noted the stamps were invalid by obliterating them with a penciled “X.” He then applied the Polish postage of 15 fenig for the city rate with three of the 5 fenig stamps of the first provisional issue and the 25 fenig stamp to pay the registration fee.

The letter also has some historical significance. The letter is addressed to “Wielmożna Pani H. Paderewska,” the wife of Ignacy Paderewski, the first Prime Minister of Poland, at the Bristol Hotel in Warsaw. The Paderewskis owned three homes: one in Switzerland, one in New York and a suite in the Bristol Hotel in Warsaw of which they were part owners.

(reprinted from issue 565 of the Polonus Bulletin)

50 years Ago: Polpex 1974



50 years ago, Polonus celebrated our 35th anniversary host our annual POLPEX from March 9-10 1974 at St James Auditorium in Chicago. The annual POLPEX souvenir sheet honored the 100th anniversary of the birth of Vincenty Witos. Witos, a former Prime Minister of Poland in the 1920's, is best known as a leader and activist in the People's Movement (“Ruch



Ludowy”). As a leader of the Polish People's Party "Piast" he was an influential leader after Poland regained its independence in 1918 after World War I. The sheet featured a copy of a medal honoring his birth anniversary as well a copy of the Polish stamp honoring the People’s Movement (Scott 1322/SG 1564).

New Issue highlight– Team Poland heads to the Olympics

As we approach the end to the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris. Poland as always is well represented and has won 6 medals (as of August 3). Their only gold medal was awarded to Aleksandra Miroslaw in speed sport climbing

Poland Post has consistently honored Team Poland with a commemorative stamp and did it again for these games. The colorful design featured the 2024 Team Poland logo surrounded by a border of the graphic design used by France.



Polonus News.....



COME CELEBRATE 2024 POLONUS 85th 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. 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. We would really look forward to see everyone! If you have some time please help us man our booth during the show.

Welcome New Members

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

- Mateusz Walkowiak, Poland
- Michal Guc, Poland
- Hans Vogel, Poland
- David Przepiora, Tennessee

Welcome! Please encourage your friends and colleagues to join!

Congratulations!

Congratulations to a few of our members who have had recent success in exhibiting

- Inger Kuzych for a Reserve Grand and Large Gold for his exhibit *The Western Ukrainian National Republic: November 1918-May 1919* at Garfield Perry March Party 2024.
- Thomas Bieniosek for a Large Silver for his exhibit *Collecting the 1957 Steel Industry Commemorative* at Garfield Perry March Party 2024.
- Terry Kurzinski for a Vermeil for his exhibit *Uses of the 1-cent Louisiana Purchase Stamp of 1904* at Minnesota Stamp Expo and a Gold for his exhibit *Postal Markings of the 1904 World's Fair* at Milcopex 2024

We also wanted to mention that our past president, Dr. Edwin Andrews for being Jury Chairman at NAPEX 2024. A difficult job well done!

Let us know if we missed any of your exhibition results!

Shout outs!

- Dr. Jerzy Kupiec-Weglinski for his article *Surviving A Crash* which appeared in the July issue of the American Philatelist
- Ron Klimley for his article *Centennial of Poland's Zloty* which appeared in the June issue of the American Philatelist

Please take a look at these fantastic articles available online at the APS website at www.stamps.org.

News from the USPS...

The USPS has proposed a new first class postage rate of 73 cents, up 5 cents from the current rate (argh!) The new rate took effect on July 14, 2024.

Website updates

We are constantly updating our website. We have added a section titled Collecting Poland. Here you will find an introduction to Polish philately, highlights of some of Gems of Philately as well as our Polpex Commemoratives gallery. Please visit www.polonus.org to view these updates.

For Sale

Please visit our Polonus store on eBay to see our latest offerings. As we always we have our Polpex souvenirs that we have produced over the years. Please visit our store by clicking <https://www.ebay.com/str/polonusstore>. We also have our member pin and shot glasses for sale along with other Polish stamps and covers! Remember Polonus members receive 10% off. Use coupon code POLONUSM.

Also for sale are some donated items from one of our long time members. These include small collections of Poland Errors, Revenues, Proofs and Polish POW Camp stamps and covers. We will have these available at GASS for those who are interested.

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 or Andrew Urushima at aurushima@yahoo.com. In the meantime, enjoy this Newsletter!