



# POLONUS

POLISH PHILATELIC SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER #9 Fall 2024

Dear Polonus Members,

I recently read an article in a philatelic magazine titled “Why Should You Collect Stamps?”. That led me to ask myself, “Why Should You Collect Polish Stamps?”. These are my thoughts:

1. Geography. Stamps have documented Poland’s unique position in Central Europe. Poland has long been the buffer between its neighbors. What role has Poland’s access to the Baltic Sea played? How have the mountain ranges on Poland’s southern border affected Poland? How have the rivers contributed to Poland? I learned that the “Bug” is a river in Poland and not just a creepy-crawly creature.
2. History: Polish stamps have helped me learn about the great and small events of Polish history.
3. People and Places: Polish stamps have introduced me to important historical figures in Polish history and significant sites in Poland I did not know about.
4. Polish philately can range from simply putting stamps in an album to delving into one of the many specialized stamp areas.
5. One can also choose from a very wide range of postal history or thematic topics.
6. We have an award-winning *Bulletin* and web site and are present at several national exhibitions every year. Our enthusiastic members are available to join in conversations with other Polonus members or to answer questions about Polish philately.

While many of us began collecting Poland because it is part of our ethnic heritage, the richness of Polish philately can and should attract others just as the German, Austrian, French, Great Britain and other ethnic societies have attracted members who do not have a familial connection to the society. You don’t have to be Polish

to like kielbasa! A major step in attracting others is to introduce others to Polish philately by our presence at national exhibitions and exhibiting our beautiful Polish collections.

Happy Collecting!

Dr. James Mazepa, RDP  
COB, Polonus Polish Philatelic Society

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### Gem of the Month: The Black 10 Kronen Postage Due Provisional



In issue 552 of the Bulletin, we discussed how provisional issues came into being. Among those provisional stamps, overprinted by the Kraków Postal Administration, one can find some of the major rarities of Polish philately. The 1, 5, and 10 kronen postage due stamps were overprinted into Polish stamps by adding “POCZTA POLSKA.” Eighty 1 krone and 5 kronen were overprinted in red, whereas,

only forty 10 kronen received the red overprint. One of the rarest, if not the rarest, of Polish stamps is the 10 kronen overprinted in black, illustrated in Figure 1. Only fifteen stamps were overprinted in black and less than ten can be accounted for today. The “POCZTA POLSKA” form I overprint cliché, which was designed for the small 30 x 10 sheets of the lower face value postage due, was used to make the black overprint.

Because of the irregular setting that had to be used for the black overprint, positions 16-20 are set higher than positions 1-10. In a 2009 auction the three value set in red sold for \$20,700 and a black 10 kronen sold for \$41,000.

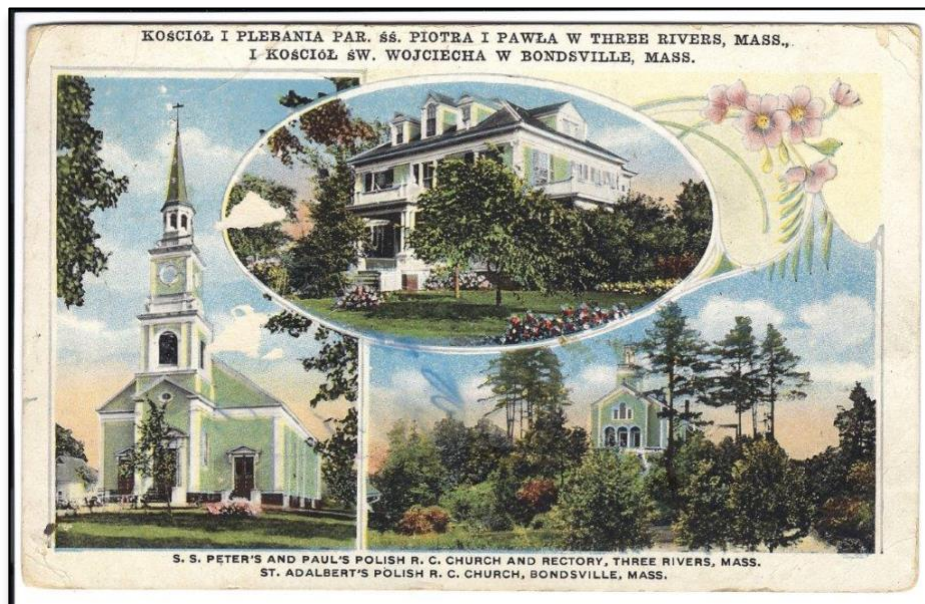
(Contributed by Dr. James Mazepa and reprinted from issue 552 of the *Polonus Bulletin*)

## Polish Communities in the United States



I recently ran across an interesting post card. It was sent from Three Rivers, Massachusetts, July 25, 1919, to Miejsce Piastowe in Poland. The card pays the correct 2¢ rate and is cancelled by the common duplex postmark of the period. The card was censored in Kraków as indicated

by the K8 in a circle. Miejsce Piastowe it a small town near Krosno in south eastern Poland. The view side shows two Polish churches in Massachusetts, Saints Peter and Paul in Three Rivers and St. Adalbert's in Bondsville. Interestingly, the view side it in both English and Polish. Great documentation of Polish communities at the turn of the century.



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## Am I real? Or am I fake ???.....

In past newsletters we have highlighted the many fakes that are out on the market. As always be aware if you see and purchase on the internet! On November 9, our member Steve Bonowski will be presenting at the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library at their regular 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month program:



### Discovering the Stamps of Poland: Exploring Collecting Possibilities for beginning collectors and beyond

In his presentation he will answer the question Am I Real? Or Am I Fake? about the item above. If you are interested let us know at [info@polonus.org](mailto:info@polonus.org) and we will get you registered for the zoom presentation.

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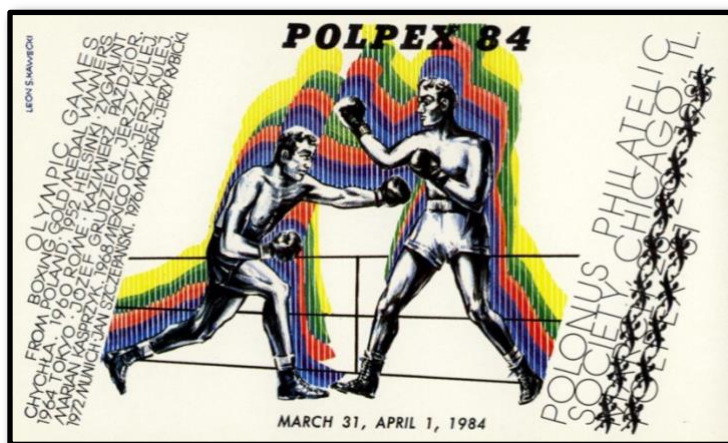
## New Issue highlight– 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Monte Cassino

As the world marks the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Monte Cassino, Poland has released a special postage stamp to honor the bravery and sacrifice of its soldiers in one of World War II's most significant and pivotal battles. This commemorative stamp serves as a reminder of the enduring legacy of the Polish soldiers, led by General Władysław Anders, that played a critical role in securing the abbey. The design of the stamp reflects both the somber and heroic spirit of the battle. The stamp specifically features Corporal Emil Czech from the Polish II Corps playing the "St. Mary's Trumpet Call" (*"Hejnał mariacki"*) at the ruins of the Monte Cassino Abbey after its capture. This stamp is a testament to the enduring pride Poland holds for this event and serves as a reminder of the price paid for freedom.

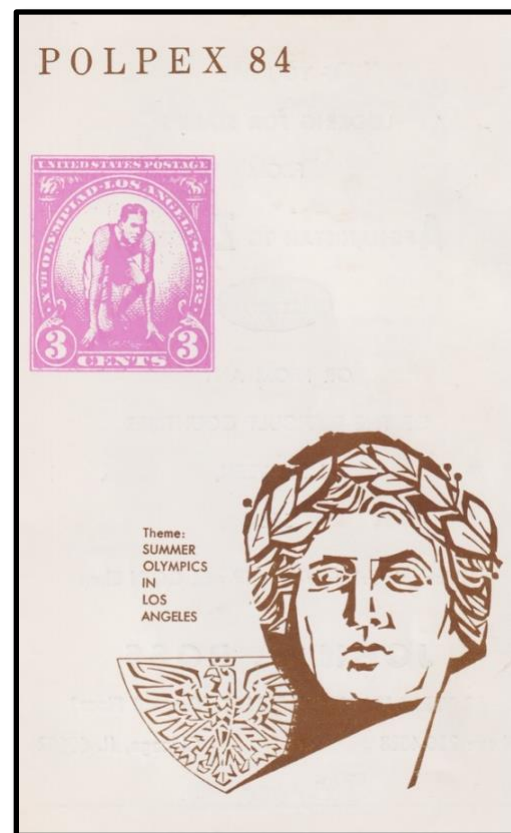


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## 40 years Ago: Polpex 1984



40 years ago, Polonus celebrated its 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary at our annual POLPEX from March 31 to April 1, 1984 in Chicago. The annual exhibition honored the 1984 Olympic Games and featured 104 frames of philatelic exhibits, as well as a numismatic exhibit presented by the Polish American Numismatic Society. One of the featured philatelic exhibits was 13 frames by W. Poniecki titled "Poland: A World Sports Champion Commemorated in Stamps." Judges for the exhibition included none other than our Chairman, Dr. James Mazepa. The annual POLPEX souvenir sheet featured two boxers honoring Polish boxers who had won gold medals at the Olympic Games!



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## Polonus News.....



**SAVE THE DATE! 2025 ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HEALD AT SCHAUMBERG, ILLINOIS AT THE GREAT AMERICAN STAMP SHOW**

Thank you to all of you who attended our 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration at the Great American Stamp Show in Hartford. Next year we will be returning to the birthplace of Polonus and will be holding our annual meeting at GASS in Schaumburg, IL. Plans are being made and

we hope to see many of you there. The show will run from August 14-17, 2025. There is also plenty of time for you to put together a new exhibit for the show!

### **YouTube!**

Yes, we have a YouTube! Channel. Our goal is to begin posting videos of past presentations and events for all to enjoy! Stay tuned.

### **Cherrystone Auctions of Polish Material**

As mentioned in the past few issues of our *Bulletin*, the late Al Kugel donated his collection to the APS. APS appointed Cherrystone as the auctioneer for this collection and many fine and unique Poland-related items have already been offered. In December 2024, Cherrystone will sell part 3 of his collection which includes many hard-to-find Polish items. Cherrystone is also hosting an auction on November 12-13 which features many Polish items including some from a former member of Polonus. Over 75 lots of Polish material will be offered including some very interesting large lots. Please visit [www.cherrystone.com](http://www.cherrystone.com) to view and bid on some amazing lots of Polish philately.

### **Thank you!**

Thank you to former board member John Dunn for his generous donation of part of his collection to the Society. We will be offering some of these items at our Polonus eBay store with all proceeds benefiting Polonus.

### **Kronenberg Collection on the Polonus Website**

We are thrilled to announce the addition of 6 sections of Dr. Stanley Kronenberg's extensive collection of Polish philately to our website. These additions provide an invaluable resource for collectors, historians, and philatelic enthusiasts alike. Dr Stanley Kronenberg was one of the foremost authorities on Polish philately; included in this collection are extensive studies of forgeries and the identifying characteristics of these fakes. Many of the items shown are important reference items for specialists in Polish philately. Please visit [www.polonus.org](http://www.polonus.org) to view these updates.

### **Shout outs ...**

Congratulations to our member Hans Vogels for winning a Vermeil in the Literature competition at Mare Balticum for his work: *The Polish Post in the Free City of Danzig 1920-1929 – Its historical development to its dramatic end*. Mare Balticum was a FIP and FEPA international exhibition held in Estonia this past July.

## **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.

## **2025 Renewals Coming soon ...**

Be on the lookout for our 2025 renewal information. We appreciate all of your support and look forward to having you as a continuing member. If you want to get ahead of the game please click <https://polonus.org/paypal-portal/> to pay for next years dues.

## **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!