



BULLETIN OF THE
POLONUS
 PHILATELIC SOCIETY



Front and Back of Rare Postal Card Sent on Berlin – Warszawa Flight in 1919 – See Page 13

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The Polonus Philatelic Society is a non-profit, tax-exempt, 501(c)(3) organization incorporated in 1939 in the State of Illinois. The Society is organized exclusively for educational purposes with the objective of promoting Polish philately through the dissemination of information in the English language. The opinions expressed by authors of articles appearing in the Polonus Bulletin do not necessarily reflect the views of the Polonus Philatelic Society.

Membership: Members participate in all the services and activities offered by the Society, including complete access to the Society website (www.polonus.org) and the option of receiving a quarterly bulletin in print or electronically. The two membership categories are: **Regular and Junior**. Annual dues for **Regular Members** opting to receive **Printed Bulletin (via mail)** are: **North America - \$30 / Outside N.A. - \$40 or Electronic Bulletin (via website)** are: **North America - \$25 / Outside N.A. - \$25**. Annual dues for **Junior Members** (under age 16 and electronic bulletin only) are: \$10. Annual dues are payable in US funds no later than the end of March of each calendar year. Dues for new members are pro-rated for the time of the year application is submitted, i.e., for period **Jan – Mar 100%** of annual dues; **Apr – Jun 75%**; **Jul - Sep 50%**; and **Oct – Dec 125%** (to cover full payment for following year).

Dues and Changes of Address to be sent to: Polonus Philatelic Society, P.O. Box 489, Maryville, IL 62062.

Articles for publication to be sent to: Chairman of Publication Committee.

Membership queries to be sent to: Membership Chairman.

General Society matters and complaints to be sent to: President.

Bulletin Advertising:

Member to Member Ads – Members have the opportunity to post ads to fellow members **free of charge**. Limit of 500 characters, defined as a letter, space, number or punctuation mark. Member's name and address is not included in this limitation.

Dealer Ads – Dealers wishing to advertise to members have the following options:

Business Card Ad: \$50.00 annual fee for insertion in four issues.

Send ad copy to: Chairman of Publication Committee and make check payable to: Polonus Philatelic Society

Other Ads: Full page or insert ads for single copy available. Send e-mail with ad copy to: info@polonus.org for pricing.

Message From The President

By: Bob Ogrodnik

On a very positive note, I am pleased to report that NAPEX 2013 proved to be another successful event for Polonus. The negative consequence, however, was a delay in completing this issue of the Polonus Bulletin. In an attempt to cover the results of our Annual Meeting and Exhibition, I decided to defer the issue 30 days. This does not reflect a change in our quarterly distribution policy. The next issue will be distributed in mid-September, as usual. Thanks for your understanding.

Do not miss the Society News section in this issue, including NAPEX Highlights, President's Annual Report, Exhibitor Awards and the 2012 Financial Report. This information will not only report on activities at the show but it will report on Polonus for the past year 2012. Due to an earlier Board decision to postpone the election of Directors until 2014, the only organizational announcement at the Annual Membership Meeting was the appointment of Robin Elliott to the new position of Library Liaison. More information about the relocation of the Polonus library can be found in this issue.

Congratulations to Wiesław Kostka for being the recipient of the **NAPEX Reserve Grand and Polonus Grand Awards**, to Andrew Urushima for being the recipient of the **Polonus President's Award**, and to Czesław Majewski for being the first to receive the **Polonus Novice Award**. In addition to enhancing our reputation as a philatelic society through participation at National Exhibitions, Polonus members are enhancing Poland collecting interest through their contributions to high visibility philatelic publications and by participation in international exhibitions. Check out the articles in this issue on Dr. Jerzy Kupiec-Węgliński receiving the prestigious **Barbara Mueller Award**; on Dr. Richard Mallow in receiving a Gold Medal at Tel Aviv 2013; and on Dr. Stanley R. Sandler whose article is featured in the July issue of the *American Philatelist*.

This issue features the launch of a new regular column called "*Annals of Polish Aerophilately*", authored by Dr. Jerzy Kupiec-Węgliński and Jacek Kosmala. The column will regularly appear in the Polonus Bulletin and will provide a valuable reference for members having a collecting interest in Poland airmail and postal history. You may recall Jim

Mazepa's article in issue #549 informing us that the authors received the **Walter R. McCoy Award** for their articles on Air Post in Poland in 2011 and 2012 Congress Books.

This issue also includes *Before Lemberg: (Part 2)* by Dr. Inger Kuzych, the second of a three-part feature article on the history of the post in Central Europe. This article covers the Early Post in Poland and is a "must read" for Poland collectors interested in postal history.

We are within 1½ years of our next Annual Meeting & Exhibition – CHICAGOPEX 2014 to be held at the Westin Chicago Northwest on 21-23 November 2014. In addition to participating as a "Convening Society", Polonus will celebrate its 75th anniversary as an organization. This will be our most important show in recent times and I urge you to "save the date" (21-23 November 2014) and plan early to attend and participate. We have initiated our planning work and are actively recruiting volunteers to help with the various tasks that will develop. If you would like to help us in this endeavor, contact me at krpsl@earthlink.net or call me at (314) 821-6130.

One other critical item on our priority list for the next year is the election of a Board of Directors for a three-year term. Bob Nowicki will remain the Chair of the Nominating Committee and you should feel free to contact him if you are personally interested or have a recommendation to make. Bob can be reached at philatelist@comcast.net.

Have you considered using the Bulletin to post "sell-buy-trade ads"? We can devote one page for such activity and the service is free-of-charge. Of the ads that appeared in Bulletin #550, Ron Wolosewicz reported that he was successful in selling his books and Zbigniew Krawczyk reported that he sold a couple covers. If you are interested in using the Bulletin to post your ads, contact me for assistance in developing the ad.

Thanks to all who have taken a little time to pass on comments regarding the Bulletin or Society. Meeting once a year with 10% of the membership does not generate sufficient feedback, hence the need to keep sending your comments throughout the year.

NAPEX 2013 Highlights

By: Bob Ogrodnik

The Hilton McLean Tysons Corner Hotel was the site for NAPEX 2013 this past May 31 through June 2nd. This location is off the “DC beltway” so one can say we were meeting at the Nation’s Capital, even though the hotel is in McLean, Virginia. In a word, I can sum-up the performance of Polonus at NAPEX as “outstanding”.



Busy working the Society Table; l-r Robin Elliott, Czesław Majewski (standing), Wiesław Kostka

Our first obligation when we commit to participate as a “Convening Society” is to generate a minimum number of exhibit frames from the membership. Our minimum commitment was 40 and we ended up with 52 frames from 12 exhibits. Due to space limitations, some member entries were rejected. Of the 256 frames exhibited in the “Open Competition”, Polonus represented 20%, the single largest turn-out



Award recipients; l-r Phillips(Judge), Ogrodnik, Wiatr, Kostka, Majewski, Sobus

by a convening society. More importantly, Polonus exhibits achieved outstanding results with 6 – Gold, 2 – Vermeil, 3 – Silver, and 1 – Silver-Bronze NAPEX medals. In addition, our Wiesław Kostka won the NAPEX Reserve Grand Award. Palmares results and more details about the exhibits can be found on Page 8 of this issue.

Polonus participated in the Literature Exhibition and was awarded a Silver Medal based upon an annual set of Bulletins (#’s 547-550). This is the first time that I can recall that we entered the Literature competition and now we know what we must work on to “reach for the gold”.



Ogrodnik presiding over Annual Membership Meeting

Another highlight of the show was the Annual Membership Meeting at which the President’s Report was presented, supplemented by the Directors and Committee Chairs who were in attendance. Please refer to page 6 & 7 for the details of this report. Unfortunately, the Board Meeting, that preceded the Membership Meeting, did not have a quorum and could not proceed. However, we did not have any resolutions to be decided and the members present continued with a discussion on the President’s Report. The key points of the President’s report are:

- Financial position slightly improved
Contributions from members keeps the Society in the black
- Membership is down with attrition taking a toll
- New “Novice Award” announced
- Introduced Robin Elliott as new Library Liaison and announced the move of Polonus library from Florida to APRL in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania
- Website scheduled for a new look in 2014

Society News

- Succession of leadership is critical with election of Board scheduled for 2014
- CHICAGOPEX 2014 will mark Polonus' 75th Anniversary

Following the Annual Membership Meeting, Regis Hoffman delivered a power-point presentation on "Polish Refugees in WWII Africa". Anyone interested in receiving a copy of Regis' presentation can contact him at rgmmhoffman@comcast.net. The Society Table was well situated relative to traffic flow and well staffed by Polonus volunteers. The lure of Polish candies kept the table busy with visitors, some of whom purchased POLPEX memorabilia, some wanted information on Polonus and others chose to sign up as members. We signed six new members at the show, which is about the same number we have been averaging at past shows and is definitely a highlight. These individuals are listed in the New Member welcoming section of this issue.



Discussion at the Society Table; I-r Inger Kuzych and Wiesław Kostka

Attendance at the show was fair and Polonus was well represented by 26 members, many from the east coast and the DC area. This was an opportunity for members to network and to renew old and make new acquaintances. The "dutch-treat" dinner at the Kazan Restaurant was well attended and received excellent reviews. However, the hospitality suite proved once again to be the most popular gathering spot for members at the show.

The disappointment at this show was the lack of capacity and tickets for the Awards Banquet and the inability of most of our members to attend this event.



Scene from the Hospitality Suite; I-r Paul Phillips and Bob Ogrodnik

Members who could not purchase tickets to this event made "cameo appearances" during the awards presentation to claim their honors, an unfortunate and embarrassing situation. The lesson in this experience is to purchase tickets for the Awards Banquet at the same time that you submit your exhibit entry forms.



Wiesław Kostka receiving the Polonus Grand Award from Bob Ogrodnik

I want to thank all who helped make this year's Polonus participation at NAPEX a success, especially those who exhibited and attended the show. Our presence at National Philatelic Exhibitions has been highly regarded which bodes well for future show selections. Next year will be our 75th anniversary as a philatelic society and our Annual Membership Meeting will be held "where it all began", in Chicago. Plan now for CHICAGOPEX 2014 on 21-23 November 2014.

President's Report Polonus Annual Meeting – June 1, 2013 NAPEX 2013 – McLean, Virginia

This is the 11th Anniversary of our "Annual Meeting & Exhibition" format and, as your President for the past six years I am pleased to report that Polonus continues to thrive as a viable philatelic 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Thanks to the generous response by our membership to the annual appeal for tax-deductible contributions along with dues payment, our "financial health" is good. However, the "organizational health" is not well. This status is reflected in our decision to postpone the election of Directors, scheduled for this year, until 2014. Notwithstanding the ongoing appeals in the Bulletin and through personal contact, members have not answered the call to serve on the Board of Directors. Therefore, as Polonus nears its 75th anniversary as a Philatelic Society, organization is the #1 critical issue and priority. More on this subject later in my report.

A summary of the 2012 highlights follows:

- Our financial position has improved in 2012 due to income exceeding expenses by \$1,541.80 resulting in a year-end cash balance of \$12,907.61. The Treasurer's Report will be included in the Bulletin.
- Contributions represented 29% of our income in 2012, with 42% of our membership participating. As a 501(c)(3), contributions are tax-deductible. Acknowledgement letters are sent to donors and recognition is given with a listing of donors in our Bulletin.
- The Polonus Bulletin is one of the major benefits of membership and we continue to deliver a quality publication on-time. Since launching a "digital version" accessible to **"Members Only"** on our website, 31% of the membership have opted for the "digital version" Bulletin. This has contributed to a reduction in our publishing and mailing expense.
- Membership as of this date totals 207, of which 52 are located in 10 countries outside the USA and 155 are located in 28 states within the USA. The 207 members as of May 2013 is a reduction of 14 from the 221 reported as of March 2012. In that same period of time, we welcomed 16 new members but lost 30 resulting in the net loss of 14. We welcome your feedback and help to offset the attrition, the result of an aging demographic, with addition of new members.
- During this past year, we introduced a new award, the Polonus Novice Award. This award is to be given to a first-time exhibitor who exhibits Poland or Polish related material and is judged the best among the first-time exhibitors of either a one-frame or multi-frame exhibit.
- Our performance as a "featured" or "convening" Philatelic Society at major stamp shows continues to be exemplary and our reputation among show organizers is excellent. This means we can enjoy the privilege of choosing the shows at which we are "featured". I want to thank our membership for their support at shows, especially by participation in exhibiting, which is one of the features at every show. In 2014, we will celebrate our 75th Anniversary as a Philatelic Society at CHICAGOPEX on 21-23 November. Polonus had its origin in Chicago and this show is a "must attend" for our membership. We have begun our planning for this milestone event, which will be the "best ever" from the standpoint of exhibiting, attendance, meetings, and special activities to make this a memorable experience.
- I am pleased to announce a Board-approved consolidation of our library material with the American Philatelic Research Library (APRL) located in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania. I am also pleased to announce the appointment of Robin Elliott to the new position of Library Liaison. A Polonus member for the past six years, Robin has an academic background in Library Services from Columbia University and has been an active member of the APS and APRL. She will serve as the liaison between Polonus membership and the APRL librarian and staff. The benefits of consolidating our library with the APRL are significant.
 1. Leverages a well established library system that is professionally staffed at no cost to Polonus.

2. Provides a sustainable program, thereby eliminating the need to move and find another volunteer librarian.
3. Expands the research capabilities beyond a stand-alone Polonus Library. APRL has recently joined forces with the Royal Philatelic Society in London. Together with the Smithsonian's National Postal Museum, APRL can now provide a centralized gateway to the greatest philatelic research in existence.
4. Increases the visibility of Polonus and promotes "Collecting Poland" among the 35,000 APS members.
5. APRL will maintain and publish the index of Polonus material on their website and via their quarterly Philatelic Review publication.

You can expect to hear more about this program in the months ahead as we complete the consolidation and re-organization at APRL.

- Our Study Group program has mixed reviews. On the positive side, we are seeing a more articles on POW Camps and Aero-Philately. On the negative side, we have lost the Study Group Leader on DP / Intern Camps and Cinderellas & Labels. We are looking for volunteers to take the lead on these, as well as expand into other areas. I am convinced that active Study Groups represent a valuable benefit to our membership and could attract new members.
- Polonus provides the only professional expertizing service for Polish philatelic material in North America, another "value-added" benefit to Polonus members. Zbigniew Korszeń, Expert of the Polish Philatelic Union and Polonus member, continues to serve as the primary expert in this program. Hank Bieniecki serves as Chair of the Expertizing Committee and reports that there have been no changes to the forms or administrative procedures presented last year. The program and procedures have been communicated in the Bulletin and we plan to add this to our Website in the coming months.
- During this past year, Hank Bieniecki and the Website Committee concentrated on the implementation of electronic (online) registration and electronic (online) updating/changing of personal data on **My Accounts**, which appears as a menu item only after successfully logging in. It is now possible for individuals to register immediately and communicate with Polonus via info@polonus.org. Plans for the coming year include redesigning the "Menu" on the Front Page for enhanced appearance and for implementing more "drop-down" menus in order to combine related items under one header. Clicked Studios, a local firm has been engaged to do the redesign work and to manage a change of the Polonus Website from Network Solutions to another server. We also plan to add a "*Polonus Shoppe*" on the website for the sale of various items, such as POLPEX memorabilia, Polonus literature, etc. Other sections such as the Polonus Library will be modified, the Polish-English Philatelic Dictionary updated, and the Expertizing Services added.
- Now for our #1 critical issue and priority – organization. Last year I reported that one of our disappointments was the poor response to a "Volunteer Survey" when fewer than 3% of the membership responding. In 2012, we began contacting members based upon interests listed on membership applications and included job descriptions for volunteer positions in our Bulletin. This approach has generated some positive results. However, our "want list" goes well beyond the couple functions now handled by new volunteers. Our most critical need is to provide for a succession of leadership in the organization. We need candidates to serve as Directors, subject to the election by the membership, and among these Directors, we need to renew the slate of Officers, including a new President. Other critical needs are: Membership Chair, Publication Committee Chair / Editor, and Website Chair. We have prepared job descriptions for these critical needs and we are prepared to discuss these with members interested in at least considering the possibility of volunteering their time and talent.

Finally, I want to acknowledge and thank the Board of Directors and Committee Chairs for their contribution towards the accomplishments reported and look forward to working with all towards meeting the challenges ahead, continued success and philatelic enjoyment.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert V. Ogradnik, President
Polonus Philatelic Society

Polish Exhibits Excel at NAPEX 2013

The turn-out by Polonus exhibitors exceeded our commitment as a Convening Society but it was less than we experienced at past shows. However, what we lacked in quantity was made up in quality. We congratulate all exhibitors for a job well done. Listed below is a summary of awards granted to the 11 exhibitors, as presented in the NAPEX 2013 Palmares.

Wiesław Kostka was the “hit of the show” receiving the NAPEX Reserve Grand Award and the Polonus Grand Award for his exhibit, “*Kingdom of Poland Study of Rates for Stampless Mail, 1815-71*”. In addition, he received NAPEX and Polonus Gold Medals, the American Philatelic Society Award for Research, and the Postal History Society Award.



Reviewing the Reserve Grand and Polonus Grand Award winner; l-r Inger Kuzich and Wiesław Kostka

Dr. Jerzy Kupiec-Węgliński received NAPEX and Polonus Gold Medals for his exhibit, “*Flown Mail of the Siege of Przemyśl, 1914-15*”. In addition, he received the American Air Mail Society Gold Medal and the American Philatelic Society Award of Excellence, Predominately 1900-1940.

Gerard Menge received NAPEX and Polonus Gold Medals for his exhibit, “*Generalgouvernement Protectorate Semipostal Issues, 1940-44*”.

Roman Sobus received NAPEX and Polonus Gold Medals for his exhibit, “*Internal Camp Post at Offizierlager Ile Woldenberg, 1942-45*”.

Frank Wiatr received NAPEX and Polonus Gold Medals for his exhibit, “*Fortress Krakau, 1914-18*”.

Andrew Urushima received NAPEX and Polonus Gold Medals for his one-frame exhibit, “*The 1944 Gross Born Olympics*”. He also received the Polonus President’s Award for the Best One-Frame exhibit.

Dzintars Grinfelds received NAPEX Vermeil and Polonus Gold Medals for his exhibit, “*Republic of Central Lithuania*”.

Dr. Ross Marshall received NAPEX Vermeil and Polonus Gold Medals for his one-frame exhibit, “*Poland Judicial Mail*”.

Czesław Majewski received NAPEX and Polonus Silver Medals for his exhibit, “*Polish Personalized Stamps*”. In addition, he received the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors Award of Honor and the Polonus Novice Award. This was Czesław’s first attempt at exhibiting and he became the first recipient of the new Novice Award.



Majewski receiving the first Polonus Novice Award from Ogrodnik

Bob Ogrodnik received NAPEX and Polonus Silver Medals for his two exhibits, “*Battle of Grunwald Commemorated by Polish Philately*” and “*First Polish Airmail Issue After WWII*”.

Regis Hoffman received NAPEX Silver-Bronze and Polonus Silver Medals for his exhibit “*Polish Refugees in Africa, World War II*”.

Financial Report for 2012:

Cash Balance

As of December 31, 2012.....\$ 12,316.81

Income

Membership dues.....6,100.00
 Donations.....2,605.00
 Sales.....256.75

8,961.75

Expense

Bulletin print & prep.....3,061.61
 Website.....363.97
 Annual Exhibition1,964.28
 Membership related.....70.00
 Postage for mailings.....1,001.11
 Exhibitor Awards.....708.55
 Office supplies & services26.95
 Fees (bank, P.O. box, etc.).....158.00
 All other65.48

7,419.95

Net Income 1,541.80

Deferred Income / Expense (951.00)

Cash Balance

As of December 31, 2012.....\$ 12,907.61

Note: See comments on Financials in President's Report on page 6.



Admiring Polonus Exhibits, l-r Wiesław Kostka, George Zelwinder and Czesław Majewski

New Members

We welcome the following new members who recently joined our Society:

Alan Modiszewski - #1747
 4303 Sailfish Drive
 Manteo, NC 27954

Richard Bothwell - #1748
 4217 N. 104th Street #7
 Milwaukee, WI 53222

William Williges - #1749
 570 Phelps Court
 Benicia, CA 94510

Gerard B. Menge - #1660
 P.O. Box 214
 Ledbetter, TX 78946-0214

Michael S. Canavan - #1750
 16019 Pond Meadow Lane
 Bowie, MD 20716-1868

Norman W. Vachowiak - #1751
 4790 N. 21st Road
 Arlington, VA 22207

Inger J. Kuzych - #1752
 P.O. Box 3
 Springfield, VA 22150-0003

Edwin J. Andrews - #1753
 278 Serenity Hill
 Chapel Hill, NC 27516-0389

Mary M. Hertling - #1754
 P.O. Box 30377
 Alexandria, VA 22310

Dr. Jerzy Kupiec-Węgliński Receives the Barbara Mueller Award

By: Dr. James Mazepa



Dr. Jerzy Kupiec-Węgliński has received the prestigious Barbara Mueller Award for the best article for the year 2012 in the *American Philatelist*. His article, *The Siege of Przemyśl 1914-1915*, appeared in the June issue.

The United States Stamp Society, a society that specializes in

the study and research of United States and other country's stamps and postal history, sponsors the award. Articles are chosen by a subcommittee from the over 300 articles that are published annually in the *American Philatelist*. The recipient is honored at the annual APS StampShow, which will be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin this year. The Mueller Award consists of a cash stipend and the recipient's name is engraved on a permanent plaque in the editorial offices of the American Philatelic Society.

Barbara Mueller is one of the most prominent members of the USSS and the APS. She was a prolific writer and volunteered extensively in the service of philately for over six decades. She is an honorary member of the USSS and the APS Writers Unit, and the recipient of the APS Luff Award for Distinguished Philatelic Research.

The recognition of Dr. Kupiec-Węgliński follows the proud tradition established by Barbara Mueller of excellent philatelic research.

Editor's Note: To view Jerzy's article, go to: http://stamps.org/userfiles/file/AP/feature/Feature_06_12.pdf

Dr. Richard Mallow Awarded Large Gold at Tel Aviv 2013

By: Dr. James Mazepa

The Israeli Philatelic Federation invited the Federations of Cyprus, Singapore, Russia, and United States to participate in the Tel Aviv 2013 Invitational Exhibition, a biannual event. The exhibition was held on May 26-30th in one of the buildings of the vast Convention Center in Tel Aviv. Over six hundred frames were exhibited and judged by International FIP (International Federation of Philately) rules and by a jury of FIP judges.



Opening ceremony of Tel Aviv 2013

I was invited to be on the jury and serve as Team Leader for the Traditional and Postal History classes. This was a very enjoyable experience and an opportunity to renew old relationships and make new friends. The Organizing Committee were gracious hosts, providing transportation, hosting a delightful reception and dinner, and providing a tour of Bethlehem and Jerusalem.

Polonus member **Dr. Richard Mallow** exhibited his "Wodzowie Issue 1944-1945" collection and was awarded a **Large Gold (95 Points) and a Special Prize**. What is important to note is that the judging was based on international, not national, standards. The jury commented on his essays, vast number of proofs (probably the largest in existence), and commercial letters with provisional cancellations and postmarks. This marks only the second time in recent years that a Polish exhibit has received a Large Gold Medal when judged by international rules at a multi-national exhibition.

The Pioneer Period of Airmail Services in Poland (1918-1928) Part 1: Berlin – Warszawa Flight in 1919

By: Dr. Jerzy W. Kupiec-Węgliński and Jacek Kosmala

Editor's Note: We are pleased to launch a new Polonus Bulletin regular column "Annals of Polish Aerophilately". Its authors, Dr. Jerzy W. Kupiec-Węgliński (Beverly Hills, CA) and Jacek Kosmala (Warszawa, Poland) have been collecting, exhibiting and researching the history of airmail services in the Polish territories for decades. This is the first of several articles on this topic, which they originally published in The American Philatelic Congress Book (2011 and 2012). For two years in a row, the authors received the prestigious Walter R. McCoy Award for the best article of the volume.

INTRODUCTION

The subject of post-World War I development of airmail services in newly independent Poland is fascinating and challenging for both collecting and researching. Poland's location between major superpowers in Central Europe made the country an attractive strategic partner in the race to establish new air connections, as well as a transit hub for long-distance experimental flights. In the upcoming series of the articles, the authors will try to capture some of the "excitement and romance" of the pioneer period of Polish aviation history by presenting postal artifacts and stories behind them. These stories encompass often uncharted routes traveled some 90 years ago, the amount of postage required for air transportation, and postal markings received at various points during the journey. Noteworthy in researching these early aviation artifacts are: socio-economical conditions in a country and the enormity of the tasks facing the state in ever changing geopolitical situation. Of note, until 1928 there was no legislative framework for commercial civil aviation and air services in Poland were managed by the "Narrow-gauge and Urban Railway Department" in the Railroads Ministry.

The major challenge currently facing the collector of the Polish airmails is the scarcity of better philatelic material. The reason is twofold. First, the air transport cost, especially in the pioneer period, was relatively high and the number of items usually carried on the inaugural flights was low (from just few to about 100 items per flight). Second, the majority

of Polish philatelic collections perished during World War II. Those collections that survived were mainly located abroad, especially in the U.S, and were only recently unearthed at very high sticker prices.

The challenge facing the aerophilately scholar is the paucity of relevant information for in-depth research, as most original flight records were lost. Indeed, as the Gryżewski brothers (Kazimierz and Tadeusz) are considered instrumental in creating the foundations, it was the collecting and research passions of their successors in both Poland (Messrs. Bura, Kłosiński, Korszeń, Nadolny) and abroad (Messrs. Kuderewicz, Kronenberg [USA]; Mikulski [Switzerland]; Koseve [France]; Lemos Da Silvera [Portugal]; Braunstein [Belgium]; Alwast, Asznowicz, Górny [Australia]; Hartley, Grabowski, Kopel, Newall [U.K]) that legitimized and integrated Polish aerophilately with world aerial philatelic history. The humble contribution of both authors of this series, with their over 60 years of joint collecting and researching the topic experience, eight Gold FIP medals, two Gold FEPA medals, and three Grand APS World Series Awards, may have also helped to promote the subject on both sides of the Atlantic. However, these could never be accomplished without the pioneering effort and contributions to the field of Dr. James Mazepa (Sarasota, FL), a friend, philatelic mentor, and the first recipient of a FIP Gold Medal at the World Exhibition for his Polish Airmails.

THE BIRTH OF AIRMAIL SERVICES IN THE POLISH TERRITORIES

On Saturday, February 18, 1911, a French pilot Henri Pequet carried a mail bag with approximately 6000 covers while flying a two-seater biplane from Allahabad to Naini, India, then part of the British Empire. The 13-minute long hop of just 5 miles made history, and became recognized as the first official airmail service in the world. Four years later (October 1914 – March 1915), in the remote part of Eastern Europe in the Polish territory of Galicia, the Austrian military aviators were sending reports and soldier correspondence by airplanes from the Przemyśl fortress, besieged by the Russians. Then, in March 1918, the Austrian military inaugurated a postal air connection between Vienna and Kiev, via Kraków, Lwów and Proskurow. This was the first regular and international airmail service in the world. After a brief

3-week extension to Budapest in July that year, the service was discontinued in mid-October 1918. The Przemyśl siege and the 1918 airmails have been well documented in the philatelic literature, including *Polonus Bulletin* #546. Here, we focus on the pioneer period of airmail services between 1918, the year Poland regained its independence after 123 years of partition, and January 1, 1929, when the first government-owned Polish Airline "LOT" was established.

It was during the siege of Lwów by the Ukrainian forces in November 1918 when a Polish airplane, with red and white striped national insignia on its wings and fuselage, was used for the first time. The Commander, Stefan Stanisław Stec, the pioneer of the Polish aviation and a fighter ace, carried out several courier flights while transporting important army reports and documents between Warszawa, Kraków and the city of Lwów cut-off from the rest of the country. The letters were deposited at The Committee for the Defense of Lwów, and then delivered directly to the pilot. The amount of mail sent is not known. There was no fee charged for the air service, and envelopes bear neither special cachets nor airpost markings. It is believed that in addition to post, these flights in November 1918 may have carried a few passengers, including Dr. Stanisław Stroński, sent by the government with the political mission to the besieged city of Lwów.

First attempts to organize the civil air transport in newly independent Poland were initiated in the western city of Poznań. The nearby Ławica Military Air Station (built in 1913) had been serving as an Imperial German airbase of the Flying Squadron 4 (Fliegerersatz-Abteilung Nr. 4; FEA Posen/ Döberitz) during World War I. Following the initiative by the Aerial War Regiment in September 1919, the Ławica Air Force pilots tried to set up an airplane link between Poznań and Warszawa. The maiden flight to Warszawa-Mokotów airfield (the oldest Polish airport, built in 1910) was scheduled for September 18, 1919. There was to be one passenger and some mail on board. The Niemierkiewicz bookshop in Poznań city center was selected to collect letters and cards to be air carried at a fee of 1 German mark (Mk) each. However, it is unknown whether this flight actually took place as no original correspondence is

known to exist. However, the Poznań – Warszawa flight of 1919 has been listed by Frank Muller in the Polish section of his "*Catalogue des Aerogrammes du Monde Entier*" ("Catalog of the Aerograms of the Whole World"). Since this aviation undertaking was not approved by the central Warszawa authorities, future flights were discontinued. During that time, The National Society of Aerial Navigation of Poland (NSANP), operating with British Handley-Page Transport funding, planned to launch air connections between the Free City of Gdańsk (Danzig), Warszawa, and Kraków. All these attempts failed as well. On October 13, 1919, in Paris, the Polish representatives signed "The International Convention of Aviation", which committed Poland to international cooperation in the development of European civil aviation.

In May of 1920, the NSANP turned to the Ministry of Posts for permission to carry mail by airplane from Warszawa to Kiev, which had been captured by the Polish Army from the Russians earlier that month. After a successful trial flight, on May 18, the Main Post Office in Warszawa was accepting post cards to be flown to Kiev. The fee was 40 fenigs (f) for stamps and 20f for benefit of NSANP. However, under mounting pressure from the Red Army counteroffensive, a hurried evacuation of Kiev by the Polish forces was already underway. The flight scheduled for May 19 was subsequently cancelled, and all mail correspondence was returned to senders.

BERLIN – WARSZAWA FLIGHT BY LIEUTENANT ZUSKE

On June 21, 1919, a twin engine aircraft was flown by Polish Lieutenant Maximilian Zuske-Zdzierz from Berlin to Warszawa. The aircraft, awarded to Poland by the Allied War Commission as a part of World War I reparations, was intended for future training of Polish flying personnel. To commemorate that historic flight, seventy-six plain postal cards were deposited in the Berlin W56 Post Office under the name of Dr. Lewandowski, a representative of the Polish government. Each card was registered and had an express sticker attached (**Figure 1**). The registration and express fee of 10f and 20f, respectively, were prepaid by the German stamps, which were cancelled on June 15, 1919. An important characteristic was a special violet cachet depicting a downed German

aircraft, which also stated the air surcharge of 20Mk, the anticipated departure date between June 20 and 22, and the intended Berlin – Warschau route. The border clashes between German and Polish forces were the reason for not specifying the exact departure date. After the aircraft landed safely on June 21 at the Warszawa-Mokotów airfield, the cards received a black cachet, similar to the one used in Berlin, but with the Polish text (**Figure 2**). The airmail was then delivered to the Main Warszawa Post Office, where each of the 76 cards received newly issued Polish National Assembly stamps. However, due to organizational problems, the stamp cancellation was delayed until July 4th. The entire batch of cards was then forwarded to the Air Force Inspectorate for certification. The Air Force seal applied to the card authenticates this delivered airmail as being in agreement with Polish Army Command. To prevent any future forgeries, special affidavits in Polish, French, and English were appended to each card. This quite large document (34 cm x 42 cm) states: “*The first air-post Berlin – Warsaw. The adjoined postcards have been brought to Warsaw by a Polish pilot, who did cross the frontiers at the battle-time, being in danger from the Polish as well as from the German side 21 June 1919. Signed by the General Staff of the Aerial Service in Warsaw.*” The affidavits were signed by Capt. Stępniewicz, the Inspector, and officially stamped with the black cachet. To further prevent any duplication, a wax seal with a cord was attached. Thus, the delivery of postcards from the first Berlin–Warszawa flight has acquired a special place in the history of Polish airmail.

Since all the records were lost, it is unknown how many postal cards were ultimately retained by the Polish Air Force. Lt. Zuske has mentioned in his personal notes that single cards were sent to George V, the King of England; President

Wilson of USA; Polish Premier Paderewski; and the Archbishop of Warszawa, Cardinal Kakowski. The Army ordered Lt. Zuske and Dr. Lewandowski not to sell cards to dealers because of the Air Force seal on attached affidavits. Consequently, the memory of the Berlin – Warszawa Flight became dimmed in time. Indeed, over 50 years passed until Fabian Bura, a prominent Polish philatelist, re-discovered this historic philatelic item in the 1970’s. In one of his notes, Mr. Bura states, “I was shown a bill of sales for a single cover from this flight to an official of the Polish-American company by the name of Hudson. On June 5, 1921, this individual paid \$700 for one card from the Berlin to Warsaw flight. Even at this time, the cover was considered to have great value!” It is difficult to speculate how many cards survived the ravages of the Second World War. One thing is

certain that the Berlin – Warszawa airmail cards from June 1919 are classics of Polish philately and represent important documents from the beginning of the aviation era in independent Poland.



Figure 1 - Front side of one of 76 postcards carried by Lt. Maximilian Zuske on his flight from Berlin to Warszawa on June 21, 1919. Card has German stamps cancelled on June 15, 1919 with special “Berlin – Warschau” rectangular cachet, and with registration and express labels.



Figure 2 – Reverse side of the card in Figure 1 with Polish stamps cancelled by special “Berlin – Warszawa” rectangular cachet.

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Before Lemberg: (Part 2)

The Development of the Mail System in Central Europe and the Beginnings of the Postal Service in Lwów (Lviv)

By: Dr. Inger Kuzych

*Editor's Note: This is the second of a three-part article on the history of the post in Central Europe. The previous *Polonus Bulletin* issue featured Part 1 covering **Early European Mails and Getting Organized in the Habsburg Dominions**. This issue covers **Early Post in Poland**.*

Early Post in Poland

The beginnings of a regular postal service in East-Central Europe began in Poland and later in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth during the late 16th-early 17th centuries. At this time many expatriates from Italy lived in Polish cities, including Kraków, Warsaw, and Lwów (Lviv, Lvov, Lemberg). Among the Italians were merchants, architects, builders, and artists.

The first postal service in Poland came about as a result of the death of a royal. Dowager Queen Bona Sforza, the Italian-born mother of Polish King Zygmunt II August (r. 1548-1572) (**Figures 1 & 3**), died in 1557, leaving behind a large estate in Italy. The king deemed it necessary that a reliable communication system be set up with the administrators of the estate. To that end, in 18 October 1558 he granted to Prospero Provana (**Figure 3**), an Italian nobleman at the Polish court, the first official Polish postal privileges. These included the right and duty to carry both the royal mail and the royal persons between Kraków and Venice. While the king owned the postal service and was responsible for funding its couriers and horses, it was up to Provana to organize it. The income from the service was deposited in the royal treasury; Provana's annual salary was 300 złoty.



Figure 1 – A portrait of King Zygmunt II August, Fi 3526

Instead of using already established postal roadways in Austria, Provana decided to set up his own shorter postal route – with stations for change of horses – from Kraków, through Vienna and Graz, to Venice. It is from 1558 that the Polish postal service may be dated; this initial phase of the service lasted for four years (**Figure 2 & 3**).



Figure 2 – A 1958 issue commemorating the 400th Anniversary of the Polish Post, Fi 918 – 922

The postal service encountered difficulties on the Austrian part of the route resulting in unreliable service. In July of 1562 the king, dissatisfied with Provana's performance and enticed by Christopher Taxis' promise of free delivery of royal correspondence, nominated him director of the post. Taxis's postal route was divided into an Italian and a Lithuanian part. The central node was in Kraków from where the mail was transported either to Venice or to Vilnius.



Figure 3 – Miniature sheet commemorating the 450th Anniversary of the Polish Post, Fi 4227 – 4229 (Blok 179)

Before Lemberg: (Part 2) (cont.)

Under the terms of the contract, Taxis assumed the obligation to transmit the letters of the king and those of the members of his court without cost. In return, he received the right to accept private letters and charge for their carriage by his postal service. The rate was 6 groszy for letters up to 1 loth in weight (3 groszy up to ½ loth). The service extended to Venice, Rome, Naples, and other states. A letter from Kraków to Venice required about 10 days in transit. The king also agreed to provide 1,500 thalers per year towards the management and upkeep of the postal service.

Under the Thurn and Taxis family, a remarkably efficient and well run postal system was set up. However, after some time, intra-familial squabbles caused the service to deteriorate and the free transfer of royal mail became fiction. Zygmunt II August cancelled the Taxis contract and appointed another Italian, Peter Maffon, as the new director of the Polish royal post. The contract was for five years.

Maffon's post was not successful either and Sebastian Monteluppi (**Figure 3**), another polonized Italian nobleman, became the director of posts in 1569. A new privilege, dated 22 June 1569, specified how the postal service was to function. Monteluppi was to

maintain enough horses to freely transport the correspondences of the king, as well as those of royal and foreign envoys, from Kraków to Venice and back. The post was to be royal property and the couriers were to wear the royal insignia. Couriers were to depart from Kraków to Venice on a regular schedule so that the king could receive weekly dispatches. Postal expenses, aside from the director's yearly salary of 1,300 thalers, were to be paid by income from private packages and letters. The post could also use the royal "podwód" (horses and wagons provided by the local population)(**Figures 4 & 5**).



Figure 4 – Sheetlet commemorating the 400th Anniversary of the Polish Post, Fi 927 (Ark 927 I)



Figure 5 – FDC commemorating the 400th Anniversary of the Polish Post with Fi 934 (Blok 21)

Monteluppi's postal service functioned much more efficiently than Maffon's had. Since Monteluppi came from one of the wealthiest families in Kraków, he was not burdened by the financial problems of his predecessor. As a successful merchant and a banker, he had maintained financial and business contacts through his own courier system. Often other merchants had used his "post." In organizing the royal postal service, he was able to draw on his former experience. He performed his new duties efficiently, maintaining the horses and couriers along the postal routes. Letters and other correspondence were carried with regularity, but packages frequently arrived late or damaged. The fault was often not that of the couriers, but rather was caused by the primitive forms of transportation and by the poor condition of the roads.

The original privilege stipulated that the postal service would be established for five years. When the king died in 1572, Monteluppi continued to carry

Before Lemberg: (Part 2) (cont.)

out postal duties at his own expense to the end of the term. The service suffered, however, since he was likely limited to foot couriers (**Figure 6**) having lost access to the expensive horse transport previously funded by the king. Then, for almost a decade, there was a hiatus in the development of the posts.



Figure 6 – FDC commemorating the 400th Anniversary of the Polish Post with Fi 900

King Stefan Batory (r. 1576-1586) restored a postal service in Poland in 1583 in conjunction with his preparations for war with Ottoman Turkey. The military campaign required frequent exchanges of mail with Rome, so the king once again granted the royal franchise to the Monteluppi family, but this time to both Sebastian Monteluppi and his nephew Valerius. The conditions were somewhat different from the previous agreement. The two men were enjoined to set up a service from Kraków to Venice that would enable journeys every 15 days (24 trips per year); the rate for letters was reduced from 6 to 4 groszy regardless of weight or distance. For this service the two men were rewarded with 1,000 złoty per annum.

Working from Kraków, over the course of the next several decades, the Monteluppi family undertook the organization of the posts in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. The royal correspondence travelled by two chief routes: south to Venice and Rome and west via Vienna to Prague, then the seat of the Holy Roman Emperor. Prague was a hub for various communication routes and was the link for mails sent onward through the Taxis' postal network. A large portion of the southern Italian mail consisted of correspondence of the papal nuncio (ambassador) and the Polish king. Letters were also sent by nobles, bishops, and Kraków merchants importing Italian

goods. Additionally, the Monteluppi set up postal routes that encompassed the chief trade centers of Gdańsk, Lwów, Poznań, Warsaw, and Vilnius.

To meet postal expenses, letter fees were raised in the 17th century; a ½ loth letter sent to Italy now cost 10 groszy (20 groszy for 1 loth). Letters were sent via professional couriers who spent 20 days traveling, rested for six days, and then travelled on again. Mails arriving in Kraków from Vienna – not always regularly – would be taken the same day by courier to Warsaw, the new capital of Poland since 1596.

The Polish Sejm, the supreme legislative authority in Poland-Lithuania, issued a constitution in 1620 authorizing Zygmunt III (r. 1587-1632) to abolish the system of privately paid couriers and establish a postal service that would make it possible for the general populace to send letters and communications once a week without great expense. The king for unknown reasons did not put this constitution into effect.

It was left to Władysław IV (r. 1632-1648) to reorganize the postal system. He established a central post office in Warsaw and designated Carol Monteluppi (the son of Valerius) as the postmaster general and Jacob Rick as the postmaster for Royal Prussia. In 1647, the king issued an ordinance that became the basis for the Polish post for the next century and a half. This statute abolished the duty of “podwoły” (the provision of horses and wagons for royal service by the local populace) except for Turkish, Tatar, and Moscovite envoys, and instead imposed a tax on each town of over 4,000 inhabitants for the maintenance of its postal service, the so-called “quarter money.” The importance of this reform was that the post became a public institution maintained by a special tax for the benefit of society in general. Previously the post had been a private enterprise financed by the royal treasury. The statute, however, did not bring the expected results because of the difficult political, socioeconomic, and military situation faced by Poland at that time.

Later rulers confirmed and extended the postal arrangements begun under Władysław IV. The postal ordinances of 1647 and 1650 set up postal service in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. In contrast to the

Before Lemberg: (Part 2) (cont.)

“quarter money” tax imposed on Polish towns and cities, an ordinance of 1673 specified that the Grand Duchy was to pay to the Lithuanian postmaster an annual lump sum of 12,000 złoty for its postal services. The years 1677 and 1678 saw further ordinances promulgated for Lithuania. After the death of Carol Monteluppi in 1662, Angelo Bandinelli became the postmaster general. He opened several new postal stations on the routes Kraków-Lwów, Lwów-Warsaw, Warsaw-Poznań, and Warsaw-Gdańsk (**Figure 7**). Difficulties in the maintenance of the postal service led to his resignation in 1669. He was replaced by Tomas Talenti and in 1693 by Bartolomeo Sardy.



Figure 7 – Silk screen printing issue commemorating the 450th Anniversary of the Polish Post. Fi 4256 (Blok 181)

In conjunction with the 1667 Treaty of Andrusiv, a postal agreement was established between Poland and Russia. Business correspondence was allowed, but transmission

by private intermediaries was forbidden. According to the first Polish printed magazine *Merkuriusz Polski* (established in 1661), there were two main mail depots: the one in Kraków was for letters from Vienna, Italy, and parts of Germany, while the other in Gdańsk handled letters from Stettin (Szczecin), Berlin, Spain, Portugal, and Western Europe.

Some Polish kings undertook the censoring of mails. Jan III Sobieski (r. 1674-1696), during his wars with Turkey, organized a systematic censorship of all intercepted letters from Ukraine in the town of Jaworów (Yavoriv) near Lwów.

King August II (r. 1697-1706, 1709-1733) undertook great efforts to make the Polish mail system one of the best on the continent, particularly between Warsaw and roads leading west to his native Saxony. To that end he hired a special road commissioner who undertook the improvement and construction of postal roads and determined the exact distances between postal stopping points. Post road signs and stone posts were placed at regular distances along the Warsaw-Saxony routes. Postal routes were also

opened leading east to the Russian Empire. Major cities linked to Warsaw were Riga, St. Petersburg, Smolensk, Moscow, Minsk, and Kiev (Kyiv).

Some further postal developments occurred during the reign of August III (r. 1734-1763), despite the fact that this monarch spent very little time in Poland. A number of new postal routes were established, wax seals were first introduced to secure postal dispatches, and postal fees became dependent on weight and distance. The fee for a one loth letter sent 12 miles was 6 groszy, over 12 miles 12 groszy. The correspondence of senators, clergy, and the military was postage free, but censorship was set up for mails of certain influential personages suspected of political plotting.

The most important steps towards establishing reliable postal communications were made under Poland's last monarch, King Stanisław II August (r. 1764-1795). Postal stations were set up along the more important postal routes. In the capital of Warsaw, a court post office was established. Other improvements included fixed rates for letters, seals to indicate where letters were sent from, mail boxes, decrees insuring the privacy of correspondence, the repair and maintenance of roads, the introduction of relay transportation for mails, and regulations specifying the duties of postmasters and letter carriers.

These notable developments in the mail service were commented upon in some accounts of foreigners traveling in Poland and were inherited by the Austrian Habsburgs when they acquired Lwów and all of Galicia in the First Partition of Poland in 1772.

Footnotes:

¹ Although Polish was the dominant language in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, Latin was commonly used in foreign relations and was a popular second language among the nobility during the 16th and 17th centuries. Its use made it easier for Italians to function in the Polish milieu.

² At this time Venice was a powerful maritime republic, Rome was the capital of the Papal States, and Naples the capital of a southern Italian kingdom.

³ This nobleman was the younger brother of Roberto Bandinelli, the Lwów burgher who laid the ground work for that city's postal system; see Part III.

General Maczek's Armoured Units In World War II (Part 2)

By: Jan Niebrzydowski

Editor's Note: This article is the second of a two-part article on the subject and the eleventh in a series by the author. These articles are all based upon a collection of letters addressed to Stefania Bardziłowska. (see Bulletin #541)

General Maczek's Division landed in Normandy on the 1st of August 1944 and went into action against the Germans on the 8th. It was served by British Field Post Offices 251, 252, 406 and 431. Other field post offices used by Polish forces in Europe include FPO 439 and the US APO 460.

New sender addresses were issued. GPO London EC1 260/xxx was first replaced with P/xxx Polish Forces BLA (British Liberation Army) and then changed again in August 1945 to P/xxx Polish Forces BAOR (British Army of the Rhine), where xxx stands for the relevant unit's secret ID number. Correspondence to and from Polish military personnel was censored. Letters were marked with ink cancellations and re-sealed with tape.

The letters shown here are all addressed to Mrs. Stefania Bardziłowska in Boston. The earliest one in my collection is dated 7 August 1944, which was the day before the Polish Division went into action.

The first cover (**Figure 1**) bears a 1½d stamp, cancelled by FPO 406 and dated 7 August 1944. A censor's ink cachet includes "Passed by Censor

12488". This letter was sent by K. Kiak with a return address given as P/53 Polish Forces, British Liberation Army (2nd Motorized Artillery Regiment). Mr. Diak survived the war and settled in Britain. He was a philatelist.

The next cover (**Figure 2**) bears a 3d stamp, cancelled by FPO 431 on 25 February 1945. A censor's ink cachet includes "Passed by Censor 12428". Return address is given as P/39 Polish Forces BLA (1st Motorized Artillery Regiment).



Figure 2

Figure 3 is a cover bearing a 3d stamp, cancelled by FPO 251 on 3 April 1945. A censor's ink cachet includes "Passed by Censor 12488". Return address is given as P/53 Polish Forces BLA (2nd Motorized Artillery Regiment).

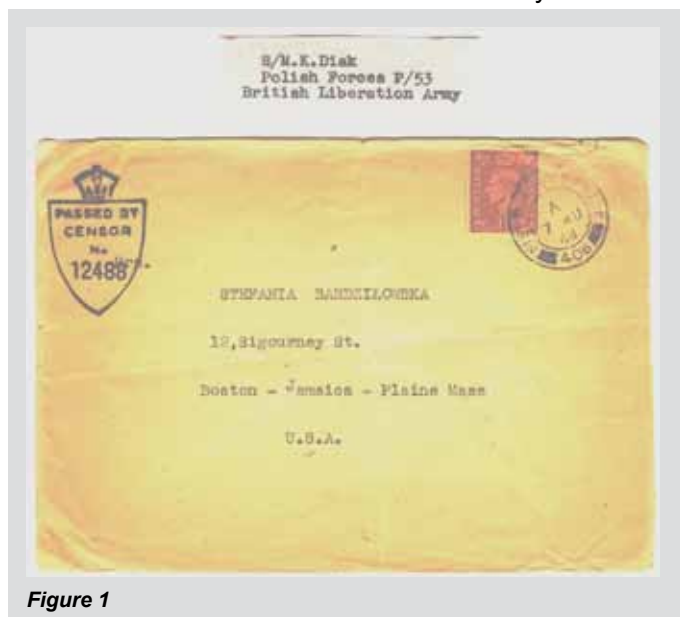


Figure 1



Figure 3

General Maczek's Armoured Units In World War II (Part 2) (cont.)

Figure 4 is a cover bearing two stamps for a total of 2½d postage, cancelled by FPO 252 on 27 October 1945. This cover does not bear censor markings. Return address is given as *P/40 Polish Forces BAOR (1st Armoured Division HQ)*.

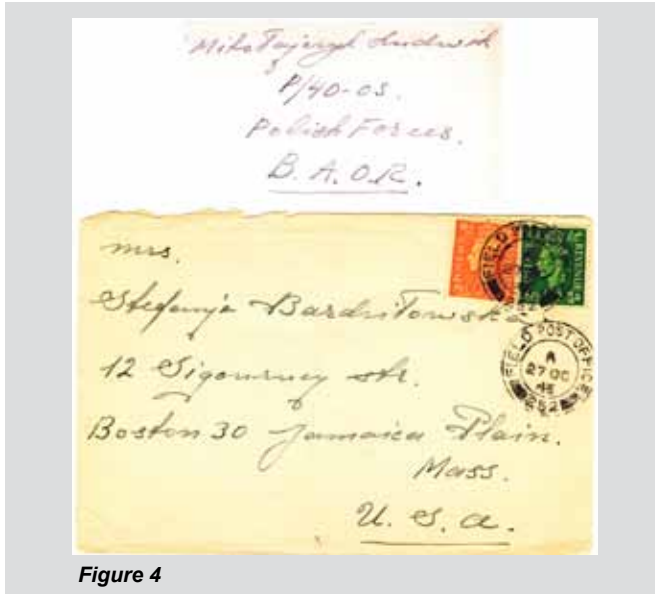


Figure 4

The next cover (**Figure 5**) is a registered cover bearing two stamps for a total of 6d postage cancelled by FPO 439 on 8 October 1946. This cover does not bear censor markings. Return address is given as *1st Polish RHUB Sub-Unit BAOR*. This was a sub-unit of the 24th Motorized Cavalry Regiment, originally known as the 24th Uhlans (Cavalry), which was transformed into an armored regiment in 1943.



Figure 5

Figure 6 is a British Official Paid post card sent via the US Army Postal Service APO 640 on 3 August 1944. The reverse side of the card bears a censor cachet including "Passed by Censor 117". Return address is given as *P/93 BLA (Anti-Aircraft Artillery Training Centre)*. This piece is quite a rare collector's item.



Figure 6

General Maczek's Division had its own printing presses which produced a newspaper, various official forms and communications, as well as Christmas and other seasonal greeting cards. Pictured below are two examples of the greeting cards produced by General Maczek's Division.

Figure 7 is a December 1944 Christmas card issued in the Netherlands. The card shows Polish and British flags with a hussar wing, the official emblem of the 1st Armoured Division. This card was sent via GPO 406 on 9 December 1944 with a return address of *P/36 BLA (10th Carpathian Rifles Regiment Command)*.



Figure 7

Figure 8 is a Christmas card issued in Beuthem, Germany. It features the Division's colors and insignia with its hussar wing. This card was sent via FPO

General Maczek's Armoured Units In World War II (Part 2) (cont.)

406 on 15 December 1945 bearing the return address P/27 (1st Anti-Aircraft Artillery Regiment).



Figure 8

General Maczek's Division liberated the Oberlangen camp in Northern Germany where Polish women, who were resistance fighters during the Warsaw Uprising, were taken. These women were temporarily accommodated in what was virtually a Polish mini-state, known as Maczków. In 1945-47 Maczków was gradually disbanded and its residents departed for a variety of destinations, including Poland, Britain, France, Canada, Italy, and the USA.

In such circumstances, finding missing relatives and friends presented considerable difficulties. Many letters could not be delivered since their addresses could not be traced. Some letters were re-addressed to other places or countries. Others were returned to the sender. One such letter was sent by Andrzej Kieszczyński to his sister, Halina Kieszczyńska. Both of them had fought in the Warsaw Uprising but, having been sent to different POW camps, they had become separated and lost contact. **Figure 9** is a V-Mail letter form addressed erroneously to Oberlanger camp on 17 September 1945 and re-addressed to Maczków where it was delivered to the recipient. The letter bears three different cachets in Polish and English: "Urząd Pocztowy POW Langwasser"; "Polish Military Center Langwasser at Nürnberg (Germany)"; and "Polski Czerwony Krzyż Delegacja na Niemcy / Polish Red Cross Delegation for Germany".

There is a note at the Museum of the Warsaw Uprising in Warsaw about the tragic experience of the Kieszczyński family during World War II. The father



Figure 8

was shot because the German occupiers saw people with a university education as a threat to their plans for domination of the Polish people. The mother was driven out of Warsaw after the Warsaw Uprising and deprived of everything she had. One daughter was murdered in Auschwitz. The youngest daughter (Halina) and brother (Andrzej) were imprisoned in German POW camps for their part in the Warsaw Uprising.



Discussion in the Hospitality Suite, l-r Bob Ogródnik, Tom Wrzosek and Ignacy Szymański

Uncataloged Postal Stationery Errors

By: Milosz Rzadkosz

Relatively common items in our collections or at the dealer table should always be subjected to more than a passing glance as these three discoveries clearly indicate. Even though they were issued decades ago, undiscovered curiosities await an observant buyer.

The first of these postal stationery cards was issued on October 1, 1970 commemorating “Stamp Day” (Fischer Cp 463). The project designer was artist R. Dudziński. The preprinted stamp depicts a graphic by artist Stanisław Noakowski. The designation “KARTA POCZTOWA” appears in the upper left corner underneath a single line text “DZIEŃ ZNACZKA 9. X .1970” and the initials SN (Stanisław Noakowski). In the lower right corner is the issuer’s information PPT. iT. IV. 1970. A total of 108,000 were printed using the offset printing process at PWPW in Warsaw. The Fischer catalog notes cards lacking the dark Brown and red colors (**Figure 1**).

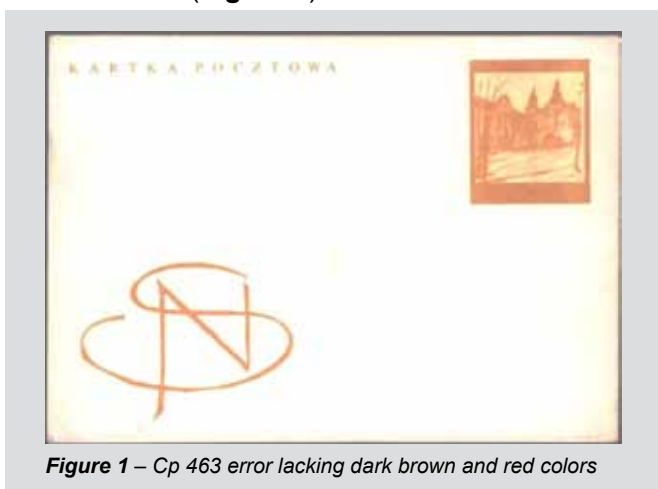


Figure 1 – Cp 463 error lacking dark brown and red colors

From the author’s personal collection, **Figures 2 & 2a** are shown examples, most likely printers waste, with a double impression of the red color (the designations “Polska” and “gr”). Additionally, the dark brown and red colors are shifted with respect to the design.[1,4]

The next item is a postal stationery card that was issued on 31 August 1974 (Fischer 613) on the occasion of the exhibition “WARSZAWA XXX”. The card project was the work of graphic artist T. Konarski. The preprinted stamp depicts the coat of arms of

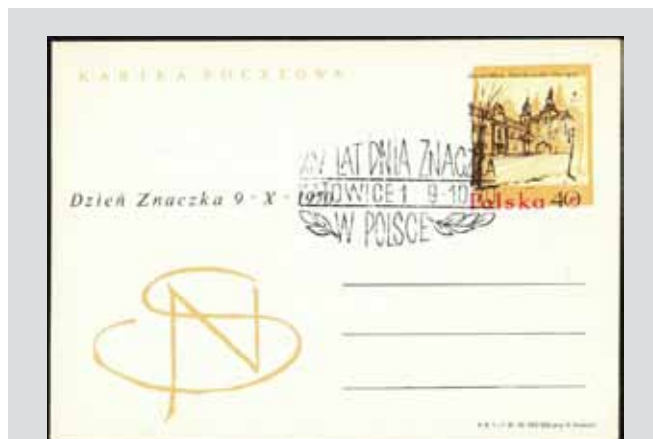


Figure 2 – Cp 463 printer’s waste (makulatura) exhibiting double red color impression and image index shift



Figure 2a – Cp 463 detail of double impression found in Figure 2

Warsaw, while the left half contains a cachet commemorating the exhibition. A total of 102,800 cards were printed using the offset process at PWPW in Warsaw. Three colors were used for the printing: black, red and yellowish brown. The Fischer catalog identifies cards with errors of dual and triple impressions of the black color (**Figure 3**). The author’s collection contains a card with the black impression printed upside down (**Figure 4**). This is an interesting addition to the two already identified errors.[2,5]

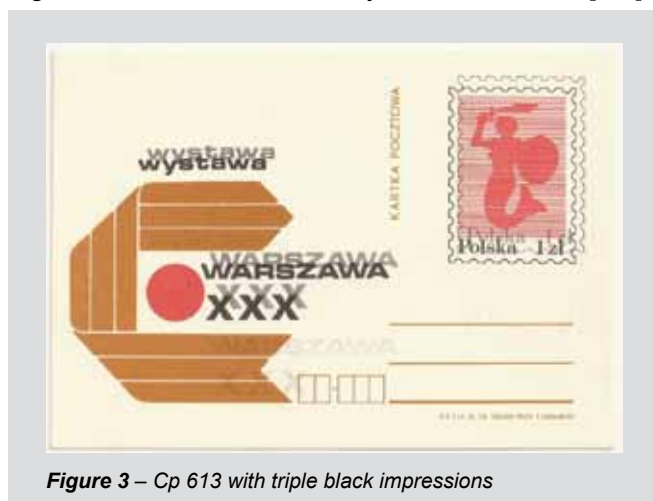


Figure 3 – Cp 613 with triple black impressions

Uncataloged Postal Stationery Errors

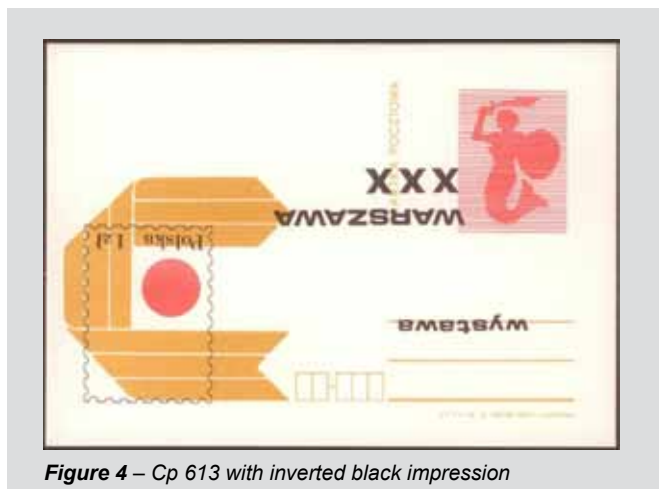


Figure 4 – Cp 613 with inverted black impression

On 23 April 1982 the Polish Post issued a stationery card commemorating 700 years of the Kalisz hospital service (Fischer Cp 811). The card design is the work of graphic artist J. Konarzewski. The preprinted stamp has the likeness of Adam Helbich (1796 -1831) – physician in Kalisz, on the left side of the card is the text “700 –lecie SZPITALNICTWA KALISKIEGO”, and below is a metal bearing the likeness of Przemysław II. Tricolor printing (black, blue and yellowish brown) on white card stock and an offset process was used by PWPW in Warsaw. A total of 212,000 were issued. The author’s collection contains an example printed on both sides. One side is an inaccurately printed card with the yellowish-brown color of the medal missing (Figure 5) and the reverse side is overprinted with upside down impressions in black and blue (Figure 6). These errors are not listed by the Fischer catalog. [3,6]



Figure 5 – Cp 811 (front side) showing inaccurate printing and without yellowish-brown color for the medal



Figure 6 – Cp811 (back side) double impressions (one inverted) in black and blue, and a single yellowish-brown color for the medal

Bibliography:

- [1] Fischer, *Katalog Znaków Pocztowych*, 2010, tom II, p.305
- [2] Fischer, *Katalog Znaków Pocztowych*, 2010, tom II, p.312
- [3] Fischer, *Katalog Znaków Pocztowych*, 2010, tom II, p.325
- [4] Żółkiewski S, *Z Warstatu Zbieracza Całostek, Filatelista*, 24/1970, p.549
- [5] Żółkiewski S, *Z Warstatu Zbieracza Całostek, Filatelista*, 24/1974, p.548
- [6] Żółkiewski S, *Z Warstatu Zbieracza Całostek, Filatelista*, 8/1982, p.181

Society News

WANTED: Used Polish Stamps

I have a straightforward collection of used Polish stamps 1918 to present. I have succeeded in putting together a reasonably complete collection of used Polish stamps 1918 – 1995. However, I have been having difficulty finding used Polish stamps for 1996 to present. I would be happy with, indeed would prefer, a bag of used Polish stamps on paper for the period. Any suggestions on finding these stamps would be most welcome.

Contact: Tom Wolanin, by e-mail: thomaswolanin@gmail.com, or by phone: (703) 276-2516.



Date of Issue	March 8 & 29, 2013
Sheet Format	8 sheets of 100 stamps
Printing Method	Rotogavure
Designer	Marzanna Dąbrowska

Economic & Priority Post Stamps

This second set of 4 non-denominated stamps issued on March 29 is intended for use in the new scanning system of sorting by the Polish Post. The valuations at issue are 3.70 and 4.50 zł for the “a” economic and priority stamps, and 4.75 and 7.10 zł for the “b” economic and priority stamps. There are three identifying characteristics for the scanning process depicted in these stamps: weight, size and shipping time. This set is intended for mail weighing up to 1000 grams, conforming to the size limitations for “a” and “b”

categories, and requiring an economic or priority method of shipment. The geometric pattern in green forms an “E” and “P” to designate the method of shipment, however, for the scanning process, the geometric pattern communicates all three characteristics.

The first set of 4 issued on March 8 portray different geometric patterns in blue and are intended for mail weighing up to 350 grams, with valuations of 1.60 and 2.35 zł for the “a” economic and priority stamps, and 3.75 and 5.10 zł for the “b” economic and priority stamps.



Date of Issue	April 12, 2013
Sheet Format	Single in souvenir sheet
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Marzanna Dąbrowska

Polish Birds

This 4.55 zł souvenir sheet utilizes photos of kingfishers in flight and within an aquatic environment. These small to medium sized, brightly colored birds have large heads, long, sharp, pointed bills, short legs, and stubby tails. There are roughly 90 species of kingfishers around the world. Their taxonomy is complex and controversial following the 1990’s revolution in bird taxonomy supported by chromosome and DNA-DNA hybridization studies. The official first day cover has a cachet showing aquatic plants often associated with the nesting of these birds.



Date of Issue	April 16, 2013
Sheet Format	9 stamps
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Marzanna Dąbrowska

Wiesław Chrzanowski, Marshal of the Polish Sejm

This 3.80 zł stamp shows a photographic representation of Wiesław Marian Chrzanowski (1923-2012), politician and lawyer who served as the 1st Marshal of the Sejm in the 3rd Polish Republic from 1991-3. During World War II he was a member of the Polish anti-Nazi resistance organization, the Home Army. He finished his law degree at a secret underground university in 1945. In the late 1970’s he was associated with the opposition to Communist rule in Poland. He helped draft the statutes establishing the Solidarity trade union, and in 1989 he founded the Christian National Union party. He was a resident of Warsaw all his life, and was a recipient of the Order of the White Eagle.



70th Anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising

This 3.80 zł stamp recognizes the 70th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. In 1940 the Germans began concentrating Poland's 3 million Jews into a few extremely crowded ghettos located in large Polish cities. The largest of these, the Warsaw Ghetto, housed 300,000-400,000 people in a 3.3 sq km walled-in area in the central city. Thousands of Jews died there due to rampant disease and starvation. Those who survived the harsh Ghetto conditions faced mass deportations to the notorious death camps. In the spring of 1943 the Jews fought their captors in the Warsaw Ghetto in an action that constituted the largest single revolt by Jews during World War II. The most significant portion of the rebellion occurred from April 19 (Passover eve) and ended when the poorly armed and supplied fighters were crushed by the Germans, who officially finished their operation by liquidating the Ghetto on May 16. The stamp appears to portray a daffodil resembling a stylized Star of David; the cachet on the official first day cover shows a stark photograph of 2 doomed women captured during the Uprising.

Date of Issue	April 19, 2013
Sheet Format	6 Stamps
Printing Method	Rotogavure
Designer	Marzanna Dąbrowska



Polish Flag Day

This 1.60 zł stamp recognizes Polish Flag Day, celebrated on May 2 each year. The national flag of Poland was officially adopted in 1919 – consisting of 2 horizontal stripes of equal width, the upper one white and the lower one red. These 2 colors are defined in the Polish Constitution as the national colors. For the sake of comparison, we note that there are 2 national flags with the red stripe above the white one, those of Indonesia and Monaco.

Date of Issue	May 12, 2013
Sheet Format	12 Stamps
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Jacek Konarzewski



Europa

This 4.60 zł stamp portrays a cartoon character postman at work delivering mail in a postal van. The new logo for Poczta Polska is also featured on this stamp. The cancellation on the official first day cover shows a letter moving on wheels.

Date of Issue	May 16, 2013
Sheet Format	9 Stamps
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Aleksandra Ubukata



Magical World of Disney

This colorful numbered souvenir sheet contains a 4.60 zł stamp showing the Walt Disney cartoon characters. Mickey & Minnie Mouse and Goofy are in the center; Daffy & Daisy Duck and Pluto are adjacent; and all are on a red carpet.

Date of Issue	June 1, 2013
Sheet Format	Single in Souvenir Sheet
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Jacek Konarzewski