



POLONUS

POLISH PHILATELIC SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER #2

Fall 2022

Dear Polonus Members,

I hope that this newsletter finds you all well in advance of the upcoming holidays. I'm sure, like many of you, I've been asked "what is your most valuable stamp" or, "what is your collection worth". I tell the inquisitor, "Honestly, the value of my collection is not measured in dollars and cents". There is no monetary value I could put on those times after a rough day on the job I retreat to my stamps for 10 minutes or an hour to settle my mind. My wife has come to appreciate I need to do this! There is no monetary value I could place when I go to a stamp exhibition and am enriched by the exhibits fellow collectors have put together. There is no monetary value I could put on the thrill of the chase as I peruse a dealer's stock looking for an elusive or even not so elusive item for my collection. I've been surprised more times than I can remember. There is no monetary value on the history and geography I've learned. But above all, there is no monetary value on the friendships, locally, nationally, and internationally, I have made over the years through philately. So, we do not collect to make a monetary profit (although at times this does happen). The value of my involvement with philately just cannot be measured in dollars and cents! See you the next time Polonus meets! Do make a contribution to the Newsletter, send to Dr. James Mazepa at jmazepa@comcast.net or Andrew Urushima at arushima@yahoo.com



Mail from the United States to Poland...



When I scan lots on eBay I always look for a “side-line” interest of mine, mail from the United States to Poland. I recently found a “double-treat”. There was an air mail letter from Chicago to Poznan, November 2, 1947. Then came the big WOW, the letter was sent by Chester Mikucki, one of the founders of Polonus! I may be showing my age, but I remember sitting with him in his living room on Winchester Avenue talking Polish philately. In one of our living room deals, I got my first KOWEL cover, that is, the Ukrainian stamps overprinted KOWEL by the Polish army. I wish I still had that cover!

What to do on a cold winter night?



I don't know about you, but sometimes I get my Polonus Bulletin and quickly thumb through it. I read the articles and news that first attract my attention. I then put it aside and all too often do not get back to finishing the Bulletin. I have learned that when I have some quiet time to go to my back issues of the Bulletin. Almost every time I see an interesting article I missed or get more information from one I already thought I read. Can't find your old Bulletin...check the Polonus web site where you can read earlier issues. One topic I ALWAYS refer back to is the NEW ISSUES section written by Frank Karwoski. I do not collect new issues, but his comments are a treasure of Polish history, thanks, Frank!

My Favorite Cover...

Robert Tataro's Vatican *Polish Millennium Cover*



Poland's Millennium was commemorated by stamps from several countries and includes Scott Vatican City 433-438. Four of the stamps of this set, identified by the inscription *Sacrum Poloniae Millennium* seen at the top of each issue, are present on my cover.

Casimira Dabrowska, born in 1890 in Radom, designed the set. Her artistic talent was noted in exhibitions in Paris, in 1929-1931, which displayed her miniature portraits. In 1936, a visit to Rome to begin paintings of Pope Pius XI led to more work as she was eagerly sought out to do portraits of Italian nobles. When World War II broke out, she was unable to return to Poland and remained in Italy, becoming a stamp designer. Her efforts greatly elevated the quality of Vatican City issues of the 1950s and 1960s.

I purchased this cover about six years ago at which time I asked the cover's owner for its story. He resided in San Francisco, California, and was able to recount its history: *"From 1963 to 1969 I was an altar boy growing up in the Vatican during the pontificate of Pope Paul VI. I got interested in Vatican stamps during that period. The only reason I sent the covers to my address in northern Italy where I was born, was because I loved those stamps and they were inexpensive enough that I could afford to buy them. I was 12 years old at the time and that is the time I started collecting Vatican stamps. Now 50 years later I'm proud to say that I have the complete collection of Vatican stamps from 1929 to present."* Now the cover has become part of my exhibiting of Polish Millennium material.

UKRAINE HONORS UKRAINIAN-POLISH SOLIDARITY

"W trudnych czasach, cenimy prawdziwą przyjaźń! - In hard times we value true friendship!"



A Ukrainian Collector Included These Comments With The Cover...

“From the first days of Russian aggression, Poland was the first country in the world that supported Ukraine in its war, in its right to defense, in its right to independence. The Poles were the first to provide assistance to the population of Ukraine seeking protection and shelter. It was the Poles who took on the main burden of accepting refugees. The Poles have constantly raised and continue to raise the issue of financial and technical support for Ukraine. The limited edition of the postage stamp “In hard times we value true friendship” reminds us that true friendship is known only in trouble. It was thanks to the fraternal help of such countries as Poland that the Russian occupiers failed to seize Ukraine. Russia has always wanted to embroil the Ukrainians and Poles, yet it was Russia who brought us even closer together.”

Polonus News.....

Westpex right around the corner

Our annual meeting for 2023 will be in San Francisco at WESTPEX April 28-30th. Applications are now being by the organizing committee and can be found at www.westpex.com. We have had lots of interest so get your applications in early as this is an extremely popular show. Also please consider attending the show in person as we will host a dinner for those attending as well as having a number of seminars put on by some of our members. We are also fortunate to have our past President, Ed Andrews as one of the esteemed jury members.

Kudos to our Writers in The American Philatelist

Polish philately has received a big boost this year by having two articles in *The American Philatelist*. In the February issue Ronald Klimley had "Martial Law and Censored Mail in Poland 1981-1982." His article was so well received that he received a request to have it published in a Scandinavian Journal! The October issue was dedicated to aero-philately and Dr. Jerzy Kupiec-Weglinski provided a great historical article on the "Centenary of Regular Domestic Airmail Service in Poland".

Thanks to both members and to Dr. Tom Bieniosek who has been working with the editorial staff of the *American Philatelist* to get articles on Polish philately included in this journal.

Polonus is APS affiliate #0119. If you are not a member of the APS, you might consider joining, go to www.stamps.org for information.

2022 Members Meeting

This year's Annual Member Meeting was held via October 16th via zoom. It was great to see so many people attend virtually. Andrew Urushima gave a short presentation on Polish Ski Jumping Champions which is a precursor to his upcoming article that will appear in a future Bulletin.

Dziękuję! (Omit...insert Santa and Polish greetings)

Dr. James Mazepa, RDP