

New Issues

Frank Karwoski

Christmas



Three stamps were issued to celebrate Christmas (*Boże Narodzenie*) in 2017: an "A" stamp (2.60 zł), a "B" stamp (3.20 zł), and a 6 zł stamp. The "A" stamp (gold frame) portrays Mary standing and holding baby Jesus. The "B" stamp (green frame) shows Mary and baby Jesus accepting gifts from the Magi / three wise men / kings who followed the star of Bethlehem to baby Jesus; these three men are traditionally known as Balthasar of Arabia, Melchior of Persia, and Gasper of India. Actually, the only reference to these men is a very general biblical citation in the gospel of Matthew. The 6 zł stamp (orchid frame) shows Mary's visit from the Archangel Gabriel who announced that she would give birth to Jesus (the Annunciation, or *Zwiastowanie*).

Date of Issue	November 16, 2017
Sheet Format	3 singles, each in a sheet of 100
Printing Method	Photogravure
Designer	Agnieszka Sancewicz

Successes of Polish Ski Jumpers

This 2.60 zł stamp honors four of Poland's outstanding ski jumpers in anticipation of their efforts in the Winter Olympic Games in PyeongChang, South Korea: Maciej Kot, Dawid Kubacki, Kamil Stoch, and Piotr Żyła. Kamil Stoch won the 2018 gold in the men's large hill individual ski jumping. Poland also won the bronze in the men's team competition through the efforts of Kot, Kubacki, Stoch, and Stefan Hula (the latter is not referenced on the stamp).



Date of Issue	November 18, 2017
Sheet Format	Single in a sheet of 16
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Igor Zukowicz

Polish Jazz Musicians

This 2.60 zł stamp recognizes the late jazz guitarist, composer, and band leader, Jarosław (*Jarek*) Śmietana (1951-2013). In the course of his career, Śmietana composed over 200 jazz songs and recorded more than 25 albums as a band leader, or as a sideman with other artists. He led the band *Extra Ball* from 1974 to 1981, and later led the bands: *Sounds Big Band Symphonic Orchestra* and the *Polish Jazz Stars Band*; he was co-leader of the *Namysłowski-Śmietana Quartet*. Well regarded as a musician in Poland, he also performed at international festivals, including appearances in the U.S. His most famous albums include *I Love the Blues*, *Ballads and Other Songs*, and *Speak Easy*.



Date of Issue	November 27, 2017
Sheet Format	Single in a sheet of 16
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Agata Tobolczyk

Polish Birds

These four stamps with tabs celebrate Polish birds (*Polskie ptaki*), specifically the owl (*sowa*). Valued at 5 zł, each stamp depicts an owl up close; the tabs show the owls in motion. The snowy owl (*sowa scandiaca*) is a large nomadic owl; the little owl (*pójdzka*) inhabits much of the warmer parts of Europe, Asia, and North Africa; the Northern hawk owl (*północna jastrząb sowa*) is found across North America and Eurasia; the long-eared owl (*uszatka*) breeds in Europe, Asia, and North America.



Date of Issue	November 30, 2017
Sheet Format	4 Different Stamps with Tabs in Pane of 4
Printing Method	Offset & Dry Pressing
Designer	Marzanna Dąbrowska