

August 2021 New Issues Polonus Bulletin

64th Gordon Bennett Cup Competition

This A-denominated (3.30 zł) postal card calls our attention to the 64th Gordon Bennett balloon competition held in Toruń on August 19-28, 2021. The competition, sometimes referred to as the *Blue Ribbon* of aeronautics, had been postponed from 2020. Fifteen National Aero Clubs competed and the Swiss crew won, flying a distance of 1,560 km.

The Gordon Bennett Cup Competition began in Paris in 1906 under the sponsorship of James Gordon Bennett Jr., sportsman and owner of the New York Herald newspaper. The objective of the competition is to fly a manned balloon the furthest distance, non-stop, from the launch site. Historically, Poland has hosted the competition several times.

The card's postal imprint shows a white and red balloon hovering over the Old Town Hall tower in Toruń. The left side of the card displays a 1934 photograph showing preparations for the balloon takeoff at the 22nd competition held in Warsaw, and won by the Polish team of Franciszek Hynek and Władysław Pomości. The balloon competition has been recognized by Poland on several stamp issues, including the overprinted issue of 1936, semi-official stamps in 1939, and six stamps and a souvenir sheet in 1981.

Date of Issue	August 6, 2021
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Andrzej Gosik



Saint Clement Hofbauer

This A-denominated (3.30 zł) postal card honors Clement Mary Hofbauer (1751-1820), a priest in the Catholic Order of the Fathers Redemptorists. The Order was founded in 1732 by Alphonsus Liguori, and is dedicated to missionary work among the poor. Today it is considered one of the Catholic Church's most liberal organizations.

Born as Johannes Hofbauer in southern Moravia, today part of the Czech Republic, in his early life he worked as a baker. His spiritual calling eventually led him to Rome in 1784 where he joined the Redemptorist novitiate and began a life of poverty, chastity, and obedience. In 1787, he was assigned to Warsaw's St. Beno's Church to work with the German-speaking people there. He established a refuge for orphan boys, and famously begged for money to expand the church's activities. Unfortunately, after 21 years of successful work in Warsaw, he was expelled from Poland, and relocated to Vienna in 1808 where he stayed until his death. In 1888, he was beatified by Pope Leo XIII and then canonized in 1909 by Pope Pius X. He is the patron saint of Vienna, where he is buried; he was honored on an Austrian stamp in 1970.

The card's postal imprint shows a painting of him, and the left side of the card displays photos of two associated churches: (1) the old baroque-style Church of St. Benon on Piesza Street in Warsaw, originally constructed in 1649, where Hofbauer worked – it

was destroyed in World War II and rebuilt in 1958; and (2) St. Clement's Church on Karolkowa Street in the Wola district of Warsaw.

Date of Issue
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Jan Konarzewski



Sacred Art

This postal imprint on this A-denominated (3.30 zł) postal card shows a stone monument that honors the *January insurgents* who died in the Battle of Węgrów in 1863. The monument is located in the town of Węgrów, located in east-central Poland, about 44 miles east of Warsaw. The stone was taken from the nearby village of Szaruty in 1917 and placed in Węgrów to commemorate the young Polish partisans who died there fighting against Russian occupation during the partition of Poland.

In January 1863, Polish partisans successfully liberated Węgrów and then gathered about 3,500 partisan soldiers in the town. In response, the Russian military determined to recapture the town. The Poles, facing superior forces, planned a retreat. However, in order to cover the retreat of their main force, the Polish commander Jan Matlinski left behind about 500 scythemen. In February the scythemen boldly attacked the Russian

left flank, suffering very heavy casualties from Russian infantry fire. However, their action ensured the safe retreat of the main Polish force before the Russian's recaptured the town. The French poet Henri August Barbier later wrote a poem on the battle, comparing the brave Polish fighters to the Spartans at the Battle of Thermopylae; and the Polish writers Cyprian Kamil Norwid and Maria Konopnicka also wrote of the battle.

The left side of the card displays photographs of two churches in Węgrów. The top photo shows the ornate Minor Basilica of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Saints Peter, Paul, Andrew, and Catherine. It is located on the entire east side of the market square in the town. Originally constructed of wood in the 15th Century, it is the oldest building in the town and houses important frescoes and the famous Twardowski mirror. The bottom photo shows the nearby Church of Saints Anthony of Padua and Peter of Alcantara; it replaced the former church and convent of Franciscan reformers that was founded in the late 17th Century and liquidated in the early 19th Century. Since 1834, it has been a parish church that houses important frescoes, a wooden altar, and basement crypts.

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Jacek Konarzewski



Edith Stein – Saint Theresa Benedicta of the Cross

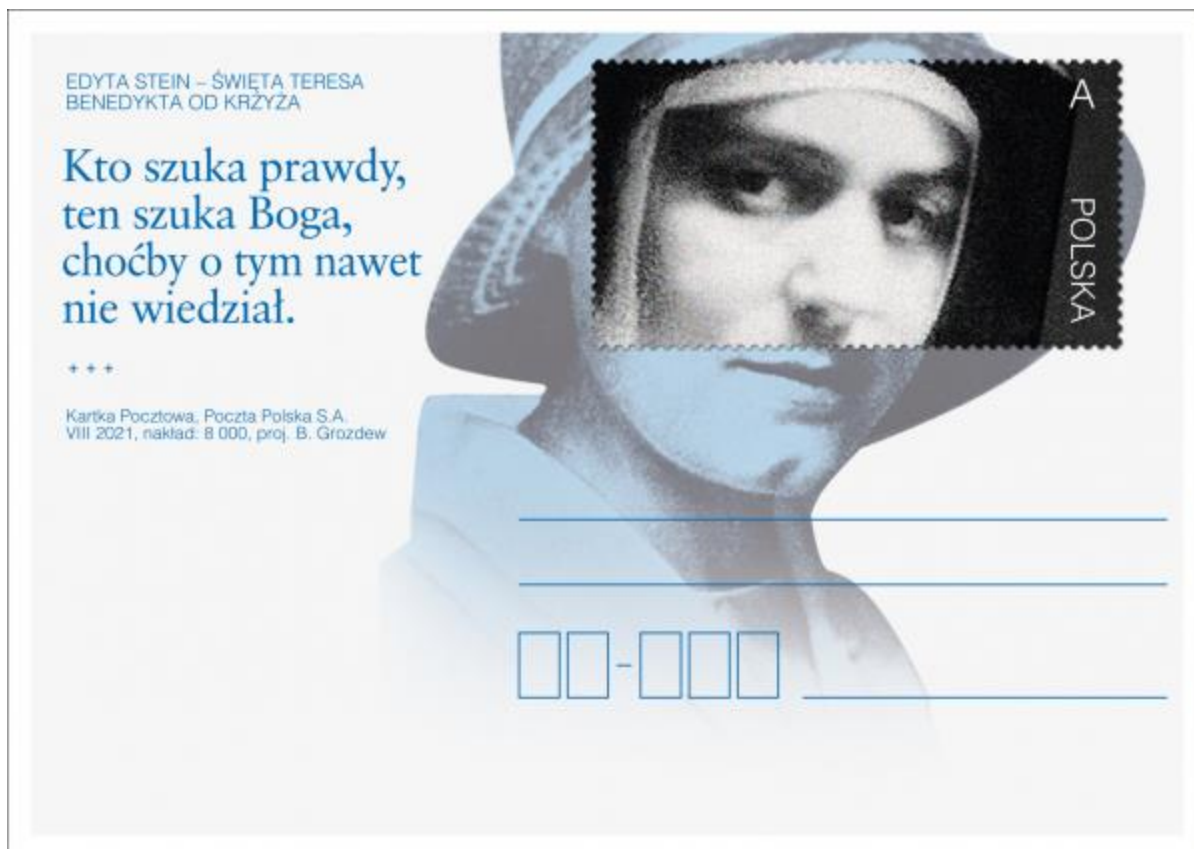
This A-denominated (3.30 zł) postal card honors Edith Stein (1891-1942), the German Jewish philosopher who converted to Christianity and became a Discalced Carmelite nun. She was born into a Jewish family, but had become an agnostic by her teen years. As a student at the University of Göttingen, she met Edmund Husserl whose philosophy of phenomenology described all phenomena as consciously experienced, without employing theories about their causal explanation. She moved with him as his student to the University of Freiburg and earned her doctorate in philosophy in 1916.

She was then influenced by the life of the reformer of the Carmelite Order, the mystic St. Teresa of Avila, and was baptized in 1922 into the Catholic Church, and in 1933 admitted to the Discalced Carmelite order. At the Carmelite convent she completed several philosophical works. In 1938, she was transferred to a convent at Echt in the Netherlands in an effort to protect her from Nazi persecution. Nevertheless, she was arrested there by the Gestapo in 1942 and sent to her death in the Nazi gas chambers at Auschwitz.

Philosophically, she was a phenomenologist and later a Christian metaphysician. Her various writings and translations fill 17 volumes. She also campaigned publicly on issues relating to women's rights and education. Numerous posthumous awards have been given to her and several books written about her. She was beatified as a martyr in 1987 by Pope John Paul II and canonized by him in 1998.

The card depicts Edith Stein in secular dress, overlain with an image of her dressed in her nun's habit. The quote on the card reads, in English, "Whoever seeks the truth seeks God, even though he did not know it."

Date of Issue	August 9, 2021
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Designer	Bożydar Grozdew

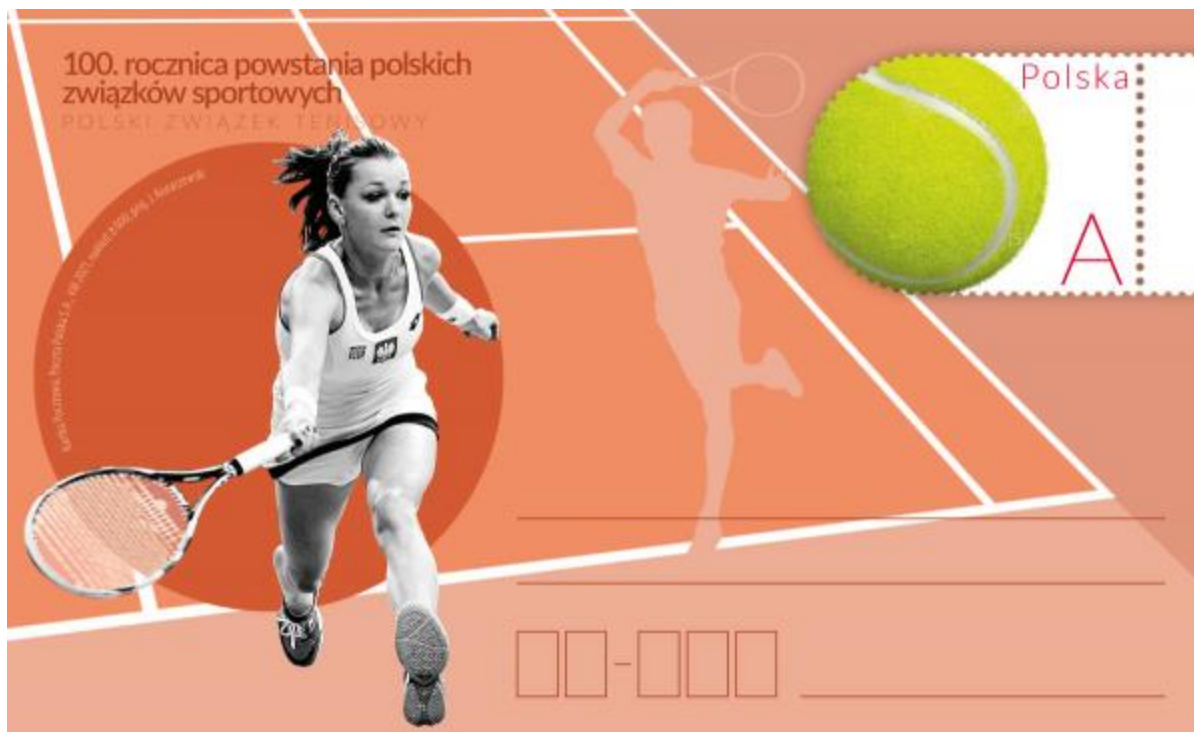


100th Anniversary of Polish Sports Federation

This A-denominated (3.30-zł) postal card recognizes the centennial of the Polish Association of Athletics (*Polski Związek Lekkiej Atletyki* or *PZLA*) founded on October 11, 1919. In 1921, the PZLA affiliated with the International Amateur Athletic Federation, now the International Association of Athletics Federations or IAAF. The PZLA supports athletes with financial and organizational assistance, mainly providing equipment, organizing competitions, running training camps, and providing health care. It also maintains official Polish records in athletics. It is one of 214 member federations in the IAAF, participating in the IAAF's regional European Athletic Association.

The imprinted postage on the card shows a tennis ball and the left side of the card shows a photograph of Agnieszka Radwańska on the tennis court. She achieved a rank of World No. 2 player by the World Tennis Association. She was a finalist at Wimbledon in 2012, thus becoming the first Pole in the Open Era to reach a Grand Slam singles final. She married in 2017 and retired from professional tennis in 2018.

Date of Issue	August 27, 2021
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Jan Konarzewski



30th Anniversary of the Weimar Triangle

On August 29, 2021, the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Weimar Triangle alliance was celebrated in Weimar, Germany, by the foreign ministers of Germany, Poland, and France and the Minister of State for Europe. This A-denominated (3.30zł) postal card acknowledges this anniversary; the imprinted postage on the card shows the colors of the flags of the three countries.

The main objective of the Weimar Triangle was initially to facilitate Poland's reintegration into the European political system, and this has since been achieved. It is now generally a symbolic alliance that promotes various different cultural exchanges. The foreign ministers of each state meet at periodic summit meetings; they have met over 25 times since 1991. The heads of the three states also occasionally meet, most recently in February 2021 at a meeting hosted by Polish President Bronisław Komorowski, and attended by French President Nicolas Sarkozy and German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

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August 30, 2021
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Jan Konarzewski

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30. rocznica powołania
Trójkąta Weimarskiego

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