

October 2021 New Issues Polonus Philatelic Society

EXPO 2020 Dubai

EXPO 2020 is a world exposition hosted by the City of Dubai in the United Arab Emirates from October 1, 2021, through March 31, 2022. This 8-zł stamp in a souvenir sheet portrays a visualization of the Polish Pavilion, whose theme is *Creativity Inspired by Nature*. It is one of 192 country pavilions at the event, each featuring technical exhibits, business opportunities, entertainment, and various cuisines. There are also pavilions from ten international organizations and several from the host nation, one of which demonstrates the world's largest unsupported dome.

EXPO 2020 is the first world expo to be held in the Middle East; it was postponed a year due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The EXPO site is located on 1,083 acres situated between the cities of Dubai and Abu Dhabi. The main theme of the EXPO is *Connecting Minds, Creating the Future*, and its three subthemes are *Opportunity, Mobility, and Sustainability*, each with its own pavilion. The event aims to help build a path towards a better tomorrow. The EXPO includes a *Tolerance and Inclusivity Business Forum* in November 2021 and a *Global Goals Business Forum* in January 2022.

The first world expo was held in London in 1851 at the Crystal Palace and the last world expo was held in Milan in 2015. Osaka, Japan, will hold the next such event in 2025. The USA has hosted several such events, each featuring the latest in technological innovations. EXPO 2020 has been criticized by the European Parliament and over a dozen human rights groups because of alleged human rights violations by contractors for the event and the ongoing repression of domestic critics by the United Arab Emirates. The souvenir sheet includes a numeric bar code in the top margin.

Date of Issue	October 1, 2021
Sheet Format	Single in Souvenir Sheet
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Jan Konarzewski



Poland.

Poland.
Creativity inspired
by nature

**Wystawa Światowa
EXPO 2020 w Dubaju**

POLSKA
8
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J. Konarzewski PWPW SA 2021

18th International Fryderyk Chopin Piano Competition

The A-denominated (3.30-zł) postal card highlights Poland's famous International Frederic Chopin Piano Competition (*Międzynarodowy Konkurs Pianistyczny im. Fryderyka Chopina*), one of the world's most prestigious recurring competitions in classical music. This year's 18th competition was held at the National Philharmonic in Warsaw from October 2 thru 23; it was delayed from 2020 because of the COVID-19 Pandemic. A total of 87 pianists from 18 countries performed the works of Chopin on the main stage. Bruce (Xiaoyu) Liu of Canada won the gold medal, capturing a prize of 40,000 Euros, as well as a 4-month concert tour to 16 venues around the world.

The competition was inaugurated in 1927 and is now held about every five years; the Fryderyk Chopin Institute organizes the event, where gold, silver, and bronze medals are awarded, each with a monetary prize; special awards are also given for the best mazurka, polonaise, piano concerto, and sonata performances. The competition was broadcast on Polish Radio Program II, livestreamed on YouTube, and broadcast online on the Fryderyk Chopin Institute's website. The imprinted stamp on the card shows the official logo for the event – an abstract art design symbolizing the piano competition. The left side of the card shows a bust of Chopin and the Polish flag.

Date of Issue	October 2, 2021
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Andrzej Gosik



Caritas Poland

This 10-zł stamp celebrates *Caritas Polska*, the largest charity organization in Poland, created in 1990 by the Polish Catholic Bishops Conference. It operates through 44 diocesan Caritas organizations in support of charity work in Poland and abroad. In Poland, the organization manages about 1,000 centers that provide assistance to the needy. Some of its specific activities include an annual sale of Christmas candles to support poor children; the ecumenical Lent campaign, whereby children raise money for *piggy banks* of mercy; scholarship programs aimed at assisting students from poor families; food aid for the poor; and fund-raising campaigns to purchase much-needed medical equipment.

Caritas Polska also supports humanitarian and developmental aid projects in over 46 countries that are affected by conflicts, wars, and natural disasters. Recent efforts have focused on work in the Middle East – Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and Iraq; as well as, in Ukraine, Nepal, and South Sudan. These aid projects are implemented in cooperation with other Caritas organizations in the beneficiary countries. It also cooperates with various other charitable organizations, including Catholic missionaries around the world.

Caritas Polska is part of the organization *Caritas Internationalis* (Latin: *Love Between Nations*), whose motto is *One Human Family – Zero Poverty* and whose logo depicts a flaming cross representing Christ's fierce love of humanity. It is a confederation of 165 Catholic relief, development, and social service organizations operating in over 200 countries to build a better world, especially for the poor and oppressed. The official first day cover for this stamp shows a religious painting entitled *The Good (or Merciful) Samaritan*.

Date of Issue
Sheet Format
Printing Method
Designer

October 6, 2021
Single in Sheet of 100
Photogravure
Jacek Konarzewski



100th Anniversary of the Birth of Tadeusz Różewicz

This A-denominated (3.30-zł) postal card honors Tadeusz Różewicz (1921-2014), Polish poet and playwright. Although his family had converted from Judaism to Christianity, he considered himself an atheist. In World War II, he served in the Polish Underground Home Army, and the horrors he saw in the war haunted him all his life. As a poet between 1944 and 1960, he wrote and published 15 volumes of poetry. His poems are ascetic, without meter or rhyme, and express in metaphorical form an overwhelming, deep concern with the moral issues in society. One of his famous later poems, *Mother Departs (Matka odchodzi)* (1999), received the Nike prize, the most eminent Polish literary award.

He also wrote 15 plays in the theater of the absurd, beginning with *The Card Index* (*Kartoteka*) (1960), perhaps his most famous work; this was followed by his screenplay *Birth Certificate* (*Swiadectwo urodzenia*) in 1961. His work has been recognized around the world and translated into over 40 languages. He is generally viewed as a great humanist and moral authority, despite his overall pessimism. The card displays photographs of him.

Date of Issue	October 9, 2021
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Jarosław Ochendzan



25 Years of Poland in OECD

In November 1996, Poland became a member of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), an international organization of 38 developed countries with democratic governments and free-market economies. This 3.30-zł stamp commemorates the anniversary of Poland's membership in the OECD, whose mission is to improve economic and social well-being in the global economy and to promote world trade.

The OECD was formerly known as the Organization for European Economic Cooperation (OEEC), formed in 1948 as part of the Marshall Plan for the reconstruction of Europe after World War II. After achieving its original mission, the OEEC facilitated negotiations leading to the establishment of the European Free Trade Area and later the European Economic Community; and it expanded its mission and renamed itself the OECD. In 1989, the OECD began assisting countries in Central Europe (especially the Visegrád Group) to facilitate market economy reforms. In 1991, the program *Partners in Transition* was launched for the specific benefit of Czechoslovakia, Poland, and Hungary; this program also offered these countries the option of membership in the OECD, which was later accomplished. The stamp shows different colored arrows aimed up and in different directions, apparently representing the various socio-economic trajectories of OECD members.

Date of Issue
Sheet Format
Printing Method
Designer

October 16, 2021
Single in Sheet of 35
Photogravure
Jan Konarzewski



100th Anniversary of the Birth of Czesław Słania

Polish-born Czesław Słania (1921-2005), world-famous engraver of postage stamps and banknotes, is honored on this 15.30-zł stamp and souvenir sheet celebrating the centennial of his birth; it is a joint issue with Sweden. Four other countries, Denmark, Faroe Islands, Greenland, and Monaco, have also issued stamps for his birth centennial.

Słania was born in Czeladź, near Katowice, and showed artistic talent from an early age. During World War II, he forged money and documents for the Polish resistance. In 1945 he entered the Graphic Department of the Kraków Academy of Arts. He then found employment as an apprentice at the Stamp Printing Company of the Polish Post in 1950, where he worked for six years, learning how to engrave in steel. His first engraving work is shown on a 15-gr stamp from March 1951 that depicts a worker with a peace dove; he was responsible for the hammer shown on this stamp. Later in 1951, he engraved the entire 45-gr stamp for the 80th anniversary of the Paris Commune and honoring General Jarosław Dąbrowski; this was his first fully engraved stamp. He engraved a total of more than 70 stamps for the Polish Post.

In 1956 he moved to Sweden, and then found employment with the Swedish Post in 1959; he designed over 450 Swedish stamps until his death. He also designed stamps for over 30 other countries, producing an amazing total of over 1,000 stamps in his lifetime. As the most prolific stamp engraver in history, he was a master craftsman known for his precision, speed, and sophistication in working with the burin; this tool is shown in the right margin of the souvenir sheet. His engraving is of such recognized quality and detail that some collectors specialize in his work.

The souvenir sheet shows what appears to be a 90 gr stamp. This is actually a label produced by Słania, and depicts part of the large engraving submitted by Słania for his graduation from the Academy of Fine Arts in Kraków. A special limited edition philatelic folder (including further information and a special red proof of the stamp) was also issued in conjunction with this issue.

Date of Issue	October 22, 2021
Sheet Format	Single in SS
Printing Method	Offset, Steel Engraving, Micro-text
Designer	Marzanna Dąbrowska



Ładoś Group

The Ładoś Group (or Bernese Group) consisted of six individuals, four Polish diplomats and two Jewish activists, who carried out a system of producing illegal Latin American passports during World War II in Bern, Switzerland. The group operated the scheme in a humanitarian effort to help save European Jews from the Holocaust. This 4-zł stamp honors these men: Aleksander Ładoś (Polish Envoy), Chaim Eiss (Jewish merchant), Juliusz Kühl (Polish Attaché), Konstanty Rokicki (Polish Vice Consul), Stefan Ryniewicz (Polish Counselor), and Abraham Silberschein (Zionist activist).

The Group's operation was carried out in an asymmetrical way, with an informal central organizational structure; this provided each individual a degree of protection should any one of them be apprehended by the authorities. Members of the Group have been individually recognized for their humanitarian work; however, none of them has written a full and detailed account of the operation. In 2019, the Pilecki Institute issued the *Ładoś List*, identifying 3,262 individuals who were saved by the Group. This is only a partial accounting of all who benefited because, unlike today, passports at that time were issued to groups of people, usually extended families, rather than individuals, thus making a complete accounting difficult. Although the research effort continues, it is now estimated that a total of 8,000-10,000 people were saved by the operation.

There is evidence that nearly half the passports certifying Paraguayan citizenship were forged by Konstanty Rokicki, and the remainder was likely the work of Stefan Ryniewicz, with the help of Juliusz Kühl. Financing the acquisition of blank passports from Latin American consuls likely came from Chaim Eiss; cover for the operation was provided by Aleksander Ładoś (pictured on the stamp); and interface with Jewish groups was accomplished by Abraham Silberschein. The Group's activities went undetected for over two years ending in the fall of 1943. A numeric bar code and QR code are displayed in the margin of the pane, as well as several small photos of some of the individuals who were saved.

Date of Issue	October 23, 2021
Sheet Format	Single in Pane of 9
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Agnieszka Sancewicz

