

December 2022 New Issues Polonus Bulletin

Grigol Peradze

The ecclesiastic archimandrite Saint Grigol Peradze (1899-1942) is honored on this 3.90-zł stamp, a joint issue of Poland and Georgia. Born into the family of a Georgian Orthodox priest, he attended the Tbilisi Theological Seminary and then the State University. After the occupation of Georgia by Soviet Russia in 1921, he relocated to Germany where he continued his studies in language, theology, history, and patristics; he graduated from the University of Bonn in 1926 with a doctorate degree; and in 1931, he became an Orthodox priest in Paris.

From 1933 to 1942, he taught patristics at the School of Orthodox Theology at Warsaw University and took part in several scientific expeditions to the Holy Land and eastern and southern Europe, discovering numerous ancient manuscripts on early Georgian Christian culture. He wrote over 70 works documenting his work. After the German invasion of Poland, he came under suspicion by the military authorities, was arrested in 1942 by the Gestapo, and sent to his death at Auschwitz. He was canonized by the Georgian Orthodox and Apostolic Church in 1995. The background of the stamp shows the gate of the University of Warsaw where he taught. The official first day cover shows Pope Jan Paul II on his visit to Tbilisi in 1999.

Date of Issue	December 6, 2022
Sheet Format	Single in Pane of 8
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	David Kolbaia



Poland in Space

These four different stamps, each valued at 3.90-zł, recognize four scientific satellite missions that Poland is participating in. The first stamp depicts the European Space Agency's (ESA) Earth CARE (Cloud Aerosol and Radiation Explorer) Satellite that is scheduled for launch in 2024. The satellite's mission will be to study the role of clouds and aerosols in reflecting solar radiation back into space and in trapping infrared radiation emitted from the earth's surface. Poland is a member of ESA. The second stamp focuses on the BRITE-Constellation satellite mission launched in 2013-14 cooperatively by Canada, Austria, and Poland. It is carrying out two-band photometry with a set of nanosatellites, including Poland's BRITE-Heweliusz Satellite, that focus on observing the brightest stars; its mission is expected to be completed in 2023.

The third stamp shows ESA's Proba-3, scheduled for launch in 2024. It will demonstrate technologies and techniques for highly precise satellite formation flying. It will consist of two satellites launched together that will separate to fly in tandem, forming a virtual 144-m long giant telescope for solar observation. The fourth stamp shows the ESA's OPS-SAT satellite launched in 2019. It is a small 7-kg flying laboratory testing and validating new techniques in mission control and on-board satellite systems. It employs a powerful new computer used for experiments by participating public and private entities from various European countries.

This pane of four traditional stamps was accompanied by the sale of a separate set of four crypto issues, each showing an image of one of the satellite missions accompanied by a label with the public address and private key of the paper wallet containing an NFT token that can be activated at <http://nft.poczta-polska.pl/>. These tokens may then be imported into a digital wallet for a virtual collection online on the blockchain, thus turning NFT tokens into digital collectibles. It is the intent of the Polish Post to promote Polish philately and recruit new stamp collectors by introducing Poland's first crypto stamps.

Date of Issue
Sheet Format
Printing Method
Designer

December 6, 2022
Pane of 4 Different Stamps
Offset
Roch Stefaniak



German Camp for Polish Children in Łódź (1942-1945)

This 3.90-zł stamp calls attention to Nazi Germany's Kinder-KZ Litzmannstadt concentration camp for Polish Christian children, located within the Ghetto in Łódź from 1942 to 1945. The imprisoned children were identified as orphans or abandoned youth or so-called criminal offenders from Polish areas incorporated into the Reich and from the General Gouvernement. The children in the camp were forced to work in various industries to support the Reich. The camp was enclosed by a high wooden fence topped with barbed wire on three sides and a high brick wall on the other side within the confines of the surrounding Ghetto. The children were worked to exhaustion, beaten and tortured by their guards, and were riddled with disease. The camp housed an estimated 1,000 children. [Jolanta Sowińska-Gogacz & Błażej Torański, *Little Oświęcim - The Children's Camp in Łódź*, 2020]. Today only the old camp administration building remains.

Date of Issue
Sheet Format
Printing Method
Designer

December 8, 2022
Single in Pane of 12
Offset
Jan Konarzewski



Mikołów

Mikołów (German: Nikolai), a town in the Silesian Voivodeship in southern Poland, is recognized on this 3.90-zł stamp. It is one of the oldest towns in Poland, referenced historically as early as 1222. The town's population grew in medieval times during ethnic German migration eastward (German: ostsiedlung). It became a center of local commerce, located at the crossroads of several trading routes. In the 14th century the town came under Czech rule and remained part of the Habsburg Empire through the 16th century. After the Silesian Wars, the town came under Prussian rule from 1742 to 1918. During World War II, the town's ethnic Polish and Jewish population was subject to mass arrests, murder, and deportation. Following the war, the town's ethnic Germans were deported, and Poles were re-settled in the town, which now supports a total population of over 40,000.

The stamp shows the historic market square and town hall; and the official first day cover shows the town's neo-Romanesque Minor Basilica of St. Wojciech (Adalbert), constructed in 1843-61.

Date of Issue
Sheet Format
Printing Method
Designer

December 9, 2022
Single in Pane of 12
Offset
Adam Kultys



Gabriel Narutowicz – First President of the Second Republic of Poland

Gabriel Józef Narutowicz (1865-1922) is honored on this 3.90-zł stamp. He served as the first President of Poland from December 11, 1922, until his assassination five days later. Narutowicz was a renowned engineer and professor of hydroelectric engineering. He directed construction of the first European hydroelectric facilities at Monthey and Mühleberg (Switzerland) and at Andelsbuch (Austria).

In 1920 he joined the Polish government as Minister of Public Works, serving in that position in four different cabinets. He traveled around the country often to personally supervise and direct public works projects. Within a year, about 270,000 Polish buildings and 300 bridges were rebuilt, and 200 km of highways constructed. He also designed dams and supervised construction of the Porąbka hydroelectric project on the Soła River in the Beskid Mountains.

Politically, he considered himself a moderate. During the highly-contentious presidential election in December 1922, he was nominated for president, and the National Assembly (both houses of parliament) surprisingly elected him as the first President of the Second Republic of Poland. He was supported by the center-left Polish People's Party and national minorities. His victory shocked the right-wing National Democrats. Catholic and nationalist right-wing political groups immediately began an aggressive campaign against him personally, including demonstrations in Warsaw. He was assassinated at a Warsaw art gallery by a right-wing extremist who was publicly executed within a month.

Date of Issue	December 11, 2022
Sheet Format	Single in Sheet of 35
Printing Method	Photogravure
Designer	Jarosław Ochendzan



30th Anniversary of the Establishment of Poland – South Africa Diplomatic Relations

This A-denominated (3.90-zł) postal card commemorates the beginning of Polish – South Africa diplomatic relations. The first semi-official diplomatic contacts between Poland and South Africa occurred in 1988, and in April 1990 the two countries signed an agreement to establish so-called Interest Bureaus in Pretoria and Warsaw. It was on December 18, 1991, that the two countries established formal diplomatic relations and upgraded the two Interest Bureaus to Embassies.

Poland views South Africa as a priority partner in Africa in terms of bilateral relations and in the context of the strategic partnership between South Africa and the EU. An estimated 10,000-30,000 ethnic Poles live in South Africa (part of the worldwide Polish diaspora), residing primarily in the large cities, such as of Johannesburg and Cape Town. The framework for cooperation between the two nations is underpinned by the Intergovernmental Agreement on Economic Cooperation signed in October 2013, and several other sectoral agreements and memoranda of understanding. The imprinted postage on the card shows a flag with the symbolic Polish and South African colors, and the left side displays a statue of Nelson Mandela in Pretoria.

Date of Issue	December 14, 2022
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Jan Konarzewski



Breaking the Enigma Code

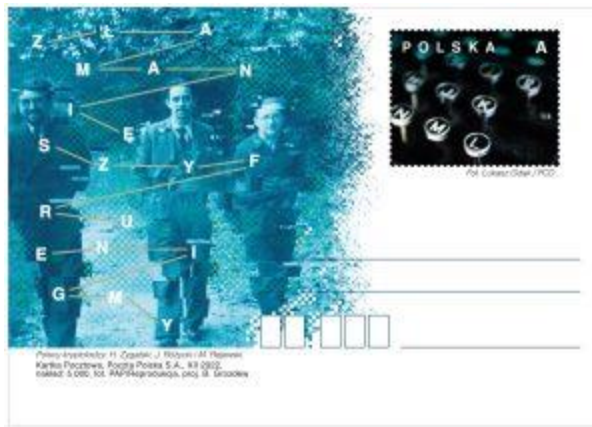
This A-denominated (3.90-zł) postal card focuses attention to the German-developed cipher device called Enigma, and especially to the three Polish mathematician/cryptologists who cracked the earliest versions of the code in the early 1930's. The German engineer Arthur Scherbius invented ENIGMA near the end of World War I, and later Germany employed the device to keep commercial and diplomatic communications secret. The machine consisted of a keyboard that routed typed messages into a collection of rotating wheels and a plug board, thereby enabling the scrambling of messages in a way that could only be unscrambled by someone using an identical machine with identical settings somewhere else.

The three Polish mathematician/cryptologists, all graduates of Poznań University, were Marian Rejewski (1905-80), Henryk Zygalski (1908-79), and Jerzy Różycki (1909-42); they are shown on the left side of the card. Through the use of mathematics and deduction they were able to reconstruct the sight-unseen German device and unscramble encrypted German messages at the Polish Cipher Bureau. They first called their machine a cyclometer and later a crypto bomb. By 1938, the Poles were able to decipher some 75 percent of all encoded German radio transmissions.

All of their research was shared with the British and French five weeks before the start of World War II. This information provided a theoretical foundation for Britain's later breakthroughs in cracking the more advanced versions of ENIGMA at their top-secret Bletchley Park facility during the war. It is estimated that the Poles' discoveries saved the British a year's time of work. By early 1942, British cryptologists were decoding over 39,000 intercepted messages each month. Since the Germans shared their encryption device with the Japanese, decoded messages contributed significantly to the Allied victories in both Europe and the Pacific.

Date of Issue
Printing Method
Designer

December 30, 2022
Offset
Bożydar Grozdew



Thorgal

This 8-zł stamp recognizes the Thorgal fantasy comic adventure series created by Belgian writer Jean Van Hamme and Polish graphic artist Grzegorz Rosiński. It debuted in 1977 in serial form in Tintin magazine as a 30-page series, and has since 1980 been published in numerous hardcover volumes, and in 2002 became an adventure video game. It incorporates elements of Norse mythology and the legend of Atlantis, as well as science fiction and horror. It has been acclaimed as one of the most popular French language comics, with more than 11 million books in print.

The main character, Thorgal Aegirsson, was travelling as a boy on a mysterious spaceship that crashes on earth. He is then raised by Vikings and becomes a skillful and courageous warrior also possessing a moral sensitivity. His wife is the Viking Aaricia, and their children are son Jolan and daughter Louve. His nemesis is Kriss of Valnor, with whom he has an illegitimate son, Aniel.

Date of Issue

December 31, 2022

Sheet Format

Single in Souvenir Sheet

Printing Method

Offset

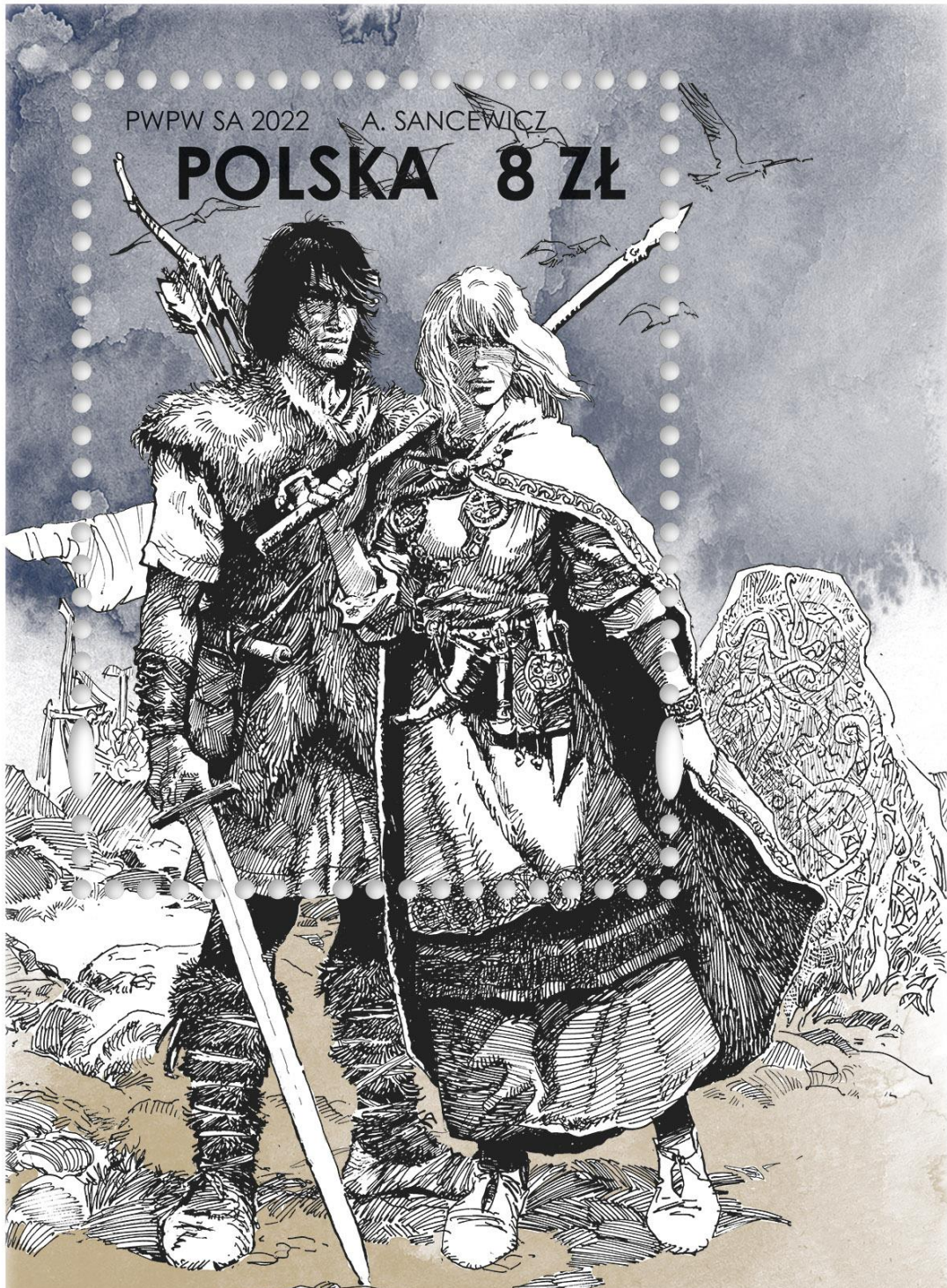
Designer

Agnieszka Sancewicz

PWPW SA 2022

A. SANCEWICZ

POLSKA 8 ZŁ



THORGAL

GRZEGORZ ROSIŃSKI

Rosiński - Van Hamme © Éditions du Lombard
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