

# POLONUS PURLS (Polonus Philatelic URLs)

By: Sam Ginsburg

At members' request, this column is being resumed after a break of several years. I'll try to produce the column more regularly from now on, and you may also see columns written by different authors in varying styles. Its roots are in the columns by Erv Mrotek in issues 514 and 515. As Erv noted, Polonus doesn't endorse or vouch for these sites, some of which may even have moved when you try them.

To get back into the swing of things, this column focuses on stamps, since most of us are stamp collectors.

Poczta Polska, the Polish Postal Service, shows new issues in English at <http://www.poczta-polska.pl/znaczk/en/index.php>. This page has links to this year's new issues, both of stamps and postal cards, as well as directions to the philatelic center, and a brief history of postage stamps and the postal service in Poland, all in English.

The site also has a Polish-language section, which I accidentally got into. But I had somehow installed the Google Toolbar, which has a translate button. Translate automatically detected that the website was in Polish, and offered to translate it into English, producing what appears to be a pretty decent translation.

At this writing, there is Google Toolbar for Internet Explorer, and another one for Firefox. They should make it much easier for us monolingual people to use Polish or other foreign websites. Type Google Toolbar into your internet search engine, and you should find it right away. The toolbar even seems to work on the [www.allegro.pl](http://www.allegro.pl) auction site!

Stamp Encyclopedia Poland, Ben Nieborg's excellent web site at <http://www.stampspoland.nl/index.html> has scans of virtually all Polish stamps

(not always genuine) and includes a sample of labels as well. Of particular interest on my most recent exploration are the scans of cancels on Poland #1. The variety is greater than I had realized.

Catalog Poland (or Polonica), by Leo van den Heuvel, is also very interesting. Another Netherlands-based site, it's in four languages (Dutch, German, Polish and English) and lists stamps with Polish themes from more than 150 stamp-issuing entities, excluding Poland itself. <http://www.polonica.info>. You can browse by country or by topic – places, organizations, events, and about 60 people.

Worldwide Experts and Forgeries: [www.filatelia.fi](http://www.filatelia.fi). Forgeries and Polish Philately go together, unfortunately. At this writing, our own [www.polonus.org](http://www.polonus.org) website has links for two areas of frequently-forged stamps: The Krakow Review shows you how to analyze Krakow overprints, and Poland Przedborz Issues tells you how to analyze the local delivery stamps of Przedborz. But [www.filatelia.fi](http://www.filatelia.fi) has a wealth of world-wide information – listings of forged stamps, listings of experts, listings of forged expertising marks, a bibliography of books about forgeries, etc. Many of my friends consider it to be THE place to start exploring forged stamps or expertising marks. Make a point of becoming familiar with it.

Note: I plan to accumulate suggestions for web pages deserving of listing here. Eventually, we hope to provide links to them from the Polonus Website. So please send your favorites to me: [samgins@esquared.net](mailto:samgins@esquared.net). I'd also appreciate your feedback on any of the sites listed here.

Thanks

**The Polonus Philatelic Society expresses its condolences to the people of Poland and to the families of the victims, for their loss suffered in the tragic airplane crash in Smolensk, Russia. Ironically, the delegation lost in the crash was headed for Katyn forest to honor the 22,000 Polish prisoners of war killed 70 years ago by the Soviet Union's NKVD, forerunner of the KGB. On April 7th, the Polish Post issued a commemorative souvenir sheet "Remembering the Katyn Massacre".**