

# Polonus PURLS (Polonus Philatelic URLs)

## Polish Philatelic History

By: Sam Ginsburg

I am pretty weak on Polish philatelic history, as evidenced by an unsuccessful search for some WW I occupation postage rates I was looking for. Some of you may also have occasion to search for a particular topic in Polish philatelic history, so in this article I am attempting to provide leads for a variety of internet sources.

As usual, try starting with a basic internet search. In this case you would do one for Polish philatelic history and another for Polish postal history[1]. The “advanced search” feature in most search engines and browsers will let you combine both searches into one. Some websites have links to a variety of different postal history sources. Rather than duplicating these listings in this article, I will only provide the major link with an idea of some of the information that can be found on or through the link.

The first is **StampDomain.com** ([www.stampdomain.com](http://www.stampdomain.com)), mentioned in issue #540. The Resource Page for Collectors of Poland Stamps has links to a variety of history websites. I found the one on Wrocław to be particularly interesting. (Thanks to member Bernard Paull for suggesting another look at this site.) The **Polish Post Office** has a history page (<http://www.poczta-polska.pl/znaczk/en/histzn.php>), but it doesn't mention that Poland officially dates its postal history from 1558. **Wikipedia's** article on Polish Philatelic History ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Postage\\_stamps\\_and\\_postal\\_history\\_of\\_Poland](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Postage_stamps_and_postal_history_of_Poland)) seems more extensive, although it had some errors when I last looked at it. **Wikipedia** has a wide variety of articles on various aspects of postal history; its Timeline of Postal History is quite interesting to me. Ben Nieborg's excellent **Stamp Encyclopaedia Poland** ([www.stampspoland.nl/](http://www.stampspoland.nl/)) is a very thorough reference on Polish postal stamps and history. It also has a link to Sandafayre Auction's Stamp Atlas ([www.sandafayre.com/atlas/](http://www.sandafayre.com/atlas/)), which includes a section on Poland as well as a variety of maps.

**Stampsite: The Encyclopaedia of Postal Authorities** (<http://www.jl.sl.btinternet.co.uk/stampsite/home.html>) has a little bit on almost every entity that ever issued stamps. I'll bet you've never heard

of a great many of them. But locals are mostly omitted, so you can't use it to find more about your collection of Warsaw and Zarki locals. The website apparently hasn't changed since early 2008.

Jim Forte's **Postal History** ([www.postalhistory.com](http://www.postalhistory.com)) has a searchable index. Searching for Poland provides a variety of links, including one to our own Chris Kulpinski's Philatelic PDFs (<http://polishphilatelicliterature.com/>), which I have found very helpful. The **Postal History Society's** links page (<http://stampclubs.com/phs/links.htm>) has a variety of links (unchanged since 2005?), but none specifically on Poland.

Remember that Poland was partitioned from the late 1700's until 1918, with some territories disputed into the 1920's, so if you're interested in that period you may have to look at Austrian, German, and/or Russian philatelic history. Because the borders have changed over the years, you may also have to look at Lithuanian and Ukrainian history as well. (Think Lwów, which was won by the Poles in 1919, but lost to the Ukrainians at the end of World War II.) For example, visiting the bookshop of the The Rossica Society of Russian Philately (<http://www.rossica.org/Bookshop/>) provides a chance to buy David Skip-ton's English translation of S.V. Prigara's 1941 book, *The Russian Post in the Empire, Turkey, China and the Post in The Kingdom of Poland*. (Thanks to Polonus President Bob Ogrodnik for providing some of these leads.)

This column has listed a few resources available for sorting out Polish philatelic history. While these sites may provide just the answers some of you need, many of you will have to search more. In the latter case, if you let me know about the other resources that worked for you, perhaps I can include them in a future column.

Note: Please send your favorite websites to me ([samgins1730@yahoo.com](mailto:samgins1730@yahoo.com)) for possible inclusion in a future column and/or on the Polonus website. I'd also appreciate your feedback on any of the sites listed here or names of websites that should be included in this topic. Thanks.

*Endnotes:*

[1] Sometimes the Links section of my own [www.prz.ginsburgs.org](http://www.prz.ginsburgs.org) website shows up near the top of such searches, but I consider it to be only a start and not authoritative. That page is also targeted at Przedbórz 1917-18 locals.