

2 lipca 1963r.

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WPan Pułkownik Jan Z.E. Berek
Prezes Związku Filatelistów Polskich
w Wielkiej Brytanii
30, Greencroft Gardens, Flat J
London, N.W.6

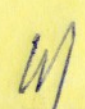
Wielce Szanowny Panie Prezesie,

W imieniu Instytutu Józefa Piłsudskiego w Ameryce
dziękuję serdecznie Panu Prezesowi i Zarządowi Z.F.P.
za przesłanie nam jako daru pełnego kompletu wydawnictw
filatelistycznych pod hasłem "Józef Piłsudski i jego
epoka w polskiej filatelistyce".

Jednocześnie przesyłam szczerze gratulacje z powodu
tak wspaniale zorganizowanego pokazu który, sam będąc
filatelistą, rozumiem i doceniam więcej, niż inni.

Muszę najmocniej przeprosić Pana Prezesa za tak
bardzo spóźnioną odpowiedź. Spowodowane to zostało dłu-
gotrwałą chorobą gen. W. Kowalskiego i ostatecznie jego
ustąpieniem ze stanowiska dyrektora Instytutu. Objąwszy
bardzo niedawno to stanowisko, znalazłem w niezakłóconej
korespondencji pismo Pana Prezesa i spieszę, choć bardzo
późno, przesłać Panu i podziękowania i przeproszenia.

Życząc dalszego rozwoju w pracach Związku Filatelistów
Polskich w Wielkiej Brytanii, przesyłam wyrazy prawdziwego
szacunku


Wacław Jędrzejewicz
Dyrektor Instytutu

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ZWIĄZEK FILATELISTÓW POLSKICH
W WIELKIEJ BRYTANII
UNION OF POLISH PHILATELISTS
IN GREAT BRITAIN



Telephone: MAlda Vale 7598

30, GREENCROFT GARDENS
Flat J LONDON, N.W.6

Instytut Józefa Piłsudskiego
289 Park Avenue South,
New York 10, N.Y., U.S.A.

London dnia 17 listopada 1962r.

Wielce Szanowny Panie Generale,

Zarząd Związku Filatelistów Polskich w W. Brytanii uważa za swój miły obowiązek przesłać jako dar dla Instytutu Józefa Piłsudskiego w Nowym Jorku pełny komplet wydawnictw wystawowych "Polphilex 62".

Wystawa ta została urządzona w Instytucie Historycznym im. gen. Sikorskiego w Londynie w dniach od 9 do 12 marca b.r., pod hasłem: JOZEF PIŁSUDSKI I JEGO EPOKA W POLSKIEJ FILATELISTYCE.

Wystawę otworzyła i zamknęła p. Dr. Wanda Piłsudska.

Szczegóły dotyczące samej wystawy, jej organizacji i pokłosia zamieszczone są w kilku numerach miesięcznika Komunikat Filatelistyczny wydawanego przez Związek, które załączamy również przy niniejszym.

Na szczególne podkreślenie zasługuje fakt konfiskowania tych wydawnictw przez władze reżymowe w Kraju, oraz nasza reakcja w tej mierze. (w załączeniu odpisy korespondencji).

Łączę w imieniu Zarządu Z.F.P i swoim wyrazy wysokiego poważania

Za Zarząd Z.F.P. w W. Brytanii

Jan Z. E. Berek
Prezes.

Załączników: 14 publikacji
odpisy 2-ch dokumentów,
i 4 fotografie.

Kopia oryginalu

Miss J.M.Hobbs,
Postal Services Department
Headquarters Building,
St.Martin's-le-Grand,
London E.C.1.

London 15th May 1962

Ref.No.15968/62.

Dear Madam,

We thank you for your letter of 17th April, and would like to clarify matters as follows:

1. From the letter in question it would appear that the Polish Ministry of Post and Telecommunications is offended by the verbal contents of the inscription on the commemorative labels issued for "Pol-philex 62", which were attached to letters and later cancelled by the British Postal Authorities with the special commemorative date stamp. The inscription contains, among others, the words: "Pilsudski - Defender of Europe".

The reaction of the Polish Authorities is very typical considering that it is caused by an unquestionable historical fact, the essence of which is embodied into the substance on the label. The actual fact is that under the leadership of Josef Pilsudski the Polish Army won a victory over the Red Army, and because of this victory the penetration of the Red Army into the heart of Europe was delayed from 1920 to 1945. The Soviet Union, is obviously not pleased about this and therefore does not like to be reminded of it. This also applies to the present rulers of Poland.

2. As a result of the last world war, many thousands of Poles, giving up any chance of return to their native country, remained in the West, with the purpose in their minds, of utilising under the auspices of the West, the freedoms in the widest meaning of this word, and to be able not only to think about truth, but also speak and write it. If the British Post Office would like or would be forced to consider

in this respect the wishes or opinions of the Soviets or the present Polish rulers, then all the ideas, and especially, this gem of British democratic freedom, the freedom of speech would be completely destroyed.

These are then the merits of the case, to which present Polish postal authorities, have had recourse to, by confiscating the envelopes of "Polphilex 62".

3. Formally the action of Polish authorities has no justification, under the Universal Postal Convention (1957).

The Polish authorities are confiscating the above postal packets not because of their contents (articles), but because of the appearance of their external envelopes. Art. 60 of the U.P.U., mentioned by the Polish Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications does not apply to the envelopes, but to their contents, which in the above case is immaterial. Only one exception which the Convention does allow, refers not to the ordinary envelopes, but to the panel envelopes or wholly transparent envelopes, and also does not apply in this case.

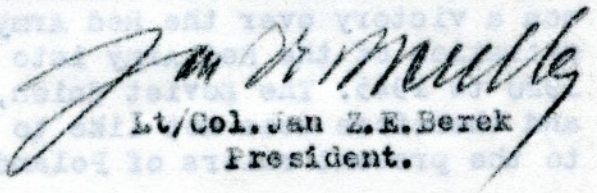
To what the Polish authorities really object, are the commemorative labels, and that is the subject which is dealt with by Art. 124 par. 3 of the Convention. Limitations of the Convention in this matter refer only to the method of affixing labels, and then only to labels, which are likely to be mistaken for postage stamps.

It would be futile to explain, that such an eventuality could not have taken place in connection with the Polphilex labels, and that all the characteristics of those labels, in the light of the Convention and standardised by its international postal circulation are completely indifferent.

Hoping that this explains the position and our point of view we remain

Yours Faithfully

For the Committee of the Union of Polish Philatelist in Great Britain


Lt/Col. Jan Z. E. Berek
President.

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Odpis z oryginału

G.P.O.

POSTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT
Headquarters Building, St. Martin's-le-Grand
London E.C.1
Telex: 21166 (PO HQ LDN)
Telegrams: Postgen Cent London
Telephone: HEADquarters

In any reply please quote: 15968/62
Your reference

17th April 1962.

Dear Sir,

Further to your recent correspondence with Mrs. Clarke about a special datestamp for use at the philatelic exhibition held under your auspices from the 9th to 12th March, I write to let you know that we have received a letter from the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications in Warsaw informing us that letters posted at the above-mentioned exhibition, bearing labels or inscriptions with the words "Union of Polish Philatelists - Joseph Pilsudski Defender of Europe London 9-12 III 1962 have been seized under the authority of Article 60 of the Universal Postal Convention of Ottawa, 1957. This article concerns items prohibited from transmission by post, and it would appear that the letters in question have been regarded by the Polish postal administration as coming under the heading of items of which the importation or circulation is prohibited in the country of destination.

The stamps on the seized letters had been cancelled with the special "Polphilex" datestamp, and you will appreciate that as we authorised the use of this stamp on correspondence posted at your exhibition, we have been placed in an embarrassing position by its use in conjunction with the labels to which the Polish postal administration has taken objection.

Yours faithfully

(Miss J.M. Hobbs)

The Hon. Secretary,
Union of Polish Philatelists in Great Britain,
30, Greencroft Gardens, Flat J,
N.W.6.