

POLISH PERFINs IN UNITED KINGDOM 1980 – 1983

by W.Z.J. Nowicki

To distinguish and safeguard the official issues of souvenir postcards of the exhibitions organised by "The Polish Philatelists Association" in the United Kingdom the Committee decided to frank its future souvenir and commemorative postal postcards with definitive stamps perforated with the Association's Polish initials "S.F.P." - S/towarzystwie F/ilatelistow P/olskich w Zjednoczonym Krolestwie" or other Polish initials, thus introducing for the first time Polish perfins in the United Kingdom on the 4th July, 1980.

This article lists Polish perfins in chronological order:-

1st perforation: "F/SP" (7/9,8 4½)



Perforated stamps were used for the first time on special postcards issued for the exhibition organised under the title "40th Anniversary of the Polish Air Force in the Battle of Britain" on the 4th July, 1980. (Philapol 80). The majority of stamps were used on official postcards but some quantities of stamps have been used on Association's correspondence and some have been sold to members of the Polish Philatelists Association for their collections and correspondence.

The second time the perforation was used was for the exhibition-under the title "Scouting in Philately" (Philapol 81) on the 15th May, 1981 and it was used for the third time on the 13th June, 1981 on souvenir postcards for "Polish Community Day in Nottingham".

The last time it was used was at the exhibition of the "40th Anniversary of Resumption of Polish Postal Service" cancelled with the date 15th December, 1981 (which was the actual anniversary date) and also on the 6th February, 1982 (the exhibition date) at the Polish Institute and General Sikorski Museum, London S.W.

2nd perforation: ("JP/II" 6,8/4,4 4½)

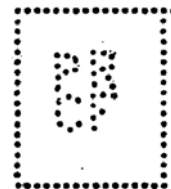


When the visit of Pope John Paul II to Great Britain was announced the Polish Philatelists Association in Great Britain made extensive plans to ensure that the Pontiff's visit to the United Kingdom was justly commemorated.

For the visit all postcards were franked with definitive stamps of 15½p and perforated with "JP/II" the initials of High Holiness, thus introducing a Papal/Polish perfin in the United Kingdom. The first perforation with the initials "JP II" was used on postcards for His arrival at Gatwick Airport. This first day postcard can truly be said to celebrate history in the making when for the first time ever a reigning Pontiff set foot on British soil and must be the ultimate souvenir of that historic day. Postcards were also hand-stamped with commemorative postmarks at each location visited by His Holiness. The same perforation was used for the second time on postcards on the 30th May 1982 at Crystal Palace to commemorate the Pope's visit to the Polish Community in Great Britain. It should be mentioned that the above postcards were hand-stamped by the British G.P.O. with a hand-stamp in the Polish language, designed and commissioned by the Polish Philatelists Association in the United Kingdom. This is the first time that the G.P.O. granted a hand-stamp in the Polish language.

The perforation was also used on postcards with definitive Regional issues of Scotland on 31st May 1982 for the first day visit of a Pope to Edinburgh and on definitive Regional issues of issues of Wales on postcards posted in Cardiff on the 2nd June, 1982 for the first Papal visit to Wales. Its final use was on the commemorative postcards posted during the stamp exhibition "Papal Visits to Philately since 1978" organised by the Polish Philatelists Association on the 23rd and 24th July 1982 at Westminster Cathedral Hall, S.W.1. Some of the stamps, with the perforation "JP/II" type 1 were sold to members of the Association for their collections and correspondence.

3rd perforation: ("PR/CF" 8,10/7, 7 4½)



The Polish Institute and General Sikorski Museum in London used the above perforation "PR/CF" - P/olish R/Regimental C/olours F/undation - //Fundacja Szandarow P.S.Z // on commemorative postcards issued on 13th August 1983 for the special "Annual Reunion Day".

4th perforation:- ("JS/III" 6, 9/4, 4, 4 4½)



For the 300th Anniversary of the Battle of Vienna under the command of the Polish King Joannes III Sobieski in 1683, the Polish Institute and General Sikorski Museum in London together with Polish Philatelists Association in the United Kingdom issued the commemorative postcards for the exhibition organised by the Institute and the Museum. The stamps used on postcards were perforated with the King's initials.

5th perforation: (" JP II (in curve) 6, 8, 7, 6)

To commemorate the 5th Anniversary of Pope John Paul II's Pontificate the Committee of Polish Philatelists Association in the United Kingdom decided to organise the stamp exhibition in London on the 15th and 16th October 1983 and to issue the commemorative postcard and perforate the definitive stamp's with Pope John Paul II's initials "JP II" set in a curve. The hand-stamp was designed and commissioned by the Polish Philatelists Association and the British Post Office again granted a hand-stamp in the Polish language. The majority of the perforated stamps were used for official postcards and some perforated stamps were sold to members of the Association for their collections and correspondence.

