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# PHILATELIC BULLETIN

Sarasota Philatelic Club

2026
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## Stamp Quiz



***Unfortunately, no one guessed the correct answer for last month's challenging Stamp Quiz. The stamp was Hungary, Scott 1356, the 10 filler, Kisvárda Castle stamp. The stamp was printed by photogravure, watermarked multiple stars, and perforated 14.5. It was issued on March 3, 1961, as part of the greater Castle Type issue of 1960. Kisvárda Castle is a historic Renaissance bastioned fortress built in 1415 in eastern Hungary with an interesting and storied legacy tied to border defense. Stay tuned for next month's Stamp Quiz. Good luck!***




## Mail to and from the Warsaw Ghetto 1941

Dr. James Mazepa, RDP

The German authorities officially established the Warsaw Ghetto on October 12, 1040. Until December 1941, people in the Ghetto could send and receive mail. The United States ceased postal relations with Germany and German-occupied territory on December 11, 1941.

The Jews in the Warsaw Ghetto organized their own mail system. Outgoing mail was franked with the General Government stamps or postal cards. Incoming mail was charged an additional delivery fee. Figure 1 is a postal card written on August 28, 1941, to New York, but did not enter the German postal system in Warsaw until September 21, 1941. (Michel Generalgouvernement postal card P9 issued October, 1940; H&G Germany-Military and Occupation: Poland I-57.) Outgoing mail received a small boxed *Judenrat/Warschau* (Jewish Council/Warsaw) in black or red. The *Judenrat/Warschau* cachet can be seen in the upper left of the card. A red circular German censor mark appears on the front. One can deduce the Germans were in no hurry to move the mail. The card was probably sent west through Germany and occupied France to Lisbon (pencil notation bottom right). In Lisbon it was placed on a transatlantic ship to New York.

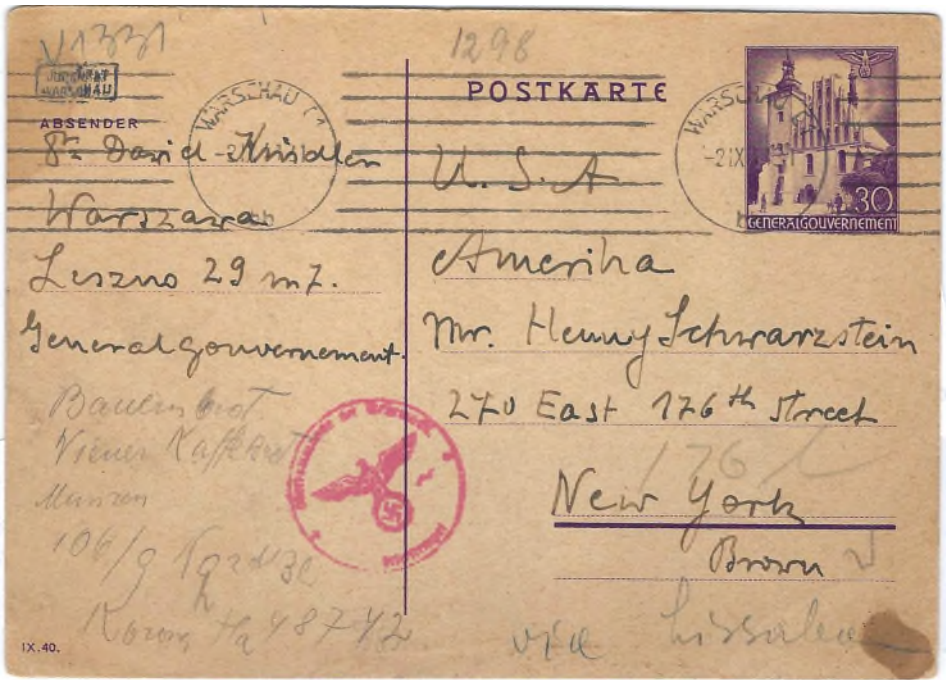



**Figure 1. Postal card written on August 28, 1941, to New York, which did not enter the German postal system in Warsaw until September 21, 1941. Note the small boxed *Judenrat/Warschau* (Jewish Council/Warsaw) cachet in black at the upper left of the card. A red circular German censor mark also appears on the front.**

*Continued on next page*



# The Prez Sez …

Hello all – hope your summer was enjoyable as I write this on the first day of autumn.

The newsletter editors are still wishful in getting articles – please consider writing about a favorite item.

Also the club needs programs – so same request.

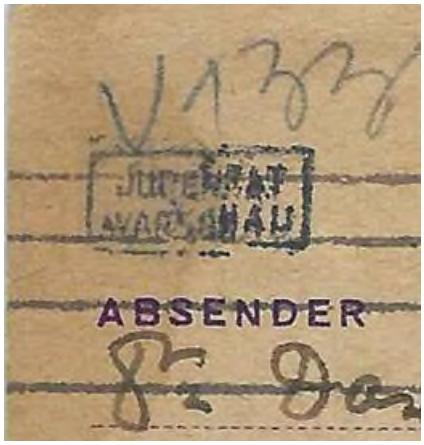
We do not have a speaker for the October meeting – so it will be a show and tell – but also an ASK. If you have an item for which you want more information – either because you have never seen anything like it before or you are merely curious – bring it to show and get the opinions of your fellow club members.

Pat

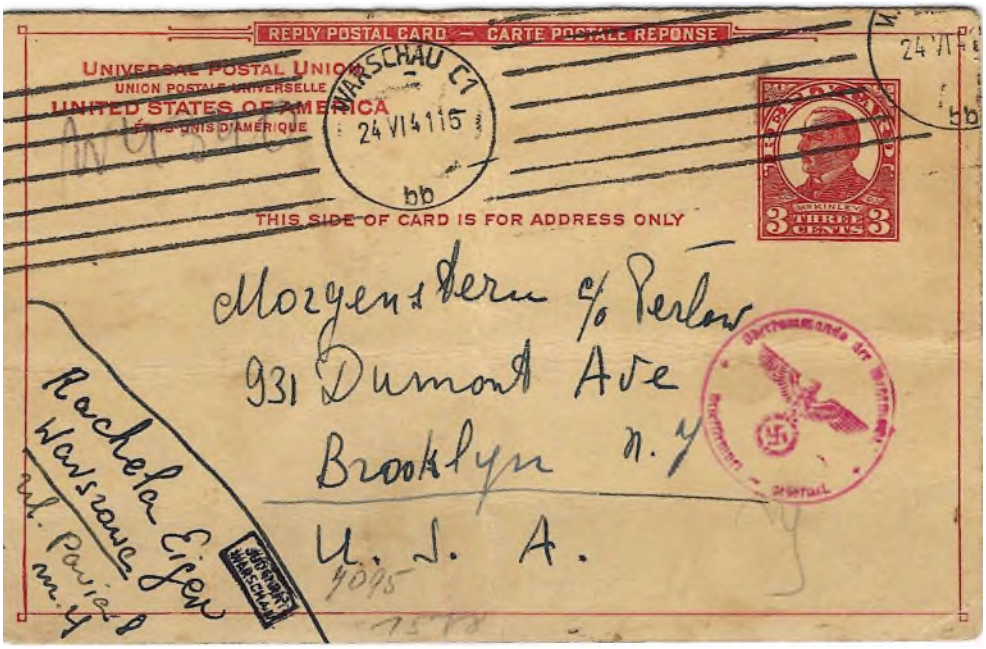
## Mail to and from the Warsaw Ghetto 1941 (con't.)

Figure 2 is a closeup of the *Judenrat/Warschau* cachet on the card.

Figure 3 is a very difficult example of the reply portion of a U.S. reply-paid postal card from the Ghetto back to Brooklyn, New York (UPSS R19, issued February 1, 1926; Scott UY12r). After the Germans censored it, it was sent through the Warsaw C1 post office on June 24, 1941. Note the return address and box "Judenrat/Warschau" at the bottom left.




**(*Above*) Figure 2. Cropped closeup of the cachet marking reading *Judenrat/Warschau* (Jewish Council/Warsaw) that was applied to outgoing mail. It can be found in black or red.**




**(*Above Right*) Figure 3. Reply portion of a U.S. reply-paid postal card from the Warsaw Ghetto back to Brooklyn, New York. Note the *Judenrat/Warschau* cachet at the bottom left and the German censor handstamp.**

*Continued on next page*

## Mail to and from the Warsaw Ghetto 1941 (con't.)

Incoming mail to the Warsaw Ghetto was difficult. As mentioned above, reply-paid postal cards were very difficult. Figure 4 shows an extraordinary message half of a reply-paid postal card sent on April 23, 1941, from the Bronx, New York, with a prepaid return postal card attached (UPSS MR19; Scott UY12). The 12¢ Zachary Taylor and 15¢ James Buchanan Presidential Issues (Scott 817 and 820, respectively) were affixed to uprate the card to 30 cents for airmail postage; note the manuscript docket, "by Clipper" at left. Upon receipt, the Supreme Command of the German Army censored the card, as indicated by the red circle with the Nazi swastika and the four number-in-rectangle censor indications. The card was delivered to the Ghetto on May 20th. There, the black-boxed Ghetto arrival postmark was applied. At the top of the postmark is the abbreviation "R.Z.wW./20 V 41 / S.P.D.Z." (Rada Żydowska w Warszawie = The Council of the Jews in Warsaw), and at the bottom "S.P.D.Z." (Składnica Pocztowa Dzielnica Żydowskiej = Postal Depot of the Jewish District). The violet delivery-fee rubber stamp "30 gr./ S.P.D.Z." was the charge for delivering mail from abroad.

Mail from the United States with reply-paid postal cards is very difficult, and obtaining one to the Warsaw Ghetto is exceptional and eagerly sought by U.S. postal stationery collectors.




**Figure 4. Extraordinary message half of a reply-paid postal card sent on April 23, 1941, from the Bronx, New York, with prepaid return postal card attached. The 12¢ and 15¢ Presidential Issues were affixed to uprate the card to 30 cents for airmail postage via Clipper. Upon receipt, the Supreme Command of the German Army censored the card, as indicated by the red circle with the Nazi swastika and the four number-in-rectangle censor indications. The card was delivered to the Ghetto on May 20th. Black-boxed Ghetto arrival postmark was applied along with other markings indicating *The Council of the Jews in Warsaw*, and *Postal Depot of the Jewish District.***