

## JUDGES INFORMATION SHEET

### POLAND: Warsaw-Praga Post Offices October 1944-1945

In order to understand this exhibit, please start by reading "BACKGROUND" on the title page so there will be no need to repeat it here.

**TREATMENT:** Since there is no information as the dates the eight post offices were established in this short period of time, I have organized the exhibit by the post office number, e.g. Warsaw-Praga #23. The PO numbers are based on pre-war locations and are purely random for the purposes of this exhibit. As such this is a perfect OFE. It could not be expanded to even two frames without excessive padding.

**SIGNIFICANCE:** The post offices in the Praga District were the first offices opened in Warsaw during liberation. They are politically important because while the Russians liberated Praga, Stalin refused to allow it army to cross the Vistula and assist the Polish Home Army and allowed the Germans to destroy Warsaw. The Polish people will never forget this treachery.

**ORIGINALITY:** While there are other collectors both here and in Poland, only one serious article has appeared in the philatelic press and no exhibit to my knowledge.

**RESEARCH/KNOWLEDGE:** A vast majority of the existing letters, probably 95%, were sent to the Red Cross in Switzerland. The Red Cross released their archive, hence the abundance of material to Switzerland. A great majority of these letters are from two or three of the offices. In examining over two hundred letters, I discovered several of the Praga offices are very scarce. In my census as few as 3-5 of several offices may exist. These are documented in the exhibit and noted with a small icon as well as unusual usages or routings. Any letter not going to Switzerland it noteworthy.

**TECHNICAL:** In practically all cases, important information is on the reverse, hence, the backs are shown. Most letters show the ravages of war and as a result the condition of the letters suffers.

Kulpinski, Chris, *WARSAW MAIL TO THE RED COSS-Late 1944*, Polonus Bulletin #535, Summer 2009.