

Stamp issues connected with the pontificate of John Paul II are a great evidence of wide spectrum charismatic influence and popularity of the Pope from Poland in the world. His pontificate is considered to be unique in many aspects. Since the very beginning, October 16, 1978, the increasing interest around his person and activities is obvious. John Paul II draws attention of many, not necessarily Catholics. Recognition of his influence can be established at many levels, one of which is stamp collecting. No other man in such a short period of time was featured on so many postal stamps in so many countries of the world.

Small colored print of a stamp overcomes borders of religions and cultures, reaches beyond social and political conditions, and has been an integral part of modern civilization. Stamps issuing politics is a reflection of existing and dominating economic and political system as well as cultural achievements. Analyzing stamps, we can easily identify elements of traditions of various nations, their religions and beliefs. Thus, most editions of papal stamp issues around the world confirm enormous influence and popularity of John Paul II.

This exhibition includes stamps, souvenir sheets, sheetlets, sheets and booklets as they are the most popular collecting subjects and they impress and mark the most wide range of mail users. All these items appeared during the pontificate of John Paul II, lasting from October 16, 1978 until April 2, 2005. Altogether the exhibition consists of more than 440 emissions from all over the world.

The exhibition is prepared to celebrate the conference "The Promotion of Human Rights and John Paul II", organized by The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Poland and The Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations Office in Geneva together with The Polish Catholic Mission in Switzerland. It pays tribute to John Paul II and His teaching, especially regarding the human rights. Let us hope that once again it will stress and highlight charismatic work and influence of the Pope from Poland.

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