Your copy of our journal may be obtained by sending $3.50 (postage paid anywhere in the world) payable to the Canadian Society of Russian Philately and sent to:
Alex Artuchov, Box 5722, Station A
Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M5W 1P2

Contents

2 Editorial

3 Correspondance With Canada .................. Alex Artuchov

5 Tannu-Tuva and the New Blekhman Handbook .......... Andrew Cronin

28 The Literature of Russian Philately ............... P.J. Campbell

34 Is the Paper Wove? Or is it Laid and Watermarked? .. Alex Artuchov

39 A Stamp for a Rouble ......................... P.J. Campbell

46 The Dot Postmarks of Imperial Russia ............. P.J. Campbell

53 Obituary

55 Philatelic Shorts

58 Review of Literature

62 The Collectors' Corner

The Society wishes to acknowledge and commend the "behind the scenes" efforts of a number of individuals whose aid was instrumental in the production of this our first issue. We would firstly like to thank our advertisers: August Perce of "Stamps", Leo J. Zaikowski of L & F Stamp Service and Marvin Pehr for showing faith in our venture and for providing the advertising revenue which significantly offset our printing costs. We next express a very special note of gratitude to our typist Teresa Artuchov, for her long and tedious hours behind the keyboard. We applaud the efforts of our two artists: Tikhon Nikolaevich Kulikovsky for his very fine illustrations and gracious cooperation and John D. Sherratt who among other things was primarily responsible for the design of our cover, managing to endow it with a distinctly Russian character. Our final expression of gratitude goes to Valentina Petrovna Artuchov for so kindly performing a variety of miscellaneous tasks.
EDITORIAL

A group of us here in Canada had often felt there was a need for a society here in our country, which could classify and distribute information about the philately of the areas now forming part of the USSR.

The reasons are obvious. First of all, this land is stiff with Slavs, to put it plainly; from the Dukhobors who fled religious persecution in Tsarist Russia at the turn of the century to the many thousands of honest and hard working Western Ukrainians arriving soon after and whose back-breaking toil has made the prairie provinces the bread basket of the world.

In short, there must therefore be all kinds of interesting philatelic material floating around. It is up to us Canadians to dig it out and to recognize it for what it is.

The name of our group is: THE CANADIAN SOCIETY OF RUSSIAN PHILATELY. The society is apolitical, with a scope that is strictly philatelic. The approach we are proposing is entirely new and based on the facts that we are all primarily concerned with earning a living and that the main benefit any intending enthusiast would get out of the Society would be its journal. In other words, the Society has no members as such and it has been formed primarily to publish and circulate its Journal "Yamshchik" ("Post-Rider") to all interested readers. Its regularity of issue will depend on articles contributed by readers and the appearance of each new number will be announced in the philatelic press. As support grows, additional measures will be taken to bring enthusiasts together. We have at present three co-ordinators handling the main functions of the Society:

EDITOR: Andrew Cronin, Box 5722, Station A, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M5W 1P2

PUBLISHER & TREASURER: Alex Artuchov, c/o Box 5722, Station A, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M5W 1P2

SECRETARY: Patrick J. Campbell, 17091 Maher Blvd., Pierrefonds, Quebec, Canada H9J 1H7

To keep operations as simple as possible, readers are requested to enclose a stamped and self-addressed envelope when writing to any of the co-ordinators named above. If any writer raises a point of general interest, it will be dealt with in the following issue of the "Post-Rider".

Let us now close with the stirring motto: Collectors of Russia in Canada unite!
Correspondance with Canada is intended to appear in forthcoming issues of this journal and deal with interesting philatelic material making contact with both Russian and Canadian postal establishments. Readers are accordingly invited to forward write-ups and accompanying photographs of suitable items in their collections for inclusion in future issues.

Alex Artuchov - Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Several years ago, while rummaging through an accumulation of Canadian covers, I came across the subject letter. Being mailed from the USSR, I immediately decided that this item is obviously misplaced. I examined the front of the cover more closely, making note that it was mailed to a person in a small northern Ontario community and addressed only in the Cyrillic alphabet. (Fig. 1). When I turned the cover over to the reverse side I immediately realized the reason for this inclusion among Canadian stock. The reverse side (Fig. 2) contained 16 postmarks.
of Western Canada and northern Ontario, nearly half of which were R. P. O's. The story accompanying this cover turned out to be rather interesting.

Mailed from the Tarnopol region of the Western Ukraine on February 20, 1941, the letter reached Vancouver on April 22, 1941. An ongoing Second World War in Western and Central Europe undoubtedly disrupted westward routes of Soviet postal communications. A longer, but undisturbed, eastern route through Russian Asia to Vladivostock and across the Pacific by ship must have accordingly been substituted.

Upon its arrival in Vancouver, the Canadian port of entry, the letter was opened and examined for reasons of wartime security. All mail, incoming from abroad, was apparently censored in this manner during the Second World War.

One or more postal clerks or possibly a railroad employee having knowledge of the Cyrillic alphabet, must have been responsible for directing the letter on a smooth and uninterrupted journey east to Winnipeg and from there into northwestern Ontario. It was here in northwestern Ontario, on the 24th or 25th of April that the confusion began. The letter rode on the railroad for 3 or 4 days, in different boxcars, probably bound in both eastern and western directions in search for its destination or more precisely a person that could read the address. The break finally came on the 28th of April in the tiny railroad town of
Reddit, located a few short miles outside the Manitoba border. On the 30th of April the letter finally reached its intended destination in Smooth Rock Falls.

The letter still contains a handwritten note (Fig. 3) with an April 30, 1941, Reddit postmark:

![Handwritten note with postal mark](image)

**TANNU-TUVA AND THE NEW BLEKHMAN HANDBOOK**

by Andrew Cronin

Through the kindness of some friends, the writer has been able to obtain a copy of the work "History of the Post and the Postage Stamps of Tuva" by S. M. Blekman. This was issued in Russian as a paperback of 112 pages at the end of 1976 by the "Svyaz" Publishers in Moscow, with a selling price of 47 kopeks.

The object of these notes is to act as a guide to this handbook for Tuvan collectors in the West and to add information and/or corrections where required. The work is divided into six sections; 1. Preface 2. The History of the Post 3. Postal Markings 4. Postage Stamps 5. Postal Stationery and 6. Bibliography. Each section will now be considered in turn.
After giving some statistics about this autonomous republic, now forming part of the USSR, Comrade Blekhman states in the preface that the scarcity of material was due among other things, to the low percentage of literate people in pre World War II Tuva, the destruction of much of the archives and the complete absence of philatelists there up to the year 1945. We will see below that the last statement is not true. He then says that the rare provisionals, issued mainly during the war years, have not been described in foreign catalogues. That is not correct as, due to the valiant efforts of James Negus of England, all the known ones have been listed for sometime in the Stanley Gibbons catalogue (S.G. Nos. 109 - 130) and also in the new "Tannu - Tuva Catalog" (Nos. 118 - 139) just issued in 1977 by the U.S. enthusiast Richard C. Kanak of Berwyn, Illinois, USA. Comrade Blekhman also notes that Scott and Minkus have excluded some of the stamps printed in the USSR (he means the 1934 - 1936 provisionals) because they allege that "they were not placed in circulation". Actually what the editors of Scott give as their reason is that they "do not consider them to have been issued primarily for postal purposes". There is adequate information in the foreign philatelic press (e.g. Albert H. Harris of London, England in his "Stamp Collectors Annual" for 1938 and 1939 and A. Eugene Michel in "Stamps" of May 20th and December 16th, 1939) to support that last contention. Finally, foreign catalogues such as Michel, Yvert etc. have listed these provisionals for many years now.

Comrade Blekhman ends his preface with a short survey of his historical and archival sources, naming and thanking Soviet philatelists "and others" for help and information received for the handbook. The first chapter begins with a historical survey starting from the 9th century, based on Arab, Chinese, Italian, Mongolian and Russian sources and having to do with postal relay services, which were Mongolian in origin. Discussing special delivery (express) arrangements, Comrade Blekhman illustrates a native envelope at the top of pg. 14 and any reader would assume that it originated from or was addressed to Tuva. Actually, this is a retouched cut of an envelope, originally sold by Robson Lowe Limited in their sale of May 1, 1968 (see Fig. 1. below)
Through the kind help of the Mongolian Society Inc. of Bloomington, Indiana and other renowned Mongolists in the U. S., it has been determined that the inscriptions are in classical Mongolian and read as follows: 1-2-3-4 (inside horseshoes): "Morin degegür dobtulğa yabuğul", i.e. "horse - on top of - rush - cause to go", 5. "dotur - a nigen dzüül" i.e. "inside one item". 6. "Badarağultu Törö - yin terigün on namur - un dumdada ", i.e. "first year (1875) of Badarağultu Törö (Mongolian title for the reign of the Manchu Emperor Kwang - Su 1875 -1908 ) autumn middle ".

Since it is not known what is on the other side of this envelope, it cannot be assumed that this item is of Tuvan interest. There are eminent Mongolists in Moscow who could also have translated the above illustration for Comrade Blekhman.

He then continues with data on Russian settlement in Tuva, quoting official sources for the establishment of a post and telegraph office at Belotsarsk (the original name for the Tuvan capital of Kyzyl). Further information is given on the development of the postal network during the Tsarist, independent and Soviet periods with rates and official statistics for mail carried and exchanged in the period 1926 - 1943. The latter look very impressive but seem irrelevant as the number of surviving pieces held by Soviet and foreign philatelists is infinitesimal. He also notes, that by 1935, the total number of city, provincial and postal agencies had grown to 13 offices. However, a 1938 letter from Mezhdunarodnaya Kniga to Bela Sekula, the New York wholesaler for the Tuvan 1934 - 1936 pictorials gave a list of 8 post office in operation, as follows:

Kyzyl (General Post Office)
Chadan, in the Barun - Kemchik province
Shagonar, in the Ulu - Kem province
Turan, in the Bii - Kem province
Znamenka, in the Kha-Kem province
Balgazik, in the Tandi province
Samagaltai, in the Tes-Kem province
Kyzyl - Mazhalyk, in the Dzun-Kemchik province

Comrade Blekhman also knew of the above listing from an article by the present writer in the 1954 New South Wales Philatelic Annual, so which figures are correct?

The second chapter is taken up by pp. 24-49 and covers the postmarks of Tuva. From a partial strike of a recently discovered arrival marking, Comrade Blekhman has been able to reconstruct tentatively a double-circle date stamp reading "Belotsarsk P.-T.K. 19.7.17". The serial letter is not known.

An early Soviet collector, V. K. Golovkin, also noted the existence of a single line marking with the same inscription, but his collection has since disappeared.
The usage of the name KRASNYI YENIS double circle marking is then noted. The earliest known date being 3.12.25 and always applied on Soviet postage stamps. Comrade Blekhman and others have missed the fact that this marking and its successor, which is crudely inscribed "Kizil * Touwa" both have the same diameter of 30mm and the same serial letter "a" in exactly the same position at bottom. In other words it seems certain that the Russian word "Krasnyi Yennis" were cut out of the original Soviet postmarker and the new inscription engraved therein after the Tuvan native Postal Administration took over. Plenty of such instances have taken place elsewhere in Russian and Soviet philately.

The earliest date known for the new marking is 8.2.27 on the first issue. Already by the beginnings of April, the new stamps had run out and Comrade Blekhman shows examples of Soviet stamps used thereafter, from 5.4.27 to 24.1.28. They occur on a bank correspondence to Moscow and quite a few examples are held by Soviet and foreign philatelists. The latest strike of this cancel held by the present writer is dated 27.4.28 on a bank cover with Tuvan postage to Harbin Manchuria.

Next we have the familiar bilingual Franco - Mongolian type "Kizil - Touva" dating from 30.10.27. It was still being applied there on an official postal card dated 15.3.30 to Berne Switzerland and it was also locally applied on 4.4.34 on a series of covers addressed abroad to dealers, passing through Moscow - 16 days later and franked with complete sets of the first air mail issue.
This bilingual marking also occurs as a c.t.o. on many Tuvan stamps from the first issue to the Zoological set, but it may have never left Kyzyl. The latest genuine local usage seen is on the 15 and 35 " Posta " provisionals and dated " ...X1.35 " (November 1935).

The next type for the capital is the double-circle type also described by the late W. S. E. Stephen and A. Cronin in Rossica with the inscription Kizil/Touva. The earliest known date is 30.5.31 on a registered cover originally in the Dr. E. M. Tolman collector and now in the possession of the present writer. (see Fig. 2.)

This amazing item has mixed Soviet Tuvan franking and Comrade Blekhman thinks it was not normal usage for Soviet stamps as the cover is addressed to the well-known dealer M. F. Shuliack in Harbin, Manchuria. However, it can be seen that the rate was correct (35 kop.) and it does not appear philatelic as the stamps are stuck haphazardly on the cover. The Soviet stamps were certainly accepted without question and the cover received in Harbin on 17.6.31.

Although Comrade Blekhman has not noticed the fact, the marking in his Fig. 27, reading " Tzadan 18.8.36 Touva " belongs to the same postmark type, as does another example in the present writer's collection, struck in violet and reading " Schagonar 31.8.31 Touva " on Scott's No. 22 (14 kop. 1927 pictorial issue).

Comrade Blekhman then describes the KIZIL TOUVA/KOHTROL double circle type referred to by us as on a bank cover to Moscow. He is confused about the dating, but it is 1.7.35 and this item was originally in the collection of the late Harry Tamer of New York City. The present location of this cover is unknown, but in the meantime, the present writer has located two more envelopes with this cancel, as follows:

a. Registered cover with the Latinization of the alphabet set sent on 7.10.32 and received in Harbin on 18.12.32 (see Fig. 3)

b. Declared value letter sent on 10.6.33 and received in Harbin on 15.7.33

Thus, we now know of 3 covers with this marking, which was apparently originally intended for the control or checking of money orders.

Comrade Blekhman's Fig. 19 shows another Kbzb1 - TbBA type with blocked in segments above and below the date bridge and thick curved bar filling the bottom 2/3 between the circles. He gives the period of usage as 16.5.36 to 28.3.42, but the present writer has a partial strike dated November 1942.

He next shows the well-known Kbzb1 " a " and " c " postmarkners, which were also used as cancellations to order. Kbzb1 " a " never left Kyzyl and lasted at least until 1945 when Touva was already part of the USSR. The Kbzb1 " c " type has an unusual and fascinating...
history. The earliest example in the possession of the present writer is on a registered cover, struck in violet and the postmark is dated 6.4.35, which is a mistake as the "OUSINSKOIE" transit marking on the back is 10.4.36 and it was received in San Diego on May 5, 1936.

Although Comrade Blekhman does not mention it, something strange happened around the end of January 1937. The "C" postmark was apparently sent to the Soviet Philatelic Association in Moscow and used there, to cancel registered covers franked mainly with the 1936 Jubilees for despatch abroad. The postmark colours and dates were as follows:

Grey-Black: February 9, 10 and 11
March 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20.
May 12
June 8

Violet: February 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 27.
Judging from the subsequent material seen, the " c " marking was never sent back to Kyzyl.

With regard to the KbzbL " a " marking, it was originally applied in violet. However, by the beginning of 1938, black ink was being dumped on the pad. The subsequent colour sequences known to the writer are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Colour</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Colour</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21.1.38</td>
<td>black</td>
<td>15.8.40</td>
<td>violet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.2.38</td>
<td>black</td>
<td>24.12.40</td>
<td>violet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22.2.38</td>
<td>black</td>
<td>25.3.41</td>
<td>violet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17.3.38</td>
<td>violet-black</td>
<td>24.4.41</td>
<td>violet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.2.39</td>
<td>violet</td>
<td>19.2.44</td>
<td>blue-black</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20.5.40</td>
<td>black</td>
<td>21.7.44</td>
<td>blue-black</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20.6.40</td>
<td>black</td>
<td>27.2.45</td>
<td>black</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Moreover, Comrade Blekhman does not record the existence of the rare KbzbL " b " cancel, of which only a few strikes are known as follows:

a. Dated 6.4.36 in violet on a cover to San Diego (See Fig. 4.)

b. Dated 22.9.37 in black on a registered cover to Ipswich, England. Originally described by James Negus and now in the writer's collection.

c. Dated 3.8? 37 in black on the 35 K. Jubilee stamp perf. 14, which was originally on a registered letter

Fig 4

Mr. P.A. Bailey
450 Olive Street
San Diego, Calif.
U.S.A.
Before leaving Kyzyl we can record that an official post-office cachet, inscribed in Tuvan " T. A. R. Kbczbdz Posta Telegraf Kontorazb " (Literally" Tuvan People's Republic, in Kyzyl Post and Telegraph, its office) and arms in the centre, has been seen in a 3 circle type with outer diameter of 37 mm. and struck in violet on some postal certificates dated 25.3.33 (See Fig. 5)

Fig 5

Comrade Blekhman then considers the cancels for Turan. His Fig. 25 showing the rare type with filled-in segments above and below the date-bridge is wrong, as it should show the incorrect inscription " Turan " See Fig. 6 below for a registered express return receipt cover in the writer's collection with the earliest known strike of this marking, dated 3.2.34 and received in Harbin on 10.3.34

Fig 6
Comrade Blekhman shows a similar type in his Fig. 31 for KbzbL-MAZALDK (Kyzyl-Mazhalyk) so they should be grouped together. In his Fig. 28, he features a rare SARBG-SEP marking, which should be grouped with his Fig. 19 reading KbzbL-TbBA. He also notes the Palgazan and Sagaan ARBG cancels, which are found in violet as c.t.o.'s on the 1936 Jubilees. However, the present writer has the last named in black as a postally applied marking with illegible date on the 10 kop. pictorial of 1927 (Scott No. 21.)

He then concludes this section with a survey of the post-incorporation cancels (Soviet types) used in Tuva.

The registration markings have been ignored in the Handbook, which is a great pity, as they are very interesting. Those known to the present writer are set out hereunder for the record. They have so far been seen only for Kyzyl and Turan, as follows:

1. **KYZYL**

   a. During the period of the Krasnyi Yenis, cancel, Comrade Blekhman has a cover dated 20.12.26 and MSS endorsement in ink at the bottom reading in three lines: "N 425 / Kyzyl - Khoda / Tannu-Tuva" (see fig. 8.)

   b. Covers with the first issue of Tannu-Tuva, mailed on 8.2.27 have the registration number normally written indelible pencil beside the confirmatory "Kizil * Touwa" marking. The present writer has seen covers with the numbering running from 218/22 to 218/167.

   c. By April 5, 1927, covers with Soviet postage had a 2 line hand written endorsement with the registration number and the phrase "Kyzyl Tuv. Rep." See his Figs. 12 and 13 for #206 and 463.

   d. By August of that year a framed rubber stamp was in use in violet entirely in Latin characters and reading "No/Kizil Tuva" See Comrade Blekhman's Fig. 15 for a cover with this marking with No. 384. The present writer has another such cover with Soviet Postage, cancelled 9.1.28 and #39.

   e. It occurs in black in a worn state on two covers dated 17.5.28 and must have expired soon after, as we go back to a violet MSS endorsement "R N 707 / Kyzyl t.r." on 26.7.28. The writer also has two covers sent on 27.4.29 with written endorsements in Latin script: "N52 and 55 Kizil-Touva" A further endorsement in indelible pencil just says "N 476" on the cover with mixed franking sent on 30.5.31 to Harbin.

   f. By 8.10.32, due to the Latinisation of the alphabet, a new handstamp came into use reading "R No.../KbzL TbBA" (see fig. 3 showing the "KOHTROL" cover) and it was in use at least until 5.12.32.

   g. By 16.2.33 we get a hand written Latinised drawing on the covers as shown in Fig. 7 and this was still being done one month later.
Tit.Grüne Sammlerwelt
Niebüll /Schleswig/
On 10.6.33 we are back to a framed written endorsement in Russian, reading " N 22 / Kyzyi Tuva ".

h. On 12.9.34 a batch of registered covers with the new registration set was mailed abroad, with numbers written in violet and a circular " R " marking 32mm. in diameter added in blue (see Fig. 8.)

The writer has seen numbers 562, 634, 636 and 678 in this series.

i. A series of registered covers mailed from Kyzyi on 24.10.35 has a new framed marking as shown in Fig. 9 and it remained in use there at least until 9.1.37.

What happened thereafter is puzzling. Either it was sent by the end of January 1937 to Moscow for application by the Soviet Philatelic Association, or a duplicate made from the same mould was applied in Moscow. Whatever the case, it was still being applied genuinely in Kyzyi in a warm and buckled state on 3.8.37 and 22.9.37 in black, together with the KbZbL " b " postmark, so it appears that the " R " marking was sent back by Moscow around July 1937 to Kyzyi.

j. Soon thereafter and certainly by 21.1.38 a new metal and unframed type made its appearance, reading " R No.... / Kizil Touva " (please see Fig. 14)

Corresponding in colour to the postmark applied, this sturdy marking seems to have lasted until the end of the People's Republic era on October 13, 1944.

II Turan

a. By a strange coincidence, the first type seen for this town (refer to Fig. 5) is the same unframed kind of steel marking finally applied by Kyzyi, but preceding it by about four years and reading " R. N.... / Touran Touva " It can be noted as struck on the registered express return receipt letter sent on 3.2.34 to Harbin, Manchuria.
b. A new rubber framed type, similar to that for Kyzyl (Fig. 9) and described under (i) above has only appeared on covers prepared by the Soviet Philatelic Association in Moscow for the Landscape and Zoological Sets on 25.3.35 and 26.3.35. It would be interesting to know if it were ever subsequently forwarded to Turan for genuine application there.

In his third chapter Comrade Blekhman turns to a study of the postage stamps. The values were originally given in монгун or копеек (literally meaning "silver") of which there were 100 to a "тогерик" or рубль (literally something "round"). Covering the first stamps he lists the known colour proofs and follows with the "Specimen" perforations now held in the Goznak Museum in Moscow, as well as illustrating two parcel cards franked with examples of the first issue.

Practically all the stamps on cover originate with the well known registered batch sent from Kyzyl on 8.2.27 to Moscow. He states these are always franked with the correct rate of 28 коп, but this is not true. The present writer has a registered cover No. 218/59 from this lot franked with 1 + 30 коп., and another with No. 218/96 franked with 1 + 50 коп. The only cover so far known from this period addressed elsewhere has a total of 20 коп. postage; it left Kyzyl on 5.4.27 and went by way of Minusinsk 16.4.27 to Harbin 2.5.27 (now in the present writer's collection). The latest usage seen is of the 5 т. value on 25.3.41 from Kyzyl on a registered cover to the United States.

Missing perforations are noted, as well as varieties on the next (surcharged) issue. Data is then given on the 1927 Ethnographic pictorials including essays, the Образец (Specimen) punches, perforation varieties and fantail margins. See Fig. 10 below for an unlisted fantail on the 1 р. value.
The Latin alphabet surcharges then follow and these also exist in the Goznak Museum with the "Specimen" punch. The present writer can antedate the earliest known usage to 7.10.32 on a cover from A. I. Yashin in Kyzyl to M. F. Shuliack in Harbin. By the way, the 10 kop. exists with surcharge distinctly doubled (rare).

Next we have the rare "10" on 8 kop and "15" on 14 Kop. surcharges on the Ethnographic pictorials and these are followed by the familiar "35" surcharges on the triangles (Scott Nos. 35 - 36). The same basic stamps also exist as handwritten surcharges in indelible pencil, which Comrade Blekhman says should only be collected on cover.

The earliest usage seen by this present writer for these handstamped surcharges is on a registered bank cover with "35" on 28 kop. from Kyzyl 27.9.32 to Moscow 11.10.32.

Around the same period, there were 4 "OKTE" surcharges on fiscal stamps which have appeared on mail, but served no postal purpose.

The familiar "Poșta" surcharges and their varieties are then covered, including the large figures "15" plus "Poșta" surcharge on a 1 R. red-lilac fiscal, known mint in two copies and probably an essay. It should be pointed out here that the original fiscals (10 Values) are themselves very rare, so that the possibility of forged or bogus "Poșta" surcharges applied on them is remote.

We now come to the controversial pictorials, which have clouded the philatelic reputation of Tuva. They were circulated in the republic, but the surviving genuine postal usages are rare and, to judge from the transit times noted, many of the philatelic covers appear to have been cancelled and deposited in the mails at Moscow by the Soviet Philatelic Association. Comrade Blekhman does not examine this controversial aspect of Tuvan postal history. The wholesaler for these issues in the West was the late, but certainly not lamented Bela Sekula, who started dealing in Hungary then in Switzerland and the United States. About the kindest thing that can be said about this character is that he was motivated by unenlightened self-interest and his ideas on ethics were elastic to say the least.

The first of the controversial pictorials was the set of 8 "Registered" stamps, imperforated and normally line perforated 12 1/2. A mysterious perforation 11 is also found on the 2 kop., 4 kop. and 10 kop. values. There was a known Soviet perforated 11 machine during this period, applied on the Tol'stoi and Dobrolyubov stamps, but comparison shows that the gauge is not the same, since that on the Tuvan stamps is closer to 11 1/4. Comrade Blekhman says that this perforation is unknown used, but that is not true since several covers are known where these stamps were affixed by foreign philatelists and then sent to Kyzyl to be returned as registered covers, often bearing the last genuinely applied and unframed registration cachet (j). The first postal usage for the perforated set was on a series of covers sent on 2.4.34 from Turan to various dealers in the West and passing thru Moscow 18 days later (see Fig. 11).
Bela Sekula
Sonnenhof
Luzern-Schweiz
The imperforated set shows up on a series of registered covers from Kyzyk, sent to foreign dealers on 12.9.34 (see Fig. 8).

Next we have the first set of nine airmails which first appear on covers with the Kyzyk bilingual postmark, sent to foreign dealers on 4.1IV.34 and passing through Moscow on 20.4.34. Comrade Blekhman does not list the ltug value in the scarce perforation in used condition, but here again a U.S. collector, Aaron Binder, made up a cover with this variety and the rest of the set, sent it to Kyzyk for servicing and it was returned to him under registration No. 264 on 20.5.40. Were it not for the traditional American respect for covers from remote countries, we would not have today quite a few of the Tuvian gems that have survived.

The rare provisional "20" surcharge of 1935 on the 15 kop. perforated registration stamp is then listed and this is a variety well worth looking for. This is followed by the 7 Landscape stamps 1k to 50 kop. and Comrade Blekhman questions the existence of the 10 kop. value imperforate mint and used. The present writer has seen copies of both and a used example with a genuinely applied KbZbL cancel (Blekhman's illustration 19) is shown herewith. (See Fig. 12)

Fig 12

The same value exists with distinct double perforation along the left side, actually sent by registered mail from Kyzyk on 24.10.35, 29.10.35, 1.11.35 and 5.11.35. Comrade Blekhman attributes to the late W. S. E. Stephen and the present writer the existence of the 50 kop. value imperforate, but we have not seen this variety.

It was with this set that the first of the "Moscow mailings" was conducted by the Soviet Philatelic Association with the "Turan" postmark and "Turan" framed registration cachet. A tabulation of the covers seen by the present writer is now given:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Despatch Date</th>
<th>Registration Nos.</th>
<th>Foreign Address</th>
<th>Arrival Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25.111.35</td>
<td>11 - 29</td>
<td>Maria Stutzer Luzern Pilatus Str. 23 Switzerland</td>
<td>11.4.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25.111.35</td>
<td>210-252</td>
<td>Monsieur L. Hermouet 47 Rue D'Orsel Paris, France</td>
<td>11.4.35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The location and classification of the missing numbers and addresses is left as an exercise for the reader.
We now come to the 10 stamps of the Zoological set, in which several misperforations exist. Here again we have Moscow mailings, but divided into two portions, as follows:

a. Registered covers with the "Turan" postmark and franked with the 50 kop. value:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Despatch Date</th>
<th>Registration No.</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Arrival Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>26.111.35</td>
<td>B 42</td>
<td>Grüne Sammlerwelt Niebull Gather Land Str. Scheleswig Germany</td>
<td>11.4.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26.111.35</td>
<td>B 186</td>
<td>Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News P. O. Box 1660 Portland, U.S.A.</td>
<td>19.4.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26.111.35</td>
<td>B 424</td>
<td>Herrn Rudolf Friedl Wien-1 Wollzeile 8 Austria</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other examples doubtless exist,

b. Registered covers with the "Turan" postmark and complete sets of these stamps:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Despatch Date</th>
<th></th>
<th>Address</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>26.111.35</td>
<td>9a</td>
<td>Franz Bonkar(?) Real Tanoda Utca 9 Budapest, Hungary</td>
<td>12.4.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26.111.35</td>
<td>78a</td>
<td>Herrn Victor Kneitschel Prag, Strasnic A 276 Czechoslovakia</td>
<td>11.4.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26.111.35</td>
<td>165a-177a</td>
<td>Monsieur F Del Tarre Claris 12, Barcelone Spain</td>
<td>15.4.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26.111.35</td>
<td>306a-308a 377a-397a</td>
<td>Maria Stutzer Luzern, Pilatus Str. 23 Switzerland</td>
<td>12.4.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26.111.35</td>
<td>324a</td>
<td>Stamps Import &amp; Export Limited Sonnenhof, Luzern Switzerland</td>
<td>12.4.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26.111.35</td>
<td>519a-532a</td>
<td>Herrn Paul Guttman Hamburg, Nenerwall,67 Germany</td>
<td>11.4.35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The reader is left the task of finding and classifying the missing numbers and addresses.

Various values of the Landscape and Zoological issues may be found genuinely used on registered letters from Kyzyl on 24.10.35, 29.10.35 1.11.35 and 5.11.35, with the appropriate OUSINSKOIE bilingual transit backstamp and addressed to Ernest or Thomas Cliffe, Colwyn Bay, England. Two of these were sent to Comrade Blekhman by the present writer and are illustrated in his Figs. 68 and 69.

The final set of controversial pictorials is the 1936 Jubilees, which were issued in a new currency, namely 100 Kopeks= 1 aksha ( this last word originally meant " money " in Tuvian ) There has been some confusion in the past as to the value of the " aksha ", but in its English language circular # 17 of December 1936 to dealers abroad, the Soviet Philatelic Association gave the following equivalents:-

1 Aksha = Rouble 0,30 = 6 U.S.A cents

From its English language circular # 2 of the same month we also see that Comrade Blekhman's description of the designs is not accurate and the corrections are as follows:

25 and 35 kop: Herd of cows
40 and 50 kop: Competitive racing games at the National Festival
70 kop: Competitive games at the National Festival
80 kop: Partisan detachment in 1921
3 a: Confiscation of cattle from the enemies of the people.
50 kop. airmail: The feast of the Women
3a airmail: Allegory ( the wivern thrown down and an aeroplane )
The earliest genuine usage of these stamps seen by the present writer has been on a cover with the KbzbL "C" postmark in violet, dated 2.7.36 on a pair of the 20 kop. value and examples are rare, as this issue had extensive mailing from Moscow in 1937 with the KbzbL-C cancel, as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Despatch Date</th>
<th>Registration Nos.</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Arrival Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10.2.37</td>
<td>228-233</td>
<td>Stamp Import &amp; Export Corporation</td>
<td>5.3.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Hotel White</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Lexington Ave., at 37th St.,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>New York City, USA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.2.37</td>
<td>242</td>
<td>Herrn Paul Vogelsanger</td>
<td>25.2.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bluhmatt Strasse Nr.44</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Luzern, Switzerland</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.2.37</td>
<td>275</td>
<td>Thomas Cliffe</td>
<td>25.2.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Colwyn Bay, England</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.2.37</td>
<td>305</td>
<td>Stamp Import &amp; Export</td>
<td>5.3.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>N. Y. C., U.S.A.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.2.37</td>
<td>368</td>
<td>Grossman Stamp Col., 102 W. 42nd. Street</td>
<td>5.3.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>N. Y. C., USA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.2.37</td>
<td>399</td>
<td>Paul Vogelsanger</td>
<td>5.3.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.2.37</td>
<td>427-432</td>
<td>Stamp Import &amp; Export</td>
<td>14.3.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>N. Y. C. USA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.2.37</td>
<td>506</td>
<td>Stamp Import &amp; Export</td>
<td>14.3.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>N. Y. C. USA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.2.37</td>
<td>566-585</td>
<td>Stamp Import &amp; Export</td>
<td>14.3.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>N.Y.C. USA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.2.37</td>
<td>603-617</td>
<td>Paul Vogelsanger</td>
<td>5.3.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.2.37</td>
<td>653</td>
<td>Stamp Import &amp; Export</td>
<td>14.3.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>N.Y.C. USA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17.2.37</td>
<td>706-710</td>
<td>Stamp Import &amp; Export</td>
<td>14.3.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>N. Y. C. USA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27.2.37</td>
<td>776-780</td>
<td>Stamp Import &amp; Export</td>
<td>31.3.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>N. Y. C USA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>