

Bulletin
of the Rossica Society
of Russian Philately



No. 7 November 1987

Nominations of Officers

Although it may appear that Rossica Society is operated in a low key casual manner, there are officers elected by the membership to carry out the Society's functions. Every member is eligible and encouraged to nominate members of their choosing to run for the various offices. It is that time again and the Society asks you to perform this duty of nomination.

Please use the enclosed form to nominate members for office. Yes, you can even nominate yourself, if you like. Send your nominations to the Secretary, as indicated on the form. Upon receipt of nomination forms, the Secretary will verify those willing to run and will enter their names on a ballot to be sent later to the membership for voting.

Don't just limit your participation in the Society with its journal. The opportunity to take an active role in its operations is available to all members. Help shape the direction you feel the Society should take in the coming years. Please mail your nominations to the Secretary by November 30, 1987.

Midwest Rossica Chapter

The up and running Midwest Rossica Chapter has signed up 16 members and is featuring exciting presentations by its members. At INDYPEX (Indianapolis, Indiana) Peter Michalove talked about his research on "WW II Soviet Field Post" and at CHICAGOPEX (Chicago, Illinois) Tom Chastang spoke on the "Workers Issue" of Soviet Russia. Although attendance at MILCOPEX (Milwaukee, Wisconsin) was disappointing, there is bound to be ups and downs. Dr. Jim Mazepa (P.O. Box 1217, Oak Park, Illinois 60304) is the coordinator and members in the area should contact him for information and to get on the announcement list or "Imperial Decree" as Jim calls it. Participate! Here's another reason to visit large exhibitions in your area. There are exhibits, bourses and a Rossica group, too.

Antarctic Drama Overprint Variety

In 1985 the Soviet research ship Mikhail Somov became trapped in the ice in Antarctica. The ship with its crew drifted over 4 months in the ice pack and was ultimately disengaged by the icebreaker Vladivostok.

Recently the 1980 commemorative stamp depicting the research ship Mikhail Somov was overprinted to commemorate this event. The overprint is in two lines and reads "15 III - 26 VII 1985" on the first line and "Adrift in the Antarctic Ice" in the second line.

Soviet collectors have reported and confirmed an overprint variety. It consists of a round dot atop the numeral "5" in the first line of the overprint. The dot is directly in line with the vertical portion of the numeral. It occurs at position 4 of the stamp sheet (Filateliya SSSR Nos. 1 and 5, 1987).

1987 Award Winners

Once again we list the Rossica members who were successful in philatelic exhibitions as indicated in the press. Apologies to those we missed, especially foreign members who exhibit in the USA or at international shows. They, unfortunately, are not usually mentioned in American philatelic press. We start off with two exhibitors we failed to mention on the last issue of the Bulletin.

- Jozef Kuderewicz "Disinfected Austro-Hungarian Mail"
Vermeil CAPEX '87, Toronto, Canada
- G. Adolph Ackerman "Soviet Airmail - The Early Years"
~~Large Silver~~ with Felicitations CAPEX '87, Toronto, Canada
Vermeil
- John M. Hotchner "Stamp Separation: From 1840 to Modern Times"
Gold STAMPSHOW '87, Boston, Massachusetts
Gold & American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors 3rd Award
INDYPEX '87, Indianapolis, Indiana
- Joseph Taylor "Allied Intervention In Russia 1918-1920"
Vermeil BALPEX '87, Hunt Valley, Maryland
- David Skipton "Imperial Russian Postal Development from 1870's to 1917"
Gold & Baltimore Philatelic Society Postal History Award
BALPEX '87, Hunt Valley, Maryland
- Thomas Chastang "Lenin and the People; The Third Standard Issue of the USSR"
Silver plus Kurner Adult Award
INDYPEX '87, Indianapolis, Indiana
- Dr. James Mazepa "Kingdom of Poland"
Grand Award and Gold ESCAL '87, Los Angeles, California

Any Spare Journals?

The Friends of the Western Philatelic Library are looking for odd copies of "Filateliya SSSR" (Philately of the USSR) to complete their collection for binding. They need the following issues: 1968 No. 10; 1971 Nos. 7 and 8; 1974 No. 1; 1980 No. 7; 1981 Nos. 1 and 2; 1985 Nos. 7, 9, and 10. If you can donate extra copies of these odd numbers, please send them to this Bulletin's editor or directly to the Friends of the Western Philatelic Library, c/o R. D. Skinner, P.O. Box 2219, Sunnyvale, CA 94087.

Indicia Used As Pasted-On Stamps

Cut squares or cut-outs of the printed stamps of postal stationery are oftentimes mislabeled as imperforate stamps. Yet, they may indeed function as imperf stamps under certain circumstances.

Current Soviet postal regulations allow the use of cut-outs of clean unused printed indicia for postage if they are pasted onto other envelopes. The cut-outs can be from any postal stationery items as long as they are cut neatly, clearly showing the printed stamp, be they standard issues or special issues. Thus someone who inadvertently spoils the address of a stamped envelope or postal card can save the printed indicium for use on another piece of mail. Such cut-outs are allowed only on domestic mail. Use on foreign mail is prohibited (Filateliya SSSR No. 3, 1987).

It should be pointed out that it is preferable to collect postal stationery intact nowadays, rather than cut-outs of the indicia. But a cover with a pasted-on cut square legitimately used as postage would be an interesting item.

Rossica Gold Nuggets

M. Lamereaux and J. Freese responded to the request in the last issue of the Bulletin for postal history items of gold mining activities in Russia. Both sent interesting photocopies of postal cards used in Karkarali and Zarinzynsk Metallograf. Zavod, one with an interesting message about visits to various mines and the hardships of travel. Both were forwarded to Mr. Ken Kutz of Connecticut, a Gold medal winner at CAPEX '87 for his topical postal history exhibit titled "Gold Fever." Once again Rossica members storehouse of information answered the call.

New Books

Rossica Society proudly offers David Skipton's translation of the "Russian Posts in the XIXth Century" by historian K. V. Bazilevitch. Hardbound, 8 1/2 x 11, around 175 pages with numerous illustrations, this historical account of the posts intended as a companion to the Prigara book which covered the postal emissions. Price postpaid to members is \$45, non-members - \$50. Orders may be sent to the Rossica president, treasurer or librarian.

In an independent venture David Skipton and Peter Michalove have authored a two volume hard cover set titled "Postal Censorship in Imperial Russia." Included are historical accounts of secret censorship, civil and military censorship and a catalog of over 1000 censormarks with dates and place of usage. Orders may be placed with the publisher only, J. H. Otten 1107 West University Avenue, Urbana, Illinois 61801-2499. Prices are as follows: surface mail in the USA is \$84.49, all other countries - \$94.49; airmail in the USA is \$102.61, all other countries - \$112.61. Orders postmarked no later than December 31, 1987 can deduct \$11.00. Publication is expected in the spring of 1988.

A four volume effort titled "The Zemstvo Postage Stamps of Imperial Russia" by Alex Artuchov has been announced with Volume I currently available at \$20 US postpaid. The author has serialized his study of these issues in "The Post Rider" for several years. Information or orders from the author at P.O. Box 5722, Station A, Toronto, Canada M5W 1P2.

Dr. R. J. Ceresa's latest publication Parts 14/19 of "The Postage Stamps of Russia, 1917-1923 Volume 2 Ukraine covers the trident issues of Podolia. There are 133 pages with 1533 illustrations. Surface mail price is \$37 postpaid. Details or orders from Dr. R. J. Ceresa, Pepys Cottage, 13 High Street, Cottenham, Cambridge CB4 4SA, England.

Dues Notice

Since no action has yet been taken on the dues motion published in the last Rossica Journal, the Society's dues remains \$20.00 per year, due January 1, 1988. For your convenience, use the coupon below for submitting dues to the treasurer.

Rossica Society Dues for 1988 \$20.00

Your Name: _____

Your Address: _____

City, State, Postal Code: _____

Send your remittance to the Rossica Society Treasurer:

Mr. Norman Epstein
33 Crooke Avenue
Brooklyn, New York 11226

Helping Hand Across The Sea

Dr. Raymond Casey of England has rejoined Rossica Society and is back in the thick of things doing research on an ambitious project, that of updating the classic Tchilinghirian and Stephen "Stamps of the Russian Empire Used Abroad." He is presently working on the history of the Russian post in Persia, the Khanates of Bukhara and Khiva, Mongolia, Sinkiang, Manchuria and China Proper as well as Russian Ship Mail in the Caspian Sea and the Far East. This effort is under the sponsorship of the British Society of Russian Philately. If you have any information to share, contact Dr. Casey at 38 Reed Avenue, Orpington, Kent BR6 9RX, England.

Varieties ala Lobachevskii

The Lobachevskii catalog of Imperial Russian stamps which was serialized in Rossica Journals #94-101 indicated many constant cliché varieties which sent many of us to search through our duplicates of Imperial issues. In correspondence shortly before his death, Lobachevskii indicated he had been receiving numerous reports from many collectors of additional cliché and printing varieties. He felt that to verify and tabulate all such varieties would have been an overwhelming task and had decided to only list cliché varieties that could be seen with the naked eye up to the 1889 issues and to eliminate some cliché varieties of later issues unless their positions on a full sheet were known. Lobachevskii planned an addenda to his catalog, but apparently this was not completed before his death.

Nevertheless, in notes to Filateliya SSSR (Philately of the USSR) numerous Soviet collectors from time to time report varieties in their collections not mentioned in the Lobachevskii catalog. A compilation of the more prominent ones along with those Lobachevskii had mentioned in his correspondence will be sent to Rossica Journal in time. In the meantime, here are a couple to look for among your duplicates.

On the 3 kop. value of the XIIIth issue (Scott No. 57) the cyrillic letter "P" in the word "KOP." is broken at the top such that the word appears to be "KOII." I cannot verify this variety on this issue, but it has been found on the 3 kop. of the XIIth issue (Scott No. 48) and traces of the beginning of the break were found on the 3 kop. of the IXth issue (Scott No. 33). It is readily seen with a magnifier.

A less obvious variety is of the fly-speck type, somewhat more difficult to see, on the 4 kop. values of the XIth issue (Scott No. 41). The horizontal cross piece of the numeral 4 in the center usually ends with serifs at the right, giving the appearance of a "swallow's tail." The variety lacks the serifs such that the ends of the horizontal cross piece appear squared off. Admittedly this is a small effect and I am not sure Lobachevskii would have considered it significant. But it is included here because it appears to be rather frequent and easy to find among an assortment of this issue with a magnifier.

* SEASON'S GREETINGS AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS *

* MERRY CHRISTMAS *

* HAPPY NEW YEAR *

TO ALL OF YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES

FROM THE ROSSICA SOCIETY

Address any comments or notes for this Bulletin to George V. Shalimoff, 20 Westgate Drive
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