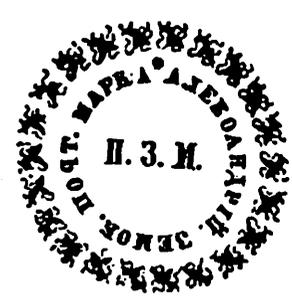


Bulletin
of the Rossica Society
of Russian Philately



No. 10 Paul B. Spiwak, editor November, 1989

New Bulletin Editor

I'd like to introduce myself to the Rossica membership as the new editor of the Bulletin. My name is Paul Spiwak, and I reside in Central New York with my wife and two children. I'm a teacher and musician, and have been seriously collecting stamps of the Russian States for 13 years. Besides Rossica, I'm also a member of the Ukrainian Philatelic and Numismatic Society, and the Canadian Society of Russian Philately. I'm looking forward to serving as the editor of the Bulletin and hearing from many of you in the future. I'd like to personally thank George Shalimoff for his outstanding work as previous editor, and his assistance in helping me get started as the new editor. Any future comments and contributions to the Rossica Bulletin should be sent to Paul B. Spiwak, 42 Irving Road, New Hartford, New York 13413.

Table of Contents

Want to fill in your back issues of the Rossica Journal? Don't know what articles are in which issue? Our member George Shaw has put together a set of the table of contents for the issues that the society has available for sales (#44 to #111). If interested, please remit \$5.00 to: Mr. George Shaw, 7596-J Lakeside Village Drive, Falls Church, Virginia 22042.

Stamp World London 1990

The British Society of Russian Philately is planning an event to take place during the course of the International Stamp Exhibition at Alexandra Palace, London, May 3-13, 1990. It would greatly assist the Organizing Committee if "Rossica" members proposing to attend the Exhibition inform the British Society. Please write to Dr. R. Casey, 38 Reed Avenue, Orpington, Kent BR6 9RX, Great Britain.

Golden Trident Award

The Ukrainian Philatelic and Numismatic Society announces the establishment of a new award which will become the highest distinction in Ukrainian collecting. The Golden Trident Achievement Award will be presented occasionally to individuals who have significantly enriched Ukrainian Philately or Numismatics. The award will recognize major contributions promoting Ukrainian Philately or Numismatics through publishing and exhibiting. The contribution must have had a significant, long-term impact on Ukrainian Philately or Numismatics. Anyone may nominate a candidate or candidates for this award. A decision regarding a winner will be made by the executive committee of the society. Nominations should be sent to: Golden Trident, P.O. Box 14163, Washington, DC 20044. The award will be presented at the annual Ukrainpex Convention.

Alexandria Locals

The top right side of page one shows local stamp issues of Alexandria, Virginia, and Alexandria, Ukraine. The 1846 circular, type-set design of the Alexandria, Virginia 5¢ Postmasters provisional issued by Daniel Bryan was subsequently copied by the Zemstvo (local) post of Alexandria (Kherson district), which issued a 10 kopek stamp in a strikingly similar design in 1870. It is interesting to note that the American stamp was not discovered by philatelists until 1872.

Literature

The following is a list of four volumes that are available to members.

1. The Trident Issues of Ukraine by C.W. Roberts and Dr. R. Seichter. Issued by the Ukrainian Philatelic and Numismatic Society, this 1989 reprint of a truly classic study of fascinating Ukrainian tridents comes in a single bound volume of more than 170 pages with a new introduction and a colorful UPNS souvenir sheet. The study was originally released in five books during the 1948-56 period. The reprint volume can be ordered for \$19.50 postpaid from: Mr. John Dytiuk, 51 Westwood Drive, Wethersfield, Ct 06109.
2. Postal Censorship In Imperial Russia by Peter Michalove and David Skipton. This is the first comprehensive study of this interesting topic and will serve as a valuable reference for your collection or postal history studies. It is a source-book of facts, dates, and personalities detailing government censorship operations. It tells the methods of circumventing the censors, the exposure of perulustration by the press and Duma, and much more. This work is the four-year effort of two noted specialists in Russian postal history, covering a period from Peter the Great to the October Revolution. This two-volume, hardcover edition is a reference source of information, much of which is unobtainable elsewhere. The work contains over 1100 illustrations, postmarks, and censor marks. Price is \$95.50 (U.S.A.), \$113 (Foreign) U.S. currency surface mail only. Order from: John Otten, Post Box 577, Urbana, IL 61801
3. The Russian Post in the Empire, Turkey, China, and in the Kingdom of Poland, by S.V. Prigara. This handbook has been the mainstay of imperial Russian philately since 1941, listing stamps, stationary, and cancellations. Some postal history is included covering such topics such as, railroads, steamships, city posts, field posts, offices abroad and in Poland, and of course the imperial postal system itself. 196 pages of text, tables, and illustration plates. Price for Rossica members is \$35, and non-members \$40. Order from David Skipton, 50D Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770.
4. The Russian Posts in the XIX Century by K.V. Bazilevich. The original work, published in 1927 in Moscow, is today almost impossible to find. It is one of the most detailed overviews of the imperial Russian postal system to be found under one

cover, and contains a wealth of information and illustrations, many of them not included in the original. 165 pages of text, photographs, and illustrations. Price for Rossica members is \$45, and non-members \$50. Order from David Skipton, 50D Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770.

Awards to Rossica Exhibitors

The following is the list of Rossica members who were active and successful in their philatelic exhibitions during the last several months. Congratulations to all for a fine job. I apologize for any award winners I might have overlooked, and will include them in the next bulletin if their name, show, and award is brought to my attention.

- G. Adolph Ackerman "Soviet Air Mail - The Early Years"
 Gold COLOPEX '89 Columbus, Ohio
 Columbus Philatelic Club Award for
 Research and Excellence.
 Gold Stampshow Anaheim, CA
 Gold Bulgaria '89 Sofia, Bulgaria.
 "Russian New Year"
 Silver Worthington Stamp Club
 "FDR"
 Silver-Bronze Worthington Stamp Club
- Peter Bylen "Phases of Ukrainian History"
 Vermeil Ukrainpex '89 Chicago, IL
 "The Belize Marine Life Definitives, 1948-89"
 Vermeil Ukrainpex '89 Chicago, IL
- Michael J. Carson "Hard Times in Russia - The Inflation Era,
 1914-1924"
 Gold Ukrainpex '89 Chicago, IL
 Special Rossica Award
- Thomas E. Chastang "Third Standard Postage Issue of the USSR"
 Vermeil The Plymouth Show Plymouth, Mich.
 Silver COLOPEX '89 Columbus, Ohio
- Daniel Hammell "The Soviet Union in Space"
 Silver Bronze Milcopex '89 Milwaukee,
 Wisconsin
 Best in Show Jamesville Stamp Club Show
- John Hotchner "Philatelic Exhibitor"
 Bronze IPHLA '89 Frankfurt, Germany
 "Stamp Separation from 1840 to Modern Times"
 Grand Award, Gold, APS, EFO Westpex '89
 San Francisco, CA
 Grand Award, Gold, APS Nashpex
 Nashville, Tennessee
 Gold Florex Orlando, Florida
 Champion of Champions Stampshow Anaheim,
 California
 "The Little Red, The 1934 US Christmas Seal"
 Gold Springpex '89 Springfield, VA

John Hotchner "Modern American Perforations"
Vermeil Springpex '89 Springfield, VA

Melvin Kessler "Indochina Postal History - 1866 to the Demise
of Indochina"
Silver Milcopex '89 Milwaukee, WI

Josef Kuderevicz "Disinfected Mail, Austro-Hungarian Empire"
Large Vermeil Bulgaria '89 Sofia, Bulgaria
"Postal History of Poland, Prestamp Period"
Large Vermeil Philex France '89 Paris,
France

James Mazepa "Kingdom of Poland 1858-1875"
Gold, APS pre 1900 Medal Colopex '89
Columbus, Ohio
Gold Bulgaria '89 Sofia, Bulgaria

Russell Ott "Ice Cap News"
Silver Bronze Bulgaria '89 Sofia, Bulgaria

Bohdan Pauk "Polish Occupation of Ukraine"
Silver Ukrainpex '88 Toronto, Canada
"Bielarus 1915-1923, An Outline of Postal Entities"
Grand Award Ukrainpex '89 Chicago, IL
"Postage Stamps of Carpatho-Ukraine 1928-45"
Bronze Ukrainpex '89 Chicago, IL
"The Luboml 1918 Local Issues"
Second Place Ukrainpex '89 Chicago, IL
Julian Maksymchuk Award (Service to Society) -
Ukrainpex '89 Chicago, IL

M.R. Renfro "Imperial Russia Used Abroad"
Vermeil Westpex '89 San Francisco, CA
"Estonia: The Imperial Russia Period"
Silver Sunpex '88 Sunnyvale, CA

George Shaw "Soviet Postal Rates 1917-1923"
Vermeil Bulgaria '89 Sofia, Bulgaria

David Skipton "Postal Censorship in Imperial Russia"
Vermeil Springpex '89 Springfield, VA

Paul Spiwak "Ukrainian Zemstvo Stamps"
Gold Ukrainpex '88 Toronto, Canada
"Steamship Co. Stamps of the Ukraine"
Vermeil Ukrainpex '88 Toronto, Canada
"Ukraine Topicals on Stamps of USSR"
Silver Ukrainpex '88 Toronto, Canada
"Ukrainian and Russian Currency Stamps"
Silver Ukrainpex '88 Toronto, Canada
"Exhibition Stamps from Ukraine"
Bronze Ukrainpex '88 Toronto, Canada
"Philatelic Survey of the Ukrainian Republic"
Bronze Ukrainpex '89 Chicago, IL

Joe Taylor "Allied Intervention in Russia 1918-1920"
Gold Sonex '89 Cheshire, Conn.
Vermeil & War Cover Club Award Westpex '89
San Francisco, CA
Vermeil Interpex '89 New York, N.Y.
Silver Bulgaria '89 Sofia, Bulgaria

Zemstvo Posts

The first Zemstvo posts appeared in 1865. The Zemstvos were elected district councils which were set up as part of a general reform. Posts operated by these councils operated outside the state postal service. They had their own regulations and postage rates and each area had its own stamps. The carriers appointed by the district would take the mail from the district town to other local villages, or to the nearest state post office.

These district services were locally approved in 1865, but official authorization was not received until September 3, 1870. Official authorization came in the form of an edict sent to all the provincial assemblies and signed by the Governor of Ministry of the Interior, Prince Lobanoff Rostovsky. However, the demand for these local posts was sufficient to lead 30 districts to issue stamps for the first few years. Ultimately, 345 areas had their own posts in the Russian Empire, of which 162 used their own locally-produced stamps. The Zemstvo stamps were only valid within their own districts, and once a letter entered the state service the official Russian stamps had to be used in addition.

The need for the Zemstvos declined as the state service began to penetrate the rural areas with greater regularity. By the time of the Bolshevik uprising in October, 1917, there were only 40 services left, and these were then quickly closed down by the Bolshevik authorities. This was the end of the local Zemstvo Posts.

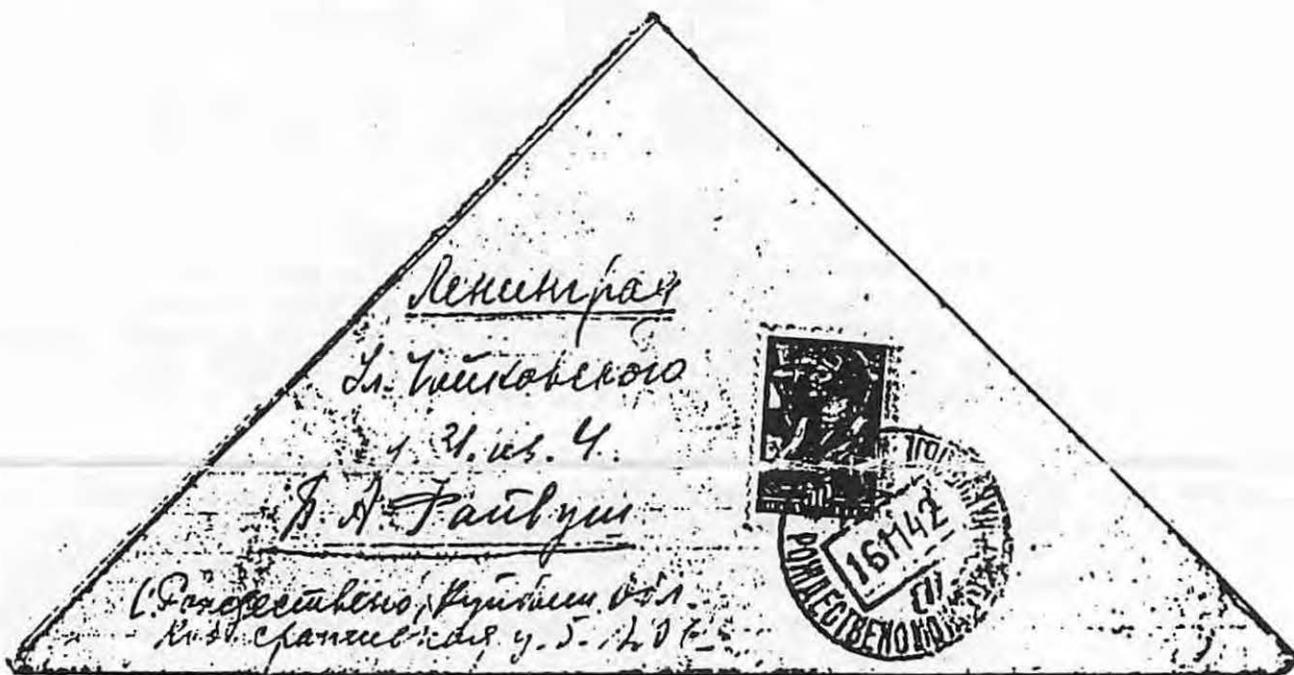
Russian Duck Stamps?

Collectors beware. What appears to be government issued revenue stamps are actually only labels comparable to American charity labels, like Christmas seals. Norma Opgrand, coordinator of the U.S. Federal Duck Stamp Program explained that the Soviet labels are "not valid stamps.....They don't have a governmental function."

The funds generated from the sale of the duck stamp labels for the most part are intended to go to conservation in the Soviet Union. The sponsor for the program is the All Russian Society for the Conservation of Nature. The price for this 3 ruble beauty.....\$10 plus \$1.50 shipping and handling.

Literature Sought

Wanted: Post Rider, nos. 1-6, Tann's Arms Issues 1902-1920. Please write first. Peter Bylen, P.O. Box 411238, Chicago, IL 61641-1238.

Outstanding Cover

The cover and following article was submitted by Peter Michalove of Champaign, IL.

This is a typical sample of Leningrad siege mail. It is made from a sheet of ruled paper, folded and tucked in to form a triangle.

After their attack on Leningrad in August 1941, The Germans blockaded the city in September, cutting it off from provisions and contact with the outside world. In November and December, a road was built across the ice of the frozen Lake Ladoga, allowing transport of food and supplies into the city. For all that these provisions were needed, the mail was also considered important enough to include in the limited amount that could be carried on this road.

In January 1943, a small strip of land was recaptured from the Germans, allowing a connection to Schlisselburg. Over this area, the famous "road of death" was built under constant German fire, and in this period Leningrad siege covers become a little more common, if we can call any of this mail "common." Only in January 1944 was the siege completely lifted.

Shown here is a cover mailed to Leningrad from Rozhdestvo, in the Kuibishev Oblast on November 16, 1942. It was carried on the road over Lake Ladoga, and is backstamped at Leningrad on December 1, for a transit time of two weeks.

Over 800,000 Russians died in the siege of Leningrad, many more from starvation and disease than from German bombings. This particular story, though, has a happy ending. I have another cover in the same correspondence from April 1945, indicating that the addressee survived the siege.