



Bulletin
of the Rossica Society
of Russian Philately

No. 11 Paul B. Spiwak, editor June, 1990

Editorial

I'd like to thank all the members from around the world who have written to me with many positive comments and encouragement after my first issue of the newsletter. We'll try to keep up with the same newsy and informative format. Please feel free to send me any comments, contributions, or information that you would like to be included in the next issue of the newsletter.

New Stamp Discovery?

Has anyone seen the stamp designs illustrated at the top of the newsletter? I discovered them recently in a book on the "Art of the October Revolution", compiled by Mikhail Guerman. They were early Soviet stamp designs that were submitted for consideration with the postal service in 1918. They are watercolor and india ink on paper, 20.5 x 19.4 cm. They are in a private collection today in Leningrad.

Fifty Years Ago

According to Linn's Stamp News, January 27, 1940, "New York stamps dealers are cutting down on their supplies of Russian Stamps. The popularity of this country has fallen greatly since the war with Finland, and Russian stamps are being boycotted."

Changes in Rossica Officers

I was just informed of the following changes in the Rossica officers. These members were appointed by the President until elections next year.

Dave Skipton - Rossica Journal Editor
George Shaw - Secretary
George Shaw - Vice President

Soviet Union Salutes Penny Black

The Soviet Union released a set of three stamps on Feb. 15th marking the 150th anniversary of the world's first postage stamp, the Penny Black. The 10 kopeck stamp shows the Penny Black and a sailing ship, the 20 kopeck stamp shows the Penny Black and the text "150th Anniversary of the first postage stamp", and the 35 kopeck stamp shows the Penny Black and the Stamp World London 90 emblem. Also issued was a 1 ruble souvenir sheet showing the world's first postage stamp. The stamps were designed by V. Koval.

U.S.-Soviet Joint Issue

The United States and the Soviet Union will be involved in a joint stamp issue later this year. The announcement was made by the U.S. Postal Service and the U.S.S.R. Ministry of Posts. The stamps will be released Oct. 3rd in Baltimore, Md., and Moscow, U.S.S.R. The stamp designs will feature creatures of the sea.

The designs will be se-tenant blocks of four stamps, showing a bottle-nosed dolphin, killer whale, a sea otter and a sea lion. Each of these animals is common to American and Soviet territorial waters. The denomination of the stamps will be 25c for the U.S. stamps, and 24 kopecks for the U.S.S.R. stamps. Two of the stamps were designed by Peter Cocci, of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, and two were designed by Vladimir Beilin of the Soviet Union.

Statistics

According to the latest figures in the Michel-Rundschau survey of worldwide new stamp issues of 1988, the Soviet Union comes in 6th place in the total number of stamp and souvenir sheet issues produced. Here are some of the statistics for you:

<u>year</u>	<u>stamps</u>	<u>souvenir sheets</u>	<u>total</u>
1988	126	8	134
1987	97	8	105
1986	105	4	109
1985	85	8	93
1984	116	9	125
1983	92	9	101
1982	99	7	106
1981	106	5	111
1980	108	6	114
1979	92	8	100
1978	127	9	136
1977	116	8	124
1976	121	10	131
1975	107	7	114
1974	109	8	117
1973	102	10	112
1972	102	9	111
1971	115	6	121
1970	117	7	124
1969	116	7	123
1968	133	4	137
1967	131	5	136
1966	138	3	141
1965	152	5	157
1964	177	5	182
1963	161	1	162
1962	149	2	151
1961	130	-	130
1960	115	1	116
1959	114	1	115
1958	137	-	137
1988	90	-	90 - U.S.A.
1988	8668	884	9512 - world

Total number of countries issuing stamps since 1840-700+
 Total number of countries issuing stamps in 1988 - 263
 Total face value of 1988 stamp issues - \$4446.81
 Total face value of 1988 Soviet Union issues - \$117.17
 Total number of Russian stamps issued since 1857 - 6000+
 Average number of Soviet stamps per year since 1975 - 100
 Russia joined the Universal Postal Union (which was founded in 1874) on July 1, 1875. It was one of the charter members along with 21 other countries.

Australian-Soviet Joint Issue Planned

Australia and the Soviet Union will release joint issue stamps June 13th highlighting scientific cooperation in Antarctica. This cooperative venture was announced at Australia's Parliament House in Canberra during the signing of a series of agreements between the Australian prime minister and the visiting Soviet prime minister, Nikolai Ryzhkov.

Australia will issue a 41c stamp which will feature glaciology, and a \$1.10 stamp featuring krill, the staple food of many Antarctic animals. A souvenir sheet will incorporate both stamps. The Soviet Union will issue 5 kopeck and 50 kopeck stamps of the same design.

Yuri Artsimerev of the Soviet Union designed the glaciology stamp, and Janet Boschen of Australia designed the krill stamp.

U.S. Advertisement on Soviet TV

The Unicover Corp. of Cheyenne, Wyoming recently advertised on Soviet television. The one-minute commercial publicized the Super-Powers Space Stamps Souvenir Pak. The commercial was scheduled for airing November 10-23 on '120 Minutes', a popular two-hour morning information show. The commercial also was to be shown during a national evening program on November 23.

Awards to Rossica Exhibitors

The following is the list of Rossica members who were active and successful in their philatelic exhibitions during the months since Newsletter #10. Congratulations go to all for a fine job. If I have overlooked any winners, please let me know and I will be sure to include them in the next bulletin.

James Mazepa	"Kingdom of Poland, 1858-75" Gold March Party Exhibit Goertz Best Foreign - "
Albert Curtis	"Joseph Stalin: From Peasant to World Leader" Silver Florex '89 AAPE Award " ATA Award "
Roger P. Quinby	"Russian Stamps and Postal Stationery Used in Finland" Gold Chicagopex '89 1st Cert.-Midwest Chapter Rossica "
Raymond Pietruszka	"Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic 1917-23" Vermeil Calcopex '89 Vermeil Houpex '89
John Hotchner	"United States Post 1900 Auxiliary Postal Markings" Vermeil Calcopex '89 "Post-1940 U.S. Auxiliary Markings" Presidents Award Princepex '89 Silver " "The Little Red-1934 U.S. Christmas Seal" Silver-Bronze Ropex '90 AAPE Award " "But It is in The Mail" Silver-Bronze Vapex '89
Adolph Ackerman	"Soviet Airmail - The Early Years" Gold London '90
Gordon Torrey	"Russia Imperial Offices Abroad" Large Vermeil London '90

UPNS Capar Award

The Ukrainian Philatelic and Numismatic Society presents the Wes Capar award annually to the best submitted exhibit of Ukraine or Ukraine-related themes and topics.

For consideration, a photo-copy of the exhibit should be sent to D.P. Belesky, Box 798, Beaver, V.Va. 25813.

The photocopy will become the property of the UPNS and will become part of the permanent archives documenting Ukrainian-related exhibits.

Membership in the UPNS is not a requirement. The exhibit must have received a medal at any local, regional, national or international show.

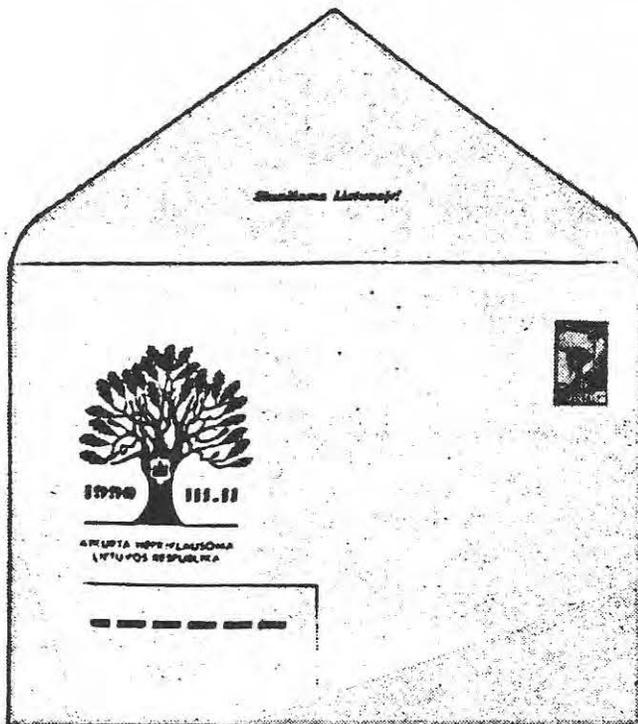
Lithuania Independence Envelope

Lithuania has issued a postal stationery envelope proclaiming its March 1st declaration of independence from the the Soviet Union. The envelope bears an imprinted 5-kopeck stamp, but sells for 7-kopecks. It is only good for domestic postage, not international mail.

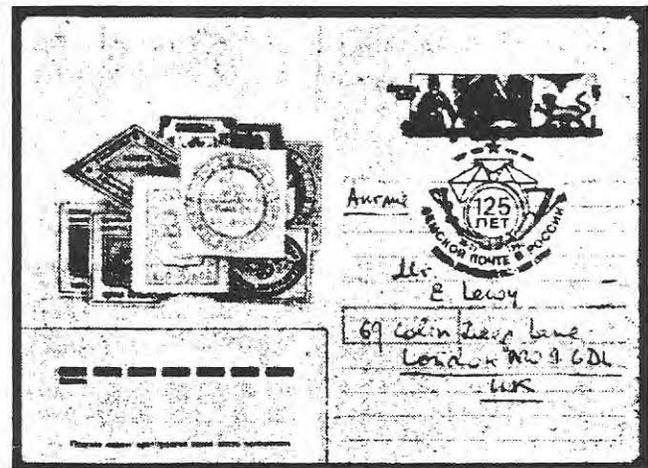
The stamp shows an angel bearing light and a Lithuanian cross in a folk motif. A map of Lithuania is depicted in the background. The stamp is inscribed "Lietuva," meaning Lithuania. The cachet on the envelope depicts a Lithuanian oak tree, considered the national tree of Lithuania. The traditional pillars of Gediminas, a medieval grand duke of Lithuania, also are pictured.

Below the oak tree are inscribed, "Atkurta Nepriklausoma Lietuvos Respublika" (Restoration of the Independent Republic of Lithuania.) To the sides of tree appears the date of its independence, "1990" on the left, and "111.11" (meaning March 11) on the right.

Lithuanian designer V. Skabeikiene designed the envelope. One million copies were issued.



Lithuanian Envelope



Zemstvo Envelope

125th Anniversary of Zemstvos

Russian rural or local stamps, known as zemstvos, will celebrate their 125th anniversary in 1990. The zemstvos paid for rural mail delivery or the transportation of local mail to the closest Imperial post office.

The Soviet Union recently released a 5-kopeck stamped envelope with an imprinted stamp showing the emblems of old Russia as used on the zemstvos. The stamp depicts armorial shields, heraldic beasts and a mail cart driver with his

whip. The cachet portion featured a selection of zemstvo issues.

Letter to the Editor

I recently received a letter from Gordey Denisenko that I'm sure will be of interest to our membership. He just returned from a five day business trip to Moscow, and writes:

"I was allocated in the Hotel Ukraina. To my great surprise in a hotel hall I found a stamp stand.

Stand had different Soviet and surprisingly, a token of Imperial stamps. What was on display, would not interest serious collectors, however I decided to start a dialog. After some conversation with Sasha (Alexander) who was manning this stand, I found that he was a veteran of the Afganistan war and a member of a veteran cooperative organized as a stamp dealership. "Perestroika" extends to philately... I also met with the president of the organization, also a veteran, whose name is Igor. I explained to Igor about Rossica and he expressed interest to correspond and supply whatever philatelic material our members may require in exchange for printed material, catalogs such as Scott or Yvert and Tellier and others, or in exchange for local U.S. stamps. During the conversation with Igor, he advised me that their cooperative has been officially sanctioned, meaning that they have a permit to deal in stamps. On my next trip to Moscow I would like to ascertain if this is all authentic. (Veterans receive a monthly pension of 26 rubles - officially \$43).

It is interesting to note that times have changed since my 1978-80 stay and a short visit in 1988, and some action unthinkable a year ago are happening today, and probably more surprises ahead...hopefully...

As an example Igor was wearing a large ring with the Imperial double eagle... The old Russian flag, white, blue and red can be seen everywhere. On one of the oldest streets in Moscow, called ARBAT, recently remodelled and barred to traffic, I did observe speakers who were expressing their political, religious and other opinions with a lot of listeners and no visible intervention by militia. Have also seen a portrait of the Tsar Alexander III for sale. Arbat is now a center for exposition or sale of paintings, products of small craftsmen such as lacquer boxes, matrioshka dolls, etc. Actually Arbat is returning to what it used to be centuries ago... However, prices in rubles are astronomical. (Local official exchange is 61-kopecs for a dollar). Little can be bought at this exchange rate. Example: a set of matrioshka dolls is priced from 300 to 1500 rubles. U.S. cigarettes however, are a good commodity... a carton could go for 150-200 rubles.

For now, our members may consider only the individual approach, hoping that in the future this relationship may evolve into a permanent exchange of information and material.

Quite obviously the big question is, under what type of currency exchange this may be accomplished? Also, what are the guarantees for quality and assurances that the stamps are not fakes? Assuming that this "technicality" will be favorable resolved, I am of the opinion that barring some unpredictable, this may become a source of supply worth researching and nurturing.

Walked into a store not far away from Ukraina hotel, but they did not have latest, or any other catalog, and were mainly selling current Soviet stamps. I did visit three or four "bukinists" where antique books or catalogs are on

sale, but none had any philatelic literature. I commented this to Igor, who confirmed the scarcity, or virtual impossibility to obtain philatelic information.

During our conversation, I asked Igor if their cooperative would like to become a member of Rossica? He responded by asking me what are the advantages of becoming a member? I briefly explained that Rossica is composed of members who are interested in Russian/Soviet philately, postal history, exchange of philatelic material and that Rossica issues periodically a journal which is highly regarded by philatelists all over the world. Also that Rossica has an extensive library, some of it in Russian, which is available to all members. Igor was receptive, but cooled off when he found that the Journal is issued in English... On my next visit I will pursue this issue further."

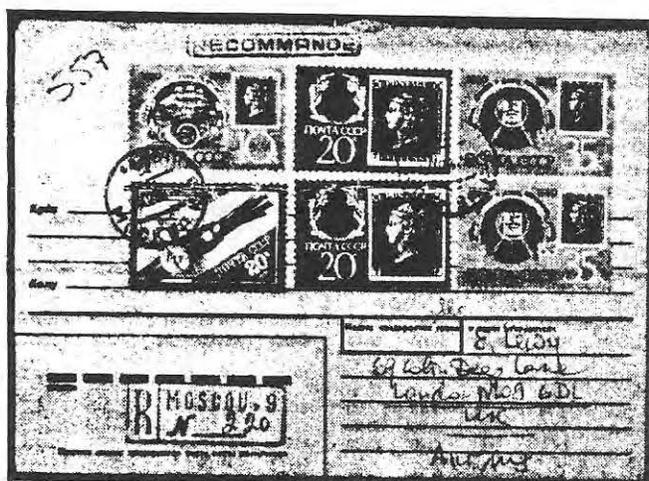
I would like to thank Gordey personally for his interesting letter. Anyone who would like to contact him can reach him at the following address:

G. Denisenko
c/o Bechtel International Co.
8618 Westwood Center Drive
Vienna, VA 22180

His fax number in Spain is (34) 52-86-22-26.

Introduction Cards

I received a letter from Robert Putnam who writes that members might be interested in having personal introduction cards, letterheads, and envelopes made for themselves. Robert had some made by Walter Drake and Sons, Drake Building, Colorado Springs, CO 80940-0002. They were quite inexpensive. 250 cards with raised ink were \$2.95 plus \$1.00 postage. Thanks for the information Robert. Below is a copy of Robert's card.



Soviets salute the Penny Black
(see page one)

ROSSICA Society of Russian Philately

ROBERT A. PUTNAM
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Introduction Card