



Bulletin
of the Rossica Society
of Russian Philately



No. 12 Paul B. Spiwak, editor December, 1990

Editorial

Well, here it is just about the holiday season and time for another issue of the Rossica Newsletter. Since the last newsletter we've seen another truly outstanding issue of the Rossica Journal (No. 115). Congradulations to Gary Combs, David Skipton, and the rest of the editorial board and contributors. I've also received lots of correspondence, Soviet philatelic news, and stampshow news. Keep sending in information for future newsletters. Best wishes for a happy holiday season to all Rossica members and families.

A New Postal Marking from Moscow

Dr. Dale Cruikshank from San Jose, Ca. writes, "I recently received an express mail envelope (32.5 by 23 cm in size) from Moscow that was sent by "EXPRESS mail service" to my home. The envelope bears no stamps, but shows the phrase, "Taxe perçue", for postage paid, in French. The envelope was mailed on 22 December 1989 and arrived at my door on 27 December 1989. The postal marking is a red circular date stamp as shown in figure. EMS means Express Mail Service. I don't know how long this class of service has existed between the US and the USSR, nor how much it costs. The envelope that I received, which is clearly designed and manufactured specifacally for this purpose in the international mail, was printed in 1987, according to the imprint on the reverse side."

EXPRESS mail service

"Taxe perçue"



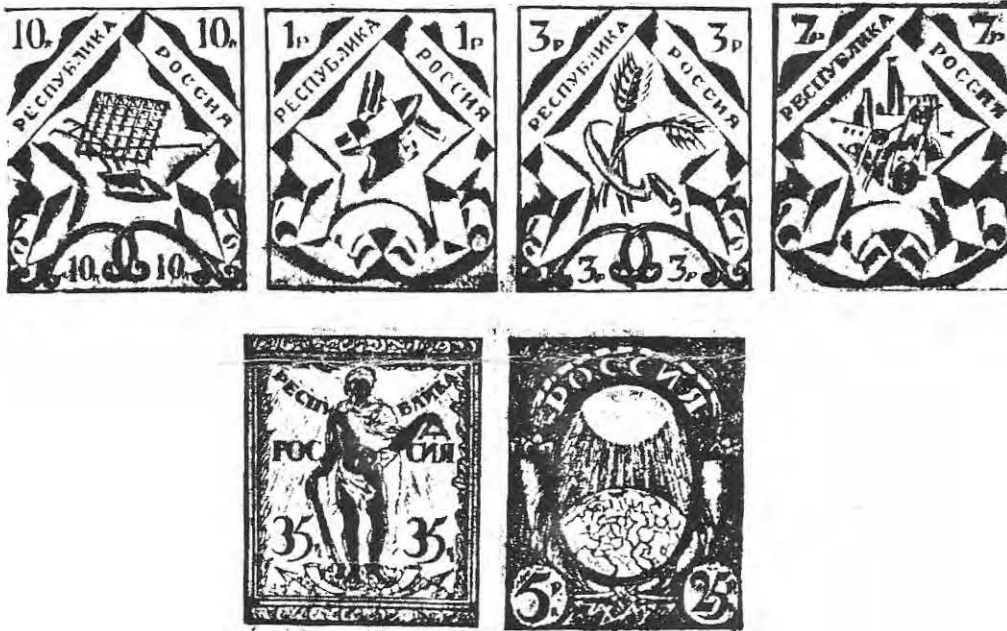
Thanks for the note and information Dale.

1918 Stamp Designs

In the June Newsletter (No. 11) I showed and mentioned two stamp designs that I found in the book "Art of the October Revolution" by Mikhail Guerman. Since then Jacques Lambert from Clair, France has written that there were actually 6 subjects that were submitted in 1918. Four were designed by N. Altman (10 k, 1 r, 3 r, and 7 r), and two by S.

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Tchekhonin (35 k, and 5 [25] k). This information and stamp designs come from the 1966 "Soviet Collector No. 4".



Addition information to Denisenko Letter

Jacques Lambert adds additional information to the letter that Gordey Denisenko wrote in the June Newsletter. He states "that Soviet philatelists may now exchange stamps with foreigners. Only about 40 stamps are not authorized to export. Issue No. 4 of Filateliya SSSR of 1990 published for the first time a price list of stamps sold at Moscow auctions (3 pages with 26 lots with selling price ranging from 8 to 3,500 roubles). Four stamp auctions were held in Moscow in 1988-89. If anyone is interested in photocopies of either the draft regulation on philatelic auctions, or the text of the new Charter of the Union of Stamp Collectors of the USSR (in Russian only) can contact Jacques Lambert at:

6, chemin de Salses
66530 Clairac
France

Russian Revenue & Cinderella Catalogue

Andrew and Pauline Hall have a new loose leaf catalogue available. Three revenue sections have thus far appeared along with four cinderella sections. Additional information from other collectors are needed to help complete the work. Anyone who is interested in the catalogue, or who might be able to help the Hall's in this undertaking can contact them at:

Glass Slipper
P.O. Box 62
York, England

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Y01 1YL

Telephone: Uk code + 904-701505

Fax number: Uk code + 904-702684

Best of luck Andrew and Pauline.

Collector from Leningrad

I was recently forwarded a letter from Dr. James B. Helme of Nashville, Tennessee who has an acquaintance in a Leningrad collector who would like to establish contact with Rossica members. His goal is to exchange stamps, covers, souvenir sheets, postal stationery, etc. primarily U.S. for U.S.S.R. and U.S.S.R. for U.S. His name and address is:

Nicolai Slavin

ul. Krashoputilovskaya 16-58

~~Leningrad, USSR~~

Dr. Helme also states that anything other than a personal letter should be sent by registered mail, as thefts en route are well known there.

Non-Profit Status

Gordon Torrey has informed me that Rossica has just been accorded status as a non-profit educational organization. That means that the Journal can be sent out for a lower postage rate, and that members (or anyone) can make tax deductible contributions.

BALPEX

During BALPEX this past fall, George Shaw gave a presentation on his exhibit on Soviet Inflation, 1917-1923. He illustrated unusual rate periods and frankings as well as presented preliminary research on the frequency of usage by rate period and stamp. This research will be written up in future issues of the Rossica Journal. Sounds like it was great George, and am looking forward to seeing it in print. Those present at the meeting were:

Robert Bain	Scott Allen	Howard Weinert
Denys Voaden	Norman Epstein	Clyde North
Gary Combs	Leon Lazar	Norman Roule
Bill Nickle	Gordon Torrey	David Skipton
George Shaw	Richard Major	Leon Finik
George Werbizky	Joe Geraci	Joe Cartafalsa
Alberta Curtis	Earl Galitz	

Russian Postmarks

Another joint venture has just produced the book "Russian Postmarks - an Introduction and Guide". It was written by Anotoly Kiryushkin of Minsk and Philip Robinson of Sheffield, England. The book looks like it is pretty interesting, important, and with a lot of research in it. The price is US\$18, post paid (surface mail) to North America. For airmail add US\$6 more. The address is:

Mr. Philip Robinson

2 Rydalahurst Avenue
Sheffield, England
S6 4BG

This collaboration previously produced the very popular book, "Siberia: Postmarks and Postal History of the Russian Empire Period". Keep up the good work Philip and Anatoly.

Zemstvo Catalogue

George Werbizky has written to me with another source of information about Zemstvos. It is the 1897 Stanley Gibbons Catalogue. It has a complete listing of Zemstvo stamps. Included are some Zemstvos not found in Chuchin catalogue, such as:

- Local Finland - Helsingfors
- Tammerfors
- Tavastehaus and Helsingfors

Steam Packet Company (1867)

Ananiev official Seals (in Herrick Catalogue)

Newsletter Puzzler

At the top of page one I have show two stamps that I acquired recently, with the frames only and no vignette in the center. The contest for this issue is to tell me what Republic ordered these stamps, in what year, what should the vignette contain, and who was the designer? I will send a packet of cinderella stamps to every member who sends me the correct answers. Good luck.

Rossica Membership

With the last issue of the Newsletter I kept track of the countries where we have members, and thought you would be interested in seeing the list. So here it is.

Australia 1	India 1	
Austria 1	Isreal 1	Total of 21 countries
Belgium 1	Italy 1	
Brazil 1	Japan 3	Total of 304 members
Canada 14	Netherlands 1	
Chile 1	New Zealand 2	
Denmark 1	Norway 1	
Finland 2	Sweden 4	
France 2	Switzerland 3	
Germany 4	United Kingdom 23	
	U.S.A. 236	

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 #11. Congradulations 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.

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Adolph Ackerman	"Soviet Air Mail - The Early Years" Gold Stampshow '90 APS research medal "
	"The Russian Arctic" Vermeil Airpex '90
Raymond Pietruszka	"Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic" Silver- Bronze Napex '90
Peter Bylen	"Phases of Ukrainian History" Grand Award Ukrainpex '90 Wes Capar Award Ukrainpex '90
	"The Kharkiv Issues of 1920" Silver Award Ukrainpex '90
	"Belize: The Marine Life Definitives, 1984-1989" AAPE Award of Honor Sescal '90
Bohdan O. Pauke	"Gardinas-Grodno: 1915-1920, A Postal History of Various Administrations" Silver Award Lithpex XXIII
Paul B. Spiwak	"Zemstvo Stamps Used In The Ukraine" Gold Award Ukrainpex '90
Paul Blake	"Russian Semi-Postals, 1914 and 1915" Vermeil Sescal '90 APS Medal of Excellence " AAPE Award of Honor "

Soviets To Honor British Traitor

The Soviet Union honored the British traitor and Soviet spy Kim Philby on a 5 kopeck stamp issued on November 29. Russia's patriot and Britain's traitor is depicted on one of a set of five stamps honoring Soviet intelligence agents. The stamp design was engraved from a drawing by B. Ilyukin, and produced in an edition of almost 2 million copies.

Lithuania Issues Four Stamps

On October 7, Lithuania released its first new stamps in fifty years. The Republic had issued its own stamps from 1918 - 1940, when it became a republic in the Soviet Union.

The four stamps released on October 7 bear numerals indicating the denominations of 5, 10, 20, and 50. There is no "k" following the numerals, in anticipation of a new currency (litas and centas) to be issued in the near future.

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The stamp designs show an angel bearing light and a Lithuanian cross in a folk motif against a background of a map of Lithuania. The colors of the stamps are green for the 5, dull purple for the 10, blue for the 20, and red for the 50. The stamps are imperforate and have no gum. They were printed in sheets of 50. A total of 50 million stamps were printed.

Until Lithuania re-establishes membership in the Universal Postal Union, the stamps will be used only within the region of the three Baltic republics.



Filatelim USSR Editorial

In the March 1990 issue of Filatelim USSR, the editor pointed out major changes in policy, both within the official philatelic organization and in the Soviet Ministry of Communications (postal section). Officials assured the philatelic organization's new democratically elected leaders that, in the future, domestic collectors would have an equal chance of obtaining philatelic issues and collectors' supplies. In the past these items were often sold for hard currency abroad.

Also announced was the commitment that new Soviet issues would be held to 100 per year, with a maximum total face value of 15 rubles. Issues of souvenir sheets and minisheets are also to be held within reasonable amounts.



19th Century Post-Sledge and Courier