



# Bulletin of the Rossica Society of Russian Philately

Number 16

Bruce Bain, Editor

December, 1992

## EDITORIAL

December Already? Time once again for the ole Rossica Bulletin. I want to thank all of you who have written me since our last bulletin. I have found out that still more of you really do care about Rossica, and what goes on in our Society. Additionally I want to thank All of you who took the time to fill out the questionaire. Those of you who were confused about where to send them take heart, you were not alone. Some 30 or so of you sent it to Gary Combs. Gary has been kind enough to forward them to me. I am sorry if you were confused. I assumed that as the sender of the questionaire you would return it to me. To all of you OFFICERS who chose not to fill it out lets get moving and fill them out NOW. I am still accepting questionaires. If you don t want to part with a portion of the old bulletin please feel free to xerox a copy and fill that one out. As the Secretary I am compiling the Constitutionally required list of collecting interests from this questionaire.

I hope to have the list compiled by the summer Bulletin. A note on that topic : I am moving. Some of you already know that my employer is moving me to Colorado Springs, Colorado. While I have not been give an exact date that is carved in stone, I was informed by my boss

yesterday that Late Summer of 1993 is the most likely time. I will try to keep this from impacting the Bulletin schedule too much. I will also update you with my new address/final move plans in the next Bulletin.

We have lots of exciting topics to discuss in this issue. We have a letter from the president, a new advertisement policy for the bulletin, Napex, more news from Mother Russia, an interesting cover or two, an adlet, a few announcements and finally a call to arms. Without further ado -----

## New Advertising Policy

I am now able to accept advertisements from dealers/auction houses. The rates will be the same for single issue ads in the journal. Beginning next issue full page color ads will be available for \$450.00 per page. The reason for this policy change is quite simple. A situation arose which required flexibility. Harmers of Switzerland contacted us about an upcoming sale originally scheduled for March 27, 1992. The journal would not be out in time for this. The logical solution was to open up the Bulletin for advertising. So dealers lets help out the old Rossica Bulletin and buy those ads.

### Gordon Torrey

Former Rossica President and current Expert Committee Chairman and Director (and general luminary) Gordon Torrey has been ill of late. Gordon has been admitted to the hospital at least 3 times over the holiday season. This is not a fun time to be in the hospital either( if there is such a thing as a fun hospital stay). To this point the doctors are stumped with Gordon's condition. We all wish Gordon well. Keep up the fight friend and we all hope to see you at NAPEX 93.

### HELP

Member Howard Cohen has written to ask for help in identification of some covers he has. He states:

" I have 2 cover franked by the 10 Kopek dark blue designated by Scotts as design type A8. The stamps are on vertically laid paper. Both Covers are post-marked 1902.

All catalogs (Scott, Gibbons, Lobachevski, etc) state that the vertically laid 10 Kopek stamp was issued in 1904. (Scott #60)"

All right you Rossica sleuths. Lets see if you can figure this one out. Do we have something new here or is this just a little known piece of info that the experts are keeping for themselves. Write care of the Editor at:

Rossica Bulletin -- Help  
P.O. Box 2928  
Merrifield, Va 22116-2928.

I will forward the responses on to Howard and publish the end results.

Since we left off last December a multitude of events has taken place. While I will not try to chronicle all of them here lets at least hit the highlights. First the Soviet Union went out with a wimper on December 31, 1991. At only 74+ years old it was slightly older at death than most born in 1917 ( we are counting since the Revolution as the Birth of the Soviet Union not the actual declaration of the Soviet Union). It survived a World war during it birth, a Civil War as a child, The Purges when it was in its early 20's, another World War in its late 20's, Stalin, The Cold War, Kosigin, & Brezniev. It began the Space Race. It collapsed under the burden of popular unrest, the Arms race of the 80's with the US, and the Perstrioka reforms of Gorby.

During the time since then we have seen the emergence of 15 republics (see if you can name all 15 without a new atlas) (thanks GBS). There has been a multitude of provisional issues including the much Dreaded overprint (as predicted here last December). CTO's are selling at much higher prices than before (ditto). The new Republics are all issueing stamps on their own.

Civil War ~~is~~ periodically flares up (although unreported in most of the American media) in Tajikistan as the 2 major factions go back and forth seeking to gain and hold power. In the Caucasus it seems that each week a new group seeks independence from Georgia. Each time the Chevrednadzi (please pardon the spelling) regime sends in the troops and holds onto the area. This may or may not last but we will see. Armenia and Azerbaijan continue to feud. The Lithuanians have elected a Communist majority to the Legislature because

reforms were too slow to solve the problems. Are Latvia and Estonia far behind. How about the other Republics. Ukraine is feuding with Russia over who controls the Black Sea Fleet and the Nuclear missiles in their country. All the while Breadlines are common and Inflation runs rampant.

Apparently there is now for the 1st time since 1917 a bell making factory in Russia (back ordered for over 2 years worth of production) and the most popular kind of bread in Moscow is now Australian bread. This is the product of a venture from where else but Australia. They now sell 6 different kinds of bread in their store. Breadlines into the store last for blocks but all are served. They pay higher salaries and higher costs for their raw materials but higher efficiency and less employee theft make up the difference.

Finally by the time you receive this the Start II Treaty (Strategic Arms Reduction Talks) should be signed sealed and delivered. We will see if the US Congress will approve this and if the last 3 holdout "Russian" Republics will approve Start I which is a precondition of Start II.

#### Philatelically Speaking...

In 1992 the Voice of America (VOA) celebrated their 50th Anniversary of Radio Broadcasting by having a lottery contest. The 8 Grand Prize Winners would receive a trip (Visit) to Washington D.C. to participate in the Celebration. There were some 500,000 entries. A large number of those came from Russia. I have been lucky enough to acquire about 2000-3000 covers from this correspondence. Needless to say they

document a most fascinating time in Russian (and the Republics) History. There are a multitude of provisionals, rates, and the like. Needless to say I will be working for a long time on these. I have only scratched the surface of what I have. I also know that at least one other member who has acquired a substantial holding of these and is analyzing the data. We are cooperating in some areas on Joint Projects for Rossica. We are also pursuing individual projects with these. In the next Rossica Journal you should begin to see the first results of this work. That person has nearly completed the work on an article on Postal Rates during this period of confusion and inflation.

In Figure 1 you will find a cover from an employee at Radio Tashkent. It is Postmarked March 27, 1992 and has several old Soviet stamps and an Uzbekistan 20 Kopek value on it. The second cover (Figure 2) is from a different employee, and dated April 1, 1992. It uses similar franking but the return address has been "whited out" and overtyped "Uzbekistan". Do I detect a small amount of Uzbekistan nationalistic pride going on here. Both covers use the correct 5 Ruble rate for airmail but the second acknowledges it. The Competition referred to on both is the VOA lottery, or is it just to a competing radio station???? (ho ho ho).

#### Provisionals ETC

Figure 3. is a nice cover also from the VOA correspondence. It shows the proper International Express Mail rate (5 Kopek stationary value was not counted) using the St. Petersburg provisionals (353 kopek value and the 7 +18 kopek value). Interestingly enough the 25 kopek values

were not supposed to be valid for use outside of Russia. Is this a postal clerk goof or were these valid on other types of mail? Any input from the rest of you. I have also seen violet overprints. Is this a Second Printing?

Figure 4 shows an Uzbekistan registered cover using 8.3 Rubles. The Provisional for 1.3 Rubles is a handstamp while the 5.6 Ruble is a Paste on

Figure 5 Shows another St. Petersburg cover. However again the 7 Kopek stationary value is ignored. Instead we have a handwritten 17 Ruble International Registered rate in effect for March 6, 1992. When you look at covers of this time period be sure to look at them carefully for they may hold other handwritten markings.

Figure 6. Shows what appears to be a common usage cover. However the 2 kopek value is imperf. Has anyone else seen this in use outside of the VOA correspondence. This is also the only one which I have seen with a single stamp (as opposed to usage with multiples) where a reasonable rate was charged (3.6 Rubles). Most covers with this stamp on it appear to be rates like 3.02 Rules or 5.02 Rubles. Most likely Philatelic in origin. This may also be the case here but I wonder.

Figure 7 shows a common Ukrainian handstamped Provisional at the common value of 450 Kopeks. When combined with the 50 Kopek value of the Stationary we have the 5 Ruble International Airmail rate in effect at the time. The problem is that the letter is from Tomsk out in Siberia. The postmark and return address are both from Tomsk. Unless this individual received the envelope from someone in Kiev (where I have an

identical handstamp from) for the purpose of mailing internationally or he just returned from Kiev himself how would this have happened. It is only about 2500 miles from Kiev to Tomsk. And why would a Russian Postal Clerk accept a Ukrainian Provisional outside of Ukraine?

Figure 8. shows a cover from Ekaterinberg. The rate in 19 Rubles for Express Service. There are 2 separate paste on provisionals. Is there a limit of 9 Rubles for these Provisionals? Also on this particular pair of provisionals the "o" in Kop. is not printing.

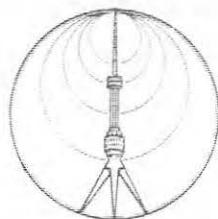
Figures 9 and 10 show another thing to be wary of/on the look out for. Figure 9 is a simple postcard showing a 400 post card rate from Latvia paid by four 100 provisionals. However Figure 10 shows a 150 surface rate for a letter from Lithuania paid with 170. Or does it? The 20 provisional handstamp is a double impression. Probably done by a clerk in a hurry. also a nice example of the 30 imperf on this cover. The cost of the post card has also been adjusted manually to reflect that the 4 kopek is no longer valid. The moral here is don't judge the provisionals by the number on the cover. Some of them may fool you. There are lots of little things on many of these covers; manual inscriptions, etc which may escape you the first time you look at them. By wary and be careful.

#### Call to Arms

As Adolph asks in his letter lets all get out there and try to show at NAPEX. This is a golden opportunity to show. This includes all of you overseas members too. I would personally love to see Rev. Tann, Ivo Steyn and as many other overseas members exhibit as possible. And how about the US members too? Lets turn NAPEX into an all Russian Show.

"Competition"  
Voice of America  
P.O.Box 96526  
Washington, DC 20090

U S A



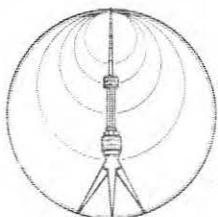
## RADIO TASHKENT

49 Khorezm Street, Tashkent, USSR

AIR MAIL

*Competition,*  
VOICE OF AMERICA  
P.O.BOX 96527  
WASHINGTON, DC 20090

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.



## RADIO TASHKENT

49 Khorezm Street, Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

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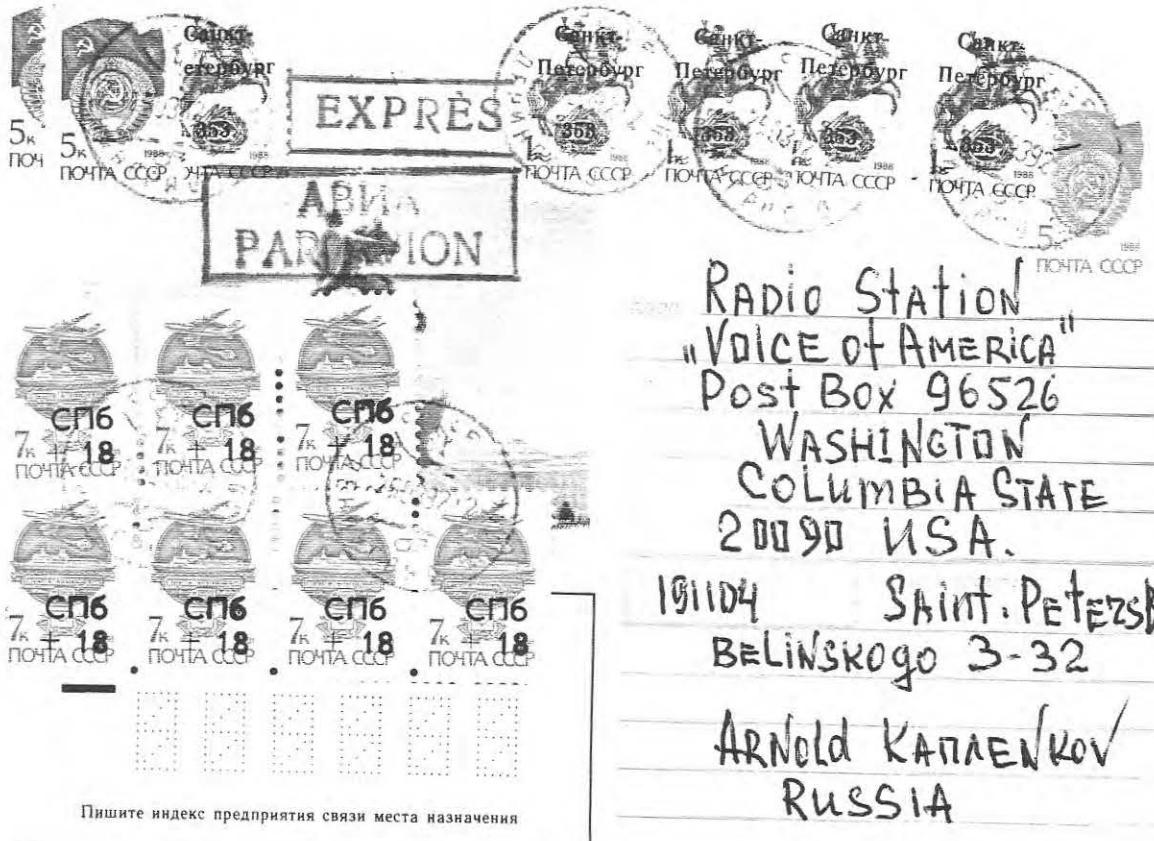
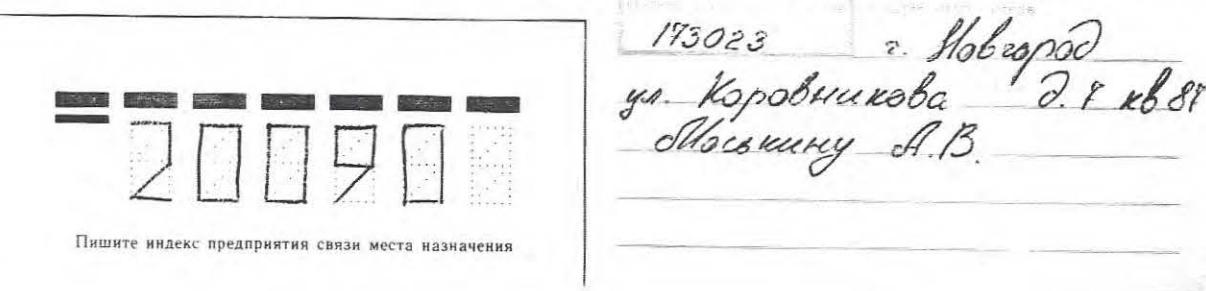
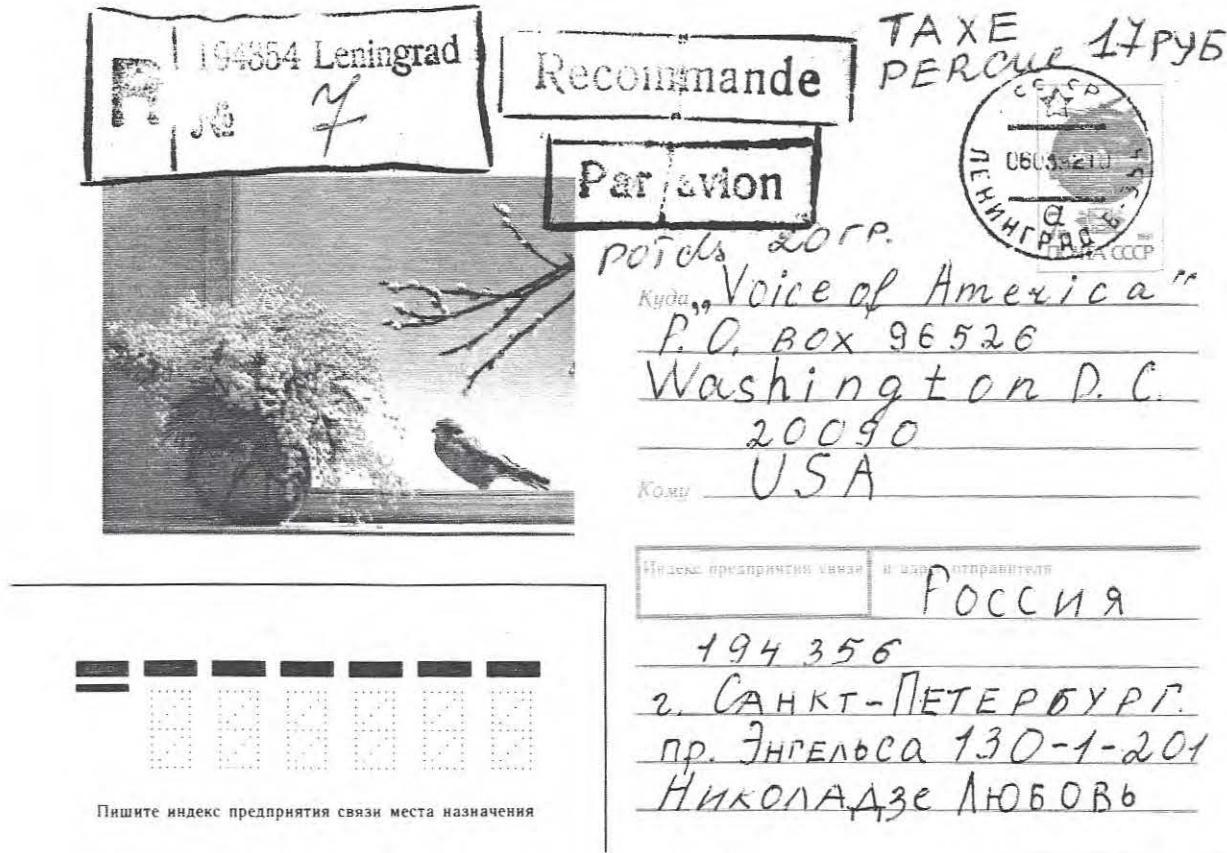


Figure 5



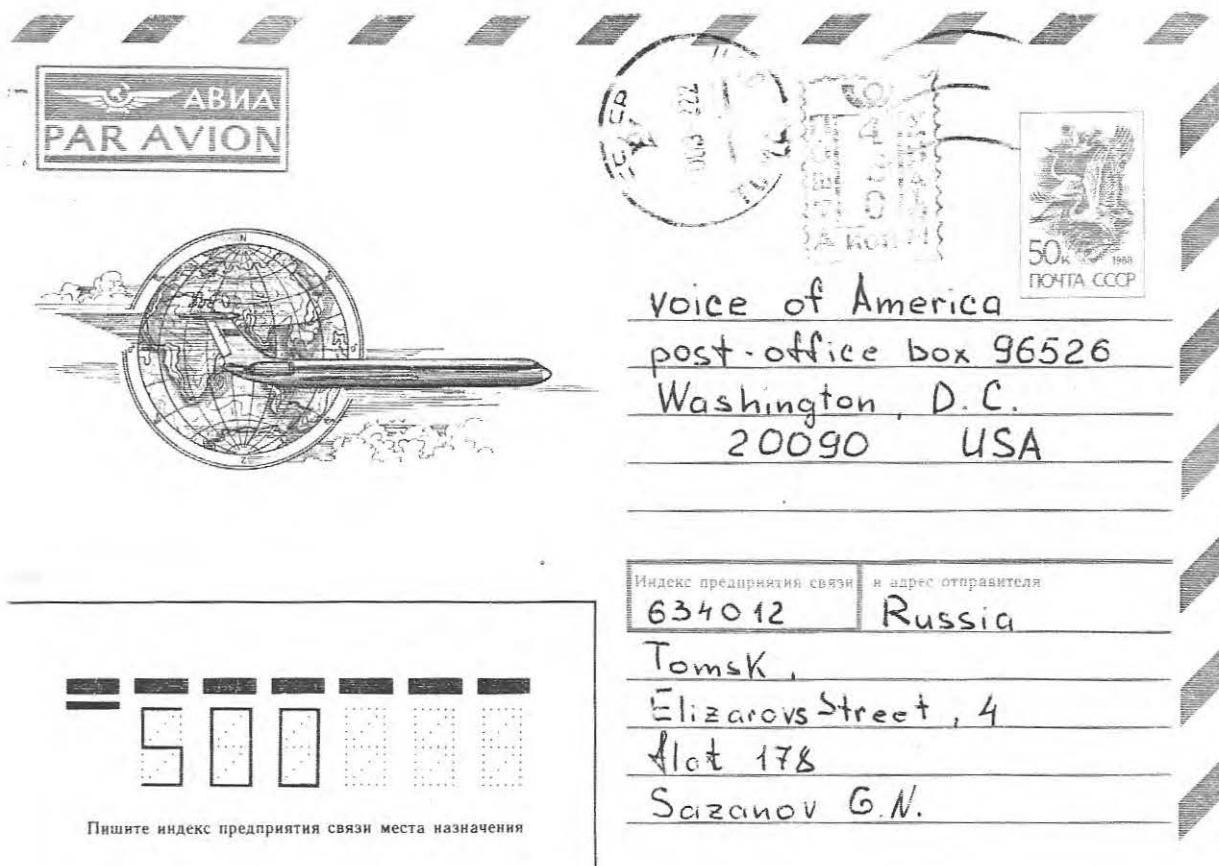


Figure 7

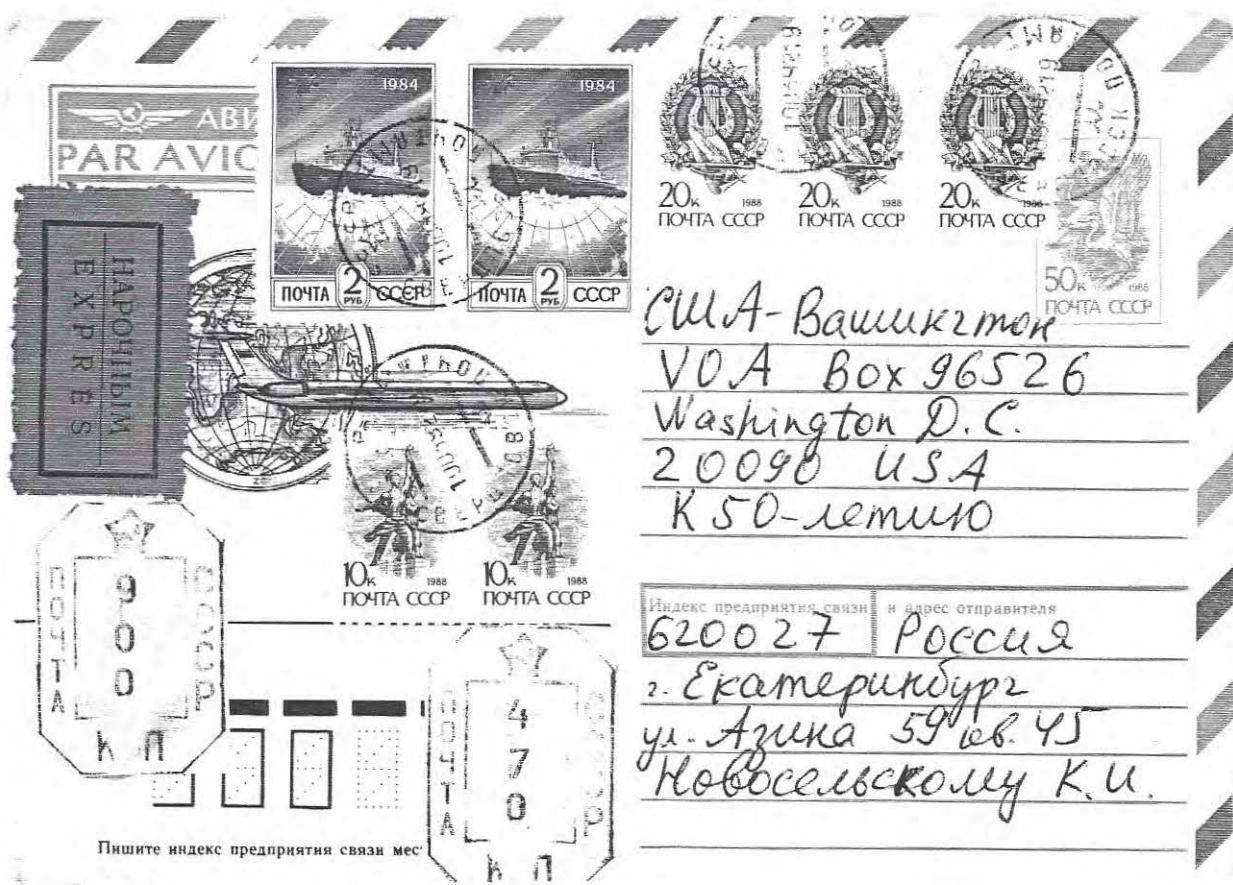


Figure 9



Vilnius. Miesto panorama  
Vilnius. Panorama города

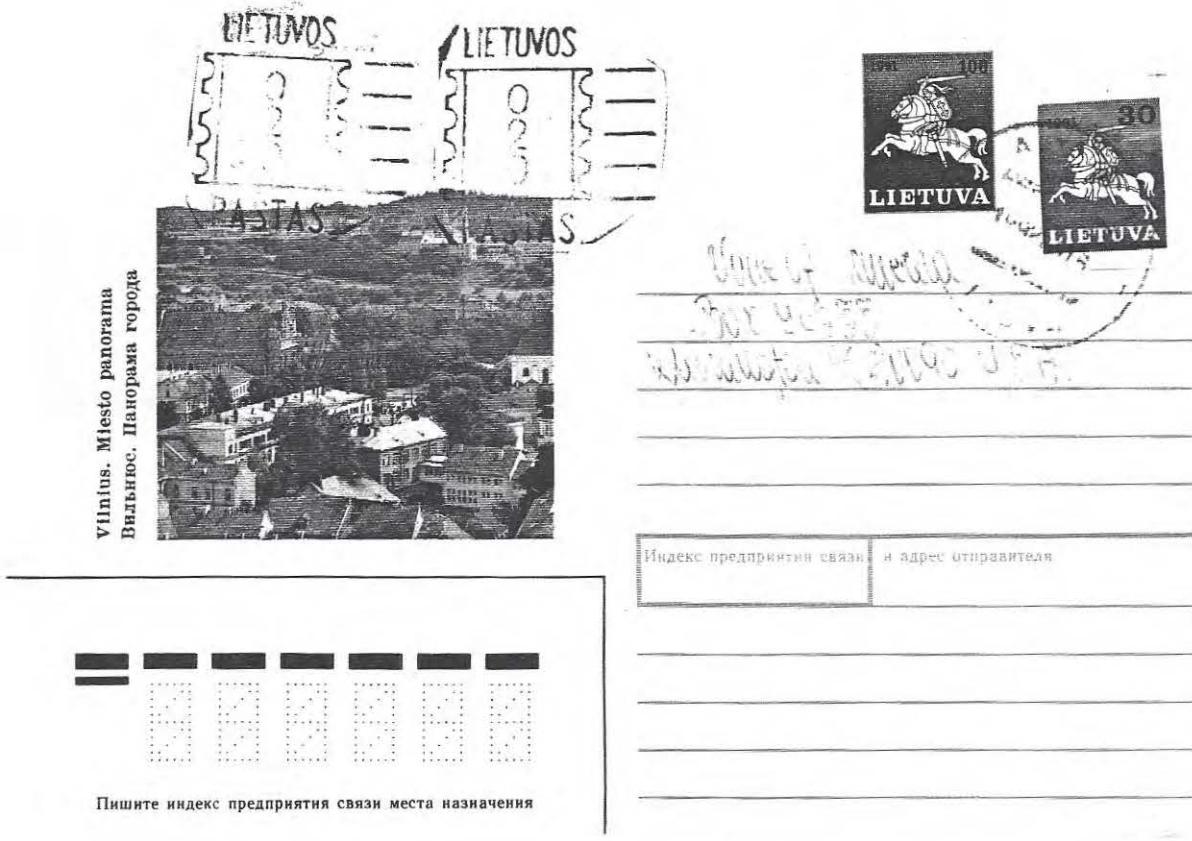


Figure 10

GUIDO CRAVERI  
HARMERS AUCTIONS S.A.  
SWITZERLAND

are pleased to announce the auction sale of the renowned

"MICHEL LIPHSCHUTZ RUSSIA COLLECTION, Part I"  
(Awarded three international Grand Prix at F.I.P. Exhibitions)

Sale contents:

CLASSIC RUSSIA, MARITIME & FLUVIAL POST,  
RUSSIA used in CHINA, MANDCHURIA, MONGOLIA and SINKIANG  
RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR 1904-1905

AUCTION DATE: Saturday, 1 May 1993 in LUGANO, SWITZERLAND  
(30 min. flight from ZURICH)



A remarkable "corner copy" of the imperforated 10k.  
One of the many gems of the May sale which includes a large  
selection of no. 1, rare proofs, essays and stamps  
as well as inverted centers.

For more information, please contact  
GUIDO CRAVERI  
HARMERS AUCTIONS S.A.  
Via Pocobelli, 16 CH-6815 MELIDE SWITZERLAND  
Tel: (41.91) 68.42.85 Fax: (41.91) 68.42.94

GUIDO CRAVERI  
HARMERS AUCTIONS S.A.  
SWITZERLAND



The most important "KOBDO" cover in existence

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PLEASE SEND ME:

- "LIPHSCHUTZ RUSSIA COLLECTION, Part I" catalogue  
Auction sale: Saturday, 1 May 1993 in Lugano, Switzerland
- GREAT BRITAIN "SHAIDA, Part II" catalogue (Line Engraved & George V, Section I) and "MULREADY" COLLECTION  
Auction sale: Thursday, 29 April 1993 in Lugano, Switzerland

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DEALER \_\_\_\_\_ or

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ COLLECTOR \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ TEL: \_\_\_\_\_

FAX: \_\_\_\_\_

(no P.O. Box address, as shipment by courier express OR  
if a P.O.B address, include a tel/fax number)

SPECIAL INTERESTS: \_\_\_\_\_

December 28, 1992

Dear Rossica Members,

I would like to take this opportunity to update all of you about our 1993 Annual meeting plans. We will be meeting at NAPEX on Saturday June 5, 1993 at 1:00. We will be having 2 presentations: first by Gordon Torrey -- "Russian Offices Abroad" and second by myself on "Soviet Air Mail". We are still arranging the Room so please see the schedule at the show and in Linn's for exact room and possible last minute time changes.

I am extremely excited to be able to announce to you that we will be awarding the first NATIONAL ROSSICA AWARD at NAPEX. This award will be for the best Russian area exhibit. We hope that a Rossica member will win it but that will be up to the Judges. We have reserved 100 frames of exhibit space for Rossica members (this is the lower limit not the upper limit). So please get your exhibit ready soon and submitted. We have enclosed a prospectus for NAPEX 93 for your convenience. Please note that the closing date is MAY 1 and you must include 8 copies of a 1 page summary of your exhibit with the application.

In addition we have several activities planned for the Show. On Friday night we will be gathering at the Sheraton to go out to Dinner as a group to the Russian Crown Restaurant. We should all meet there no later than 6:30 P.M. The Russian Restaurant is about 15-20 minutes away. On Saturday we will be hosting a reception at the Sheraton National Hotel (the show hotel) at 5:00 P.M. Lets all try to get together and have a good time.

Sincerely,  
G. Adolph Ackerman  
President, Rossica Society