

BULLETIN
OF
THE ROSSICA SOCIETY
OF RUSSIAN PHILATELY

NUMBER 29

THE SOCIETY THAT SLAYS DRAGONS

SPRING 1999

Society News

Annual National Meeting

Rossica will hold its annual national meeting at the APS STAMPSHOW 99 at the Cleveland Convention Center. After the society's business has been discussed, there will be a walk through the exhibits presented by the society's members. So bring your walking shoes and magnifying glasses and join us! Rossica will also have a table at the show and needs volunteers to man it. If you wish to spend a few hours at the table and represent our society please let the president know by 15 August.

Two hotels have been identified by the Show. The Sheraton Cleveland City Centre Hotel is adjacent to the convention center and is the show's headquarters hotel. The Holiday Inn, Lakeside is three blocks away. The Sheraton rates are \$115 to \$145 per night (216-771-7600 or 800-321-1090). The Holiday Inn's rates are \$85 per night (216-241-5100. Be prepared to have them look under APS, American Philatelic Society or STAMPSHOW to get the rate. Cut off date for both hotel's show rate is 30 July.

Many Russia material dealers will be there plus dozens more to explore.

Journal Editor Has Moved

Karen Lemiski will move into her new home 10 May and will then be ready to start receiving submissions for the fall edition of the Journal: The address is:
2641 South Emerson Street
Chandler, AZ. 85248

She is planning for a September Journal so the cut off for articles is the end of June/early July.

Rossica Leadership Concerned About
Midwest Chapter.

The officers of the society are concerned that the Midwest Chapter has gone inactive. If members in the Mid

Western/Chicago wish to maintain this chapter, please contract the president as soon as possible.

Rossica May Lose Web Site

Peter Michalove has been doing an excellent job with the society's web site over the past few years. However he will be changing employers at the end of the year and will not be able to operate the web site. If any member is interested in taking over this task please contact Gary Combs.

New Society Publication

Gary Combs and Noel Warr have completed part one of their work on Moscow Postal History. See page 6 for all the details.

Rossica invades CyberSpace

In a continuing effort to hold down the costs of publication, the "A Study of the Postmarks of Moscow , 1765-1917" will be made available ONLY on CD ROM. This work opens a new period for the society's effort at documenting the wonders of Russian Philately. In addition to this work, several other publications, starting with Peter Michalove's "The Philatelist's Guide to Maps, Atlases, and Gazetteers of Russia," will be released only on CD ROM. These CDs will be complete, self-contained editions of the publications which will permit members with computers to have better access to the information available. The "Cumulative Alphabetical List" is also available in PDF format on floppy disk or sent via email (app. 600k in size). The price for the CAL is the same whether a paper copy or a floppy copy is desired

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Internet News

Member Jay Guberman is running the "Philatelic Study Group of the Former USSR" on Delphi. This site provides a message board, chat rooms for discussions and interesting articles relating to the new countries of the former USSR. Currently on the site is information on stamps from the new republics. Chat room discussions included postal history, new Russian and Ukrainian stamps, recent issues of the Baltic states, and Moldova stamps. Access is free, but you must register in order to participate. This site can be found at www.delphi/fsustamps/.

Anatoly Kiryushkin has created a website intended to explore the possibilities of exchanging philatelic information relative to Russian postal history. This website is the center of the first ever Russian Philatelic Society on the Internet.

The only purpose of the "Worldwide Society of Russian Philately" is to foster and promote the exchange of philatelic information relative to the Russian Empire and related areas of collecting. The Society is international in scope and non-political in nature. Membership is open to any person interested in philatelic matters regarding Russian postal history and stamps. The society is currently accepting applications for membership with a discount to individuals who are currently members of either Rossica, BSRP or the Society for Classical Russian Philately. As expected, application is by e-mail, go to "home.nestor.minsk,by/ph" for details.

Yes, Anatoly is maintaining the site in Belarus and doing a wonderful job. The information available to the visitor is outstanding. Rossica is not affiliated with the web site but it does support the notion of exchanging information. Check it out!

One can not leave Internet News without again recommending the Zemstvo site maintained by Mr. Fuchs. You can find it off of the Rossica website.

Northern California Chapter News

[Thanks to Ed Laveroni, president of the chapter, the Bulletin is able to provide a brief overview of the chapters activities. Ed.]

I would like to thank Mike and Peter Gutter for the wonderful time that was had by all at the Dec. 13 Christmas party. There were plenty of war stories, philatelic items, food & drink and friendship.

Our last meeting was held at WESTPEX on April 18, 1999. George Shalimoff took time from his busy duties as the director of the show to give a presentation on St. Petersburg's Numerical Town Cancels. It was a fine presentation. George has been gathering material for many years, and he is an interesting speaker. WESTPEX, in San Francisco, had a 300 frame exhibit, 70 dealer bourse, auction, youth and beginner area, meetings and seminars. It was a great show.

This year's Filatelic Fiesta will be on Sept. 17-19, 1999. We will have a meeting there with the time to be announced at a later date.

I understand that Alex Safonoff and Mike Gutter have developed an interesting way of identifying stamps listed as "background missing" with the use of a computer. Fantastic! I am always having problems with missing backgrounds. Will this also work on inverted backgrounds?

Alex Safonoff continues to send out Rossica's e-mail list. We really appreciate the effort. It is nice to have an address close at hand. I notice that some of you new upstarts finally have your computers, but you haven't registered with Alex so the rest of us can know your e-mail address.

There has been a huge amount of Russian material in on-line auctions. Those members that are participating in these on-line auctions, be careful. There is a lot of good and bad material being offered. The word is that forgeries are being auctioned as well as the real material. Please be on the alert. Just another good reason to know what you are buying.

I just received an interesting cover with some early cancels of the Moscow Yaroslavl railroad line 33/34. It would be listed in Kiryushkin and Robinson's, Russian Railroad Postmarks as R33/34.1-1, if it were listed. It was mailed from Rostov, Yaroslavl Gub. on the 20th of Dec. 1874, received at the 14th stop of line 33/34, it passed through the Moscow Brest RR station on the same day (Kiryushkin and Robinson lists as 756.x-. The postmark is 19 years earlier than the earliest previously known), and delivered to Mstislav, Mogilev Gub. on Dec. 23, 1874.

New Issues

Russia has issued or is planning to issue the following stamps. Pictures and text are from MARKA, the official printers of Russia's stamps.

1998

The Centenary of Birth of Mikhail I. Koshkin, Constructor of Tanks; issued 20 November.



A postage stamp was issued to mark the centenary (1898-1940) of birth of Mikhail I. Koshkin, constructor of tanks. The medium tank T-34 – the best tank of the Second World War was constructed under the leadership of Mikhail I. Koshkin.

The stamp features the portrait of M.I. Koshkin reproduced from a photograph of the end of 1930s, tank T-34 as a symbol of Soviet arms, the constructors of the tank at the drawing board and the text: "M.I. Koshkin. 1898-1940".

Designer: L. Zaitsev

Printing: offset

Perforation: comb 12 1/2 : 12

Face value: 1.00 rbl.

Size: 42 x 30 mm

Issue: 250 000 copies

A sheet contains 36 stamps

"Happy New Year!"

Issued 1 December



A postage stamp has been dedicated to one of the favorite holidays of the world – New Year's Day. The stamp A postage stamp was dedicated to one of the favorite features Santa Claus in the background of Spasskaya Tower chiming clock of Moscow Kremlin and congratulatory text: "Happy New Year!"

Designer: I. Larjushina

Printing: offset

Perforation: comb 11 1/2

Face value: 1.00 rbl.

Size: 31,3 x 24 mm

Issue: 250 000 copies

A sheet contains 36 and 9 stamps

1999 Issues Hunting.



A set of five postage stamps dedicated to amateur hunting in Russia. The stamps feature various methods of wild animals hunting.

1.00 - Wood-grouse hunting

1.50 - Duck hunting

2.00 - Falconry

2.50 - Wolf hunting

3.00 - Bear hunting

Designer: I. Kozlov

Printing: offset

Perforation: comb 11,5

Face value: 1.00, 1.50, 2.00, 2.50, 3.00 rbl.

Size: 37 x 37 mm (along perforation)

Issue: 300 000 copies of each stamp

A sheet contains 30 stamps

Bicentennial of Mediterranean Cruise of Russian Squadron Under F.F.Ushakov's Order



A souvenir sheet is being issued to mark the bicentennial of Mediterranean cruise of the Russian squadron under Fyodor F.Ushakov's order, which took place during the war of Russia, as a member of the Second Coalition, against France in 1798-1800. The squadron occupied Ionic islands including Corfu (Cerkira) and took part in liberation of the South Italy. The stamp features the landing of the squadron and the assault of Corfu fortress (1799), the portrait of Admiral Fyodor F.Ushakov and the text "Bicentennial of Mediterranean cruise of Russian squadron under Fyodor F.Ushakov's order."

Designer: M.Averjanov, V.Dygalo

Printing: offset

Perforation: frame 12 1/2 : 12

Face value: 5.00 rbl.

Size of the sheet: 90 x 70 mm

Size of the stamp in the sheet: 42 x 30 mm

Issue: 250 000 copies

Orders of Russia.



A set of five postage stamps, "Orders of Russia," continues the theme of the history of Russian State. These stamps are dedicated to Russian orders, state honorable awards for

military and other distinctions instituted in XVIII-XIX centuries.

1.00 - the Order of St. Vladimir (1782)

1.50 - the Order of St. Anna (1797)

2.00 - the Order of St. Ioann of Jerusalem (1798)

2.50 - the Order of White Eagle (1815)

3.00 - the Order of St. Stanislav (1815)

Designer: L.Zaitsev

Printing: offset with lacquer

Perforation: comb 12 : 12 1/2

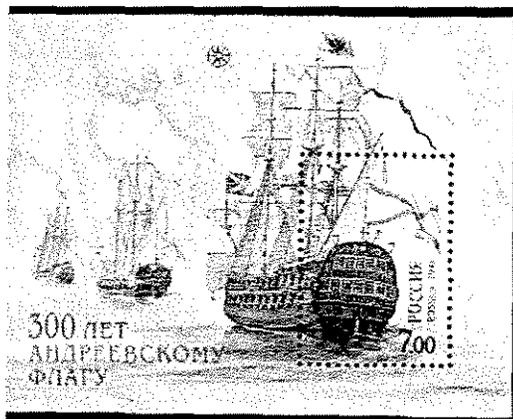
Face value: 1.00, 1.50, 2.00, 2.50, 3.00 rbl.

Size: 30 x 42 mm (along perforation)

Issue: 250 000 copies of each stamp

A sheet contains 36 and 5 stamps

300th ANNIVERSARY OF ANDREYEVSKY (ST. ANDREW'S) FLAG.



A Postage souvenir sheet dedicated to the 300th anniversary of Andrejevsky (St. Andrew's) flag instituted by Tsar Peter I in Russia in 1699 will be issued.

Andrejevsky (St. Andrew's) flag has a light blue diagonal cross against a white background. It was an ensign of the war ships of the Russian Navy from 1712 to 1917.

Andrejevsky (St. Andrew's) flag was restored as a flag of Russian Federation Navy in 1992. The stamp and margins of the souvenir sheet feature the line of war ships of Russian Navy in XVII-XVIII centuries decorated with Andrejevsky (St. Andrew's) flags on their sterns, symbolizing world glory of Russian Navy.

Designer: A.Fedulov

Printing: offset

Perforation: frame 12 1/2 : 12

Face value: 7.00 rbl.

Size of the sheet: 90 x 70 mm

Size of the stamp in the sheet: 26 x 37 mm

Issue: 250 000 copies

Rossica Medalists

SECAL 98, Los Angeles, CA, 2-4 October 1998

George V. Shalimoff, "The Romanov Tercentenary Issue of Russia," SILVER.

ARIPEX' 99, Tucson, AZ 22-24 January 1999

George G. Werbizky, "Obstarbeiter- Eastern Workers-Mail in WWII," GOLD, Newman Hill Award; GPS Gold.

Alfred Kugel, "The Allied Occupation of Germany 1918-1935," Show VERMEIL and GPS Vermeil.

SPRINGPEX 99, Springfield, VA 6-7 March 1999

Inger Kuzych, ONE-FRAME EXHIBIT "Ukrainian Revenue Stamps, 1918-1922," VERMEIL and Rossica Society President's Award.

NOVAPEX 99, Redding, CA 6-7 March 1999

George Shalimoff, "Nicholas II, the Last Tsar of Russia," GOLD.

MARCH PARTY, Cleveland, OH, 12-14 March 1999

G. Adolph Ackerman, "For the Red Air Fleet--Soviet Air Fleet Semi-official Stamps/Labels," GOLD, APS Research Medal and AAPE Creativity Award.

Alfred Kugel, "Allied Intervention in Russia 1918-1925," GOLD plus C.I. Bell Best Postal History Award.

Congratulate to **Arnold Levin** for his exhibit "The Mute Cancellations of Russia of World War I," which won an award at ASDA Postage Stamp Mega Event, New York, NY, 19-22 March 1998.

[Congratulations one and all! My apologies up front to anyone I've missed. Thanks to George Werbizky for sending me the listing from Aripex. I'm dependent on Linn's for my listings but they do not list all of the shows. That's how Arnold Levin's efforts were missed. So PLEASE send me palmares of any show you attend or exhibited in, where Rossica members have exhibited. Thanks! ED.]

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Official Notice

In the last Journal's Forgery Alert, reference was made to a California dealer. It has come to the attention of the president that various dealers have been accused. To set the record straight, Peter and Michael Gutter are not involved!

Rossica Members Can Now Participate In British Society Of Russian Philately Auction!

Bill Stotten, of the BSRP, and our president, Gary Combs, have reached an agreement which will allow members of Rossica who are not members of the BSRP to participate in their annual auctions. Members may bid on items and may submit items for auction. Watch for further information in future issues of the Bulletin and the Journal.

Moscow Postmark Study Published

Rossica is pleased to announce the long awaited "A Study of the Postmarks of Moscow, 1765-1917, Part One" by Gary Combs and Noel Warr. Over a decade has passed since the effort began. During the ensuing years, the scope of the work has grown tremendously with input from some of the world's best-known philatelists. Now Part One is ready for publication and comes in at nearly 300 pages.

Gary and Noel have captured information from many sources in their attempt to bring together information in English about this overlooked subject. Part One is just the tip of the iceberg. It is richly illustrated where possible. The amount of information contained in this study is staggering. However, as Gary and Noel say, "...there is still so much we do not know. If we hold off publishing waiting for more information, we would be re-writing the study over and over. It is now time to turn it over to the philatelic community and openly solicit their further input into the effort."

The study opens with a brief historical synopsis of the Russian postal system from the 1660s to roughly the 20th century. After the historical section, they launch into an incredibly detailed presentation of the post within Moscow proper. They include the design of the city, locations of all the gates, a bit on the environs, and introduce the telegraph. Once all this is said and done, they get down to the main subject of this study, Moscow Postmarks. They have borrowed heavily from publications in Russian and include illustrations of rarely seen items where possible.

Links have been provided from the Table of Contents as well as the postmark reference tables to the appropriate page within the study. To view the study, you must have Adobe's Acrobat Reader installed on your computer. This software is also provided on the CD ROM.

This study will be available only on CD ROM to start in order to keep costs down. Publishing a 300-page document with a lot of illustrations can be very expensive. It will be offered in a paper addition at a later date. Cost for the CD ROM version is set at US \$40 for Rossica members and \$60 for non-members, and includes Air Mail shipping anywhere. Pricing for the paper version will be set later.

Anyone interested in purchasing this Rossica publication on CD ROM should contact Gary Combs at the address listed below or via email at gcombs@erols.com. Cash, money order, or check drawn on a US bank are accepted. Sorry, no credit cards or stamps or non-US currency are accepted.

Gary A. Combs
8241 Chalet Ct.
Millersville, MD 21108
USA

Michalove work released on CD-ROM

In 1993, Peter Michalove published his epic work "The Philatelist's Guide to Maps, Atlases, and Gazetteers of Russia." It was a limited edition and has sold out over the years. Rossica is pleased to announce it is again available for publication in CD ROM format. Anyone interested should contact Gary Combs. Both the Moscow study and Peter's book may be had on a single CD ROM. Just let Gary know when you send in your order.

The Philatelist's Guide to Maps, Atlases, and Gazetteers of Russia, by Peter A. Michalove. 134 pages and 23 illustrations. Cost is \$22 for active Rossica members, \$30 for nonmembers.

This excellent reference book is a must for all serious Russian postal historians. The book contains three parts: Classic Cartography of Russia, The Period of Imperial Russian Postal History and The Soviet Period. A transliteration guide and a list of Russian geographical terms also is included.

Congratulation to George Werbizky for his article in the April 1999 issue of the American Philatelist. In the article, "In the French Foreign Legion," he tells of his correspondence with a Russian soldier, who as a former German POW after World War II, joins the French Foreign Legion in order to avoid repatriation back to Russia. George does an excellent job of telling the history of the forced repatriations and the fate of those who did return to Russia.