

BULLETIN
OF
THE ROSSICA SOCIETY
OF RUSSIAN PHILATELY

NUMBER 28

THE SOCIETY THAT SLAYS DRAGONS

WINTER 1998/1999

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Society News

National Meeting Location to Change.

The 1999 Rossica National Meeting will not be held in Chicago. The Air Mail Society already has taken over CHICAGOPEX. Expect an announcement in the next Bulletin for location and date. Gary Combs is working on a new location for 1999 and a possible Pan-Slavic at CHICAGOPEX 2000.

Rossica Journal No.131-32 is out.

Latest issue is a double-240 pages! Gary Combs will honor the \$2.00 dollar reduction for early payment of the Rossica dues through January 1999.

Next Journal is scheduled for September. The Journal Editor is moving into a new house. A special issue of the Bulletin will be published in March/April and will include extra material. The editor's new address will be published in the next Bulletin.

Works in Progress/Upcoming Society Publications:

"Propaganda Cards Catalog" by George Shaw near completion

"Moscow Cancel" by Gary Combs in final review.

Russia Issues Tsarist Stamp

The remains of Russia's last Tsar, Nicholas II, and his family were officially laid to rest at the Cathedral of St. Peter and Paul in Saint Petersburg on 17 July 1998. On 30 June, Russia honored the Tsar with a stamp, and his family with a se-tenant label. Lenin must have turned over in his mausoleum! For the first time since 1917, a Russian stamp has pictured the Tsar. Times have changed.

The three ruble stamp with a coupon has been devoted to Nicholas II (Alexandrovich) (1868-1918), the last Russian emperor (since 1894), continuing the subject of the history of the Russian state. The rule of Nicholas II coincided with Russia's rapid socio-economic development. Under Nicholas II, the Russian empire took part in the Russo-Japanese war of 1904-1905 and suffered a defeat which became one of the causes for the 1905-1907 revolution.

In 1907, Russia became member of the Entente, an anti-German coalition. In 1914, Russia entered World War I in support of the Entente. In August 1915, Nicholas II became the Supreme Commander-in-

Chief. During the 1917 February revolution, Nicholas II abdicated from the throne.

On the stamp is a portrait of Nicholas II. On the coupon is the family of Nicholas II in 1913, the year of the Romanov tercentennial.

Designer: L.Zaitsev

Printing: offset

Perforation: comb 11 1/2

Nominal value: 3.00 rbl.

Size: 37 x 37 mm

Issue: 450 000 copies

A sheet contains 15 stamps and 15 coupons



New Publication

Northern California Chapter Meeting

[Thanks to Ed Laveroni, president of the chapter, the Bulletin is able to provide a brief overview of the Chapter's meeting held at the Filatelic Fiesta. Ed.]

The meeting opened with five members present, Matt Hedley, Alex Safonoff, Mike Renfro, David Waterman and Ed Laveroni. The group discussed the Rossica president's "State of the Onion." This was Gary Combs' presentation on the state of Rossica in the last issues of the Bulletin and the Journal. The following statements are the chapter's reaction to some of the points in Gary's presentation.

1. Everyone has something to offer the group. We all collect different aspects of Russian philately, but we are all united in finding out how it all fits into the basic scheme. David Waterman brought his collection to the meeting and we were so fascinated with it that I asked him to speak at Stampshow 98. **HE HAD FELT THAT HE HAD NOTHING TO OFFER THE GROUP. WRONG!!!! NO MATTER WHAT YOUR KNOWLEDGE LEVEL, YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO OFFER.** Gary Combs says, "There is no collection in existence which is not worthy of a look." Don't be frightened by your knowledge level. **JOIN US AND HELP IT GROW.**

2. We love the journal, both past and present. We know the time and effort that goes into such a publication. We feel that there could be more articles on stamps but **SOMEONE HAS TO WRITE THEM.** At present, postal history people are so excited about what they are doing that they write about it. **STAMP LOVERS, IT IS TIME TO MEET THE CHALLENGE.**

3. We feel the only way that Rossica can publish books is to have a publishing fund. The money cannot come out of the general fund. My personal position is that the fund could be financed with a dollar or two extra dues. [If other members of the Society agree, write the officers and let them know your feelings. Communications is a two way street. A publication fund would need several thousand dollars to get started, strong membership support would be required! Ed.]

4. We feel that forgeries should be exposed and printed. How else can we to put a stop to unsuspecting people being cheated. The easiest method of exposing forgeries is on the Internet. Scan the suspected stamp, cancel, cover, etc. and send it out to everyone on our membership list. In the past, our expertizers only told the person submitting the stamp that it was forged. Today the entire community should be informed of the problem.

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The Rossica Catalog of the RSFSR

OK, which catalog do you use when stamping around? Michel? Scotts? Gibbons? Russian? French? Italian? Or do you have them all, like most of us? The reason for this is simple; no single catalog is sufficient when studying Russian Philately. No catalog is complete. Additionally, no catalog is flexible enough to allow for additions and deletions without purchasing a new catalog--until now.

Thanks to Ged Seiflow, Rossica Librarian, we now have a new and very interesting series available to the membership. This series, several years in the making, represents the fulfillment of a need that has existed for a long time. Ged has started what we believe is the most comprehensive catalog of the RSFSR stamps available. Members can refer to journal issue 128-9 for a glimpse of this effort. This new catalog is ideal for the specialist as well as the new collector just starting. It is profusely illustrated and lists every known variety.

The series will consist of 29 sections. It will be produced unbound so that members can store the catalog as he/she sees fit. In order to keep costs down, updates will be available either as a complete section or as individual pages. This format is truly what we collectors have been waiting for!

Each section is divided into three parts:

- Introduction
- Detailed illustrations of varieties
- Detail catalog entries with prices

First three sections are now available:

Section 0: Introduction--10 pages: Free with the first other section ordered.

Section 3: 1st Issue of the RSFSR, the Chainbreaker of 1918--82 pages: US\$ 10 for members, US\$ 20 for non-members.

Section 7: 1st Standard Issue of 1921--58 pages: US\$ 9 for members, US\$ 18 for non-members. Pricing includes surface mailing costs.

Dealers interested in lots of 10 or more should inquire about rates.

To Order: Please send a check (drawn on a US Bank and made payable to "Rossica"), money order, etc. to the Treasurer, Gary Combs, 8241 Chalet CT, Millersville, MD. 21108 USA.

Sorry, no credit cards or stamps for payment.

Cover to Russia from Belgium--A Response.

[From member Joseph Geraci, we've received the following response concerning Mr. Ercolini's cover presented in Issue 27 of the Bulletin. He provides the following explanation of the markings on the cover. Ed.]



Starting from the beginning, the cover was posted at Anvers (Antwerp), Belgium, in 1873 (Date?) bearing a 40 cent. bright rose of 1870. Per Articles V & VII of the Belgium-Italy Postal Convention of 23 December 1862 (effective 24 September 1863), the postage for a letter between the two countries weighing 10 grammes or less, was 40 Belgian centimes (or Italian centesimi).

Article I indicates mail was to be transported in closed bags between the two countries through the intermediaries of France, Germany or Switzerland, according to Conventions signed with these countries. This would indicate that the "French(?)" backstamp at the lower left corner, dated "13 Mai 73" is not French but a Belgian exchange office marking. Indeed, it appears to read "France/Ouest 3, 13 Mai 73," and was probably applied on board a Belgian railway post office as it traveled toward the frontier. The postal convention stipulated that fully prepaid mail was to be marked "P.D." (Paye a Destination = aid to Destination). The Belgian exchange clerk complied by applying the boxed "P.D." at the lower right on the face of the cover.

The mail bag was not opened until arrival at Genova (an Italian exchange office under the Convention) and was postmarked there probably on 15 May. It is doubtful it would have arrived on the same day as postmarked on the Belgian ambulant, 13 May. Noticing the Belgian "P.D.", the Italian exchange clerk confirmed the prepayment by marking the letter with his red, inclined letter, unboxed "P.D.", in conformity with the processing requirements of the Convention. ("P.D. = Pagato al Destinazione = Paid to

Destination). Whether the P.D. is marked in red or black does not make any difference. The letter is still "Paid to Destination". The marking was required in order to advise the carrier that no postage was due from the addressee.

However, Mr. Gio. Batta Chiozza was not in Genova, and the letter was re-addressed at the top left "Odessa p(er) Marianopoli/Russia Meridionale Azoff", meaning "(via Odessa for Marianopol/ Southern Russia (on the Sea of) Azov)". The letter must have been readdressed at the Genova post office. If it had been delivered to the addressee, readdressed, and returned to the carrier to take back to the post office, when he turned the letter in, it would have been postmarked "Genova" on the face in order to enter it back into the mail stream. They must have had instructions at the Genova post office that Mr. Chiozza's mail was to be forwarded to Marianopol.

The letter was then forwarded east arriving at "Venezia (Venice) 16 May", and again was placed in a closed bag (Article I of the Austria-Italy Postal Convention signed 23 April 1867) for transmission across Austria. The bag was not opened until arrival at the Austrian-Poland frontier town of Prodowel-Oczyska, the exchange point with Russia. At this point, the letter was rated the amount due in blue crayon by the Austrian exchange clerk. This amount



would be governed by the terms of the Austria-Russia Postal Convention of 9 February/28 January 1866. Unfortunately, the only example of this Convention that I know of is written in German. Since I cannot read German, I must leave this portion of the analysis to someone who does.

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Requests for Information

YMCA in Russia 1918-1917

Member Edward Rasmussen is doing some research on the YMCA in Russia. Specifically, he is looking for covers mailed by Molcolm W. Davis, who was a YMCA worker in Russia in 1917 and later a news correspondent in 1918-19. He traveled from Petrograd to Vladivostok and many places in between. To help in tracing his movements, Mr. Rasmussen is asking if anyone has any cards or covers he mailed. Many were addressed to Mr. or Mrs. Solon P. Davis, Hartford, CT. He would like photocopies or at the very least the date and location of mailing. All contributions will be gratefully acknowledged. Mr. Rasmussen can be contacted at 73 Country Center Road, White Plains, New York, 10607.

While your checking for correspondences from Mr. Davis, also look out for covers from Mr. Edward T. Hearld. Hearld was also a YMCA secretary in Russia, from 1916-1919. Most letters were sent to his mother in Orchardell, Ill and his wife in Connecticut (when she was not with him in Russia). I found his letters and a few covers in Canton, Ohio a few years ago. I'm curious to find out if any of the covers made it into collectors hands or were lost. Editor.

Broken Clichés on 100R Stamp Possible new error



The editor is seeking information on the above error. It appears to be a broken clichés on the lower left corner of the stamps. As a topographic stamp this would indicate that the corner broke away from the clinches but has not yet fallen out.

Does any one have other examples of this error? Possibly examples of the predecessor state of a crack or the follow-on state of the corner missing altogether?

Please check your collection/stock.. I am interested in determining if this is a new variety or a one time freak.. Please report any additional finds and if possible what position on the sheet it can be found on. My copy is a single stamp bought from a dealer's stock. Please send any information to Ray Pietruszka, 211 Evalyn Street, Madison, AL 35758. Results will appear in a latter bulletin.

Interent News.

Here are a few more web sites that provide information on modern Russian Stamps. Thanks Member. Ian Billings for his on going commentary on the sad state of the Russian Railroad Post Office. During the past few months, Ian has been providing updates on the stoppage of the mail heading east due to current financial crisis in Russia. Due to the non payment of fees to the railroads, they had for several months removed the TPO cars from the trains resulting in a significant drop in a amount of mail being transported on the railroads, which is still the primary means of moving the mail in Russia. See issue 131-2 of the Journal for a complete write-up.

Now for the web sites:

Unicover, www.unicover.com, is the official sales point of Russian Stamps in the USA. They provide a listing of all new issues they have available plus special offers such as FDC and combination packages. A word of caution to fellow collectors, their sales are directed mainly to the casual collector and, as such, are pricey. But they do provide a valuable service; just be prepared for the sales pitch. Anyway, they are the source for what is available in Russia stamps in the USA.

Second site comes from Mother Russia. Marka, www.aha.ru/~stamp/, is the principle stamp provider in Russia. They do not sell stamps outside of the country. They do maintain the best web site for current information on Russian Stamps. At this time, their site has a catalog that lists all the stamps issued since 1992 with both descriptions and pictures of the stamps. The only unusual thing about the listing is that they do not provide the date of issue of the stamps. This bulletin's listing of new issues is from the site. In addition to the catalog they have several other pages of news and information, all in Russian.

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New Issue

The following is a recap of the latest stamps issued in Russia in 1998. Pictures and text are from MARKA.

275th anniversary of the Ekaterinburg.



This postage stamp is being issued to mark the 275th anniversary of Ekaterinburg – the center of Sverdlovskaya oblast of the Russian Federation. Ekaterinburg was founded in 1723 and it had been called Sverdlovsk since 1924 to 1991. At present, Ekaterinburg is one of the largest industrial, scientific, and cultural centers of the Russian Federation. The stamp depicts some of the most interesting architectural buildings of Ekaterinburg of XVIII-XX centuries and exhibits of the Museum of Architectural History and Industrial Technology of Urals. The date “275 years” and the band with an inscription “Ekaterinburg” are on the stamp.

Designer: A.Pletnev

Printing: offset; Perforation: comb 12 1/2 : 12

Face value: 1.00 rbl.

Size: 26 x 37 mm (along perforation)

Issue: 250 000 copies; 50 stamp sheet

Secret Service Agents
Heroes of the Russian Federation.



A set of four stamps is being dedicated to the Russian Secret Service Agents, the Heroes of the Russian Federation. The stamps bear the portraits of the Heroes.

1.00 - L.R.Kvasnikov (1905-1993)

1.00 - Morris Cohen (1910-1995)

1.00 - Leontina Cohen (1913-1992)

1.00 - A.A.Yatskov (1913-1993)

Designer: B.Ilyukhin

Printing: offset; Perforation: comb 12 1/2 : 12

Nominal value: 1.00 rbl. each stamp

Size: 28 x 40 mm

Issue: 250 000 copies of each stamp; 36 stamps sheet

Orders of Russia



The set of four postage stamps “Orders of Russia” continues the theme of History of Russian State. This postage issue is dedicated to the first Russian orders - honorable state orders for military and other distinctions and contributions. The stamps depict orders introduced in XVII-XVIII centuries.

1.00 - The Order of St. Andrey Pervozvanny (1698)

1.50 - The Order of St. Ekaterina (1714)

2.00 - The Order of St. Alexander Nevsky (1725)

2.50 - The Order of St. Georgy (1769)

Designer: L.Zaitsev

Printing: offset with varnishing; Perf: comb 12 : 12 1/2

Nominal value: 1.00, 1.50, 2.00, 2.50 rbl.

Size: 30 x 42 mm (along perforation)

Issue: 250 000 copies of each stamp

A sheet contains 36 stamp; 4 stamps and 1 coupon

Regions of Russia



The set of five postage stamps continues the theme of the Russian regions and is being dedicated to various administrative regions of Russia. The stamps show the most typical landscapes of regions, provinces and republics of Russia and the representations of architectural and sculptural monuments located on their territory.

1.50 - Province of Murmansk; 1.50 - Republic of Karelia

1.50 - Province of Khabarovsk; 1.50 - Republic of Buratia

1.50 - Region of Primorye

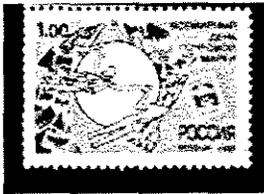
Designer: A.Kernosov

Printing: offset; Perforation: comb 12 1/2 : 12

Face value: 1.50 rbl. each stamp; Size: 28 x 40 mm

Issue: 250 000 copies of each stamp; 36 stamp sheet

World Day of Postage Stamp.



This postage stamp is being issued to mark the World Day of Postage Stamp which will be celebrated within the framework of the World Day of Posts on October 9, 1998 on the day of the Universal Postal Union foundation.

UPU, an international inter-governmental organization founded in 1874, aimed at the development of international postal service. The drawing of the stamp shows stylized imprint of the monument of the Universal Postal Union in Bern (Switzerland) alongside the composition of abbreviations of the international philatelic organizations and postage stamps.

Designer: G.Rakov

Printing: offset; Perforation: comb 12 : 121/2

Face value: 1.00 rbl.

Size: 40 x 28 mm (along perforation)

Issue: 300 000 copies; 36 stamp sheet

50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.



The postage stamp with a coupon is being issued to mark the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Declaration was adopted by UN General Assembly in 1948. It proclaims civil, political, social-economic rights of each individual. The stamp shows the jubilee emblem of UN dedicated to the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the text: "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights". The drawing on the coupon devoted to the Year of Human Rights in the Russian Federation. It bears the text of the Federal Law about Ratification of the Convention of Human Rights Defense and the State flag of the Russian Federation as well.

Designer: M.Pekarskaya

Printing: offset; Perforation: comb 12 : 12 1/2

Face value: 1.50 rbl.; Size: 37 x 26 mm

Issue: 250 000 copies: Sheet contains 20 stamps and 20 coupons

10th Anniversary of the Bank MENATEP



A postage stamp with a coupon is being issued to mark the 10th anniversary of bank MENATEP foundation - one of the major institution of finances of the Russian Federation. The stamp depicts the main building of the bank in Moscow framed with laurels. The inscription "10 years" is in the center of the composition. The coupon bears the words "Bank MENATEP is one of the major institution of finances of Russia. It was founded in 1988." and at the bottom, the date of the Bank MENATEP foundation: "1988".

Designer: V.Beltjukov

Printing: offset; Perforation: comb 12 : 121/2

Face value: 2.00 rbl.

Size: 40 x 28 mm (along perforation)

Issue: 300 000 copies

A sheet contains 18 stamps and 18 coupons;
4 stamps and 4 coupons

Achievements of the XX century.



This set of six postage stamps is dedicated to outstanding scientific and engineering achievements of the XX century, which affected the course of human history and they are of historical and cultural importance.

1.00 R- Aviation; 1.00 R- Space exploration

1.00 R- Television; 1.00 R- Genetics

1.00 R- Nuclear power; 1.00 R- Computers

Designer: Y.Artsimenev

Printing: offset; Perforation: comb 12

Size: 50 x 37 mm

Issue: 250 000 copies of each stamp; 25 stamp sheet

Rossica Medalists

Plymouth Show, Plymouth, Mich. 25-26 April.

Ed Dubin: "The AEF at Home and Aboard in World War I 1917/1922" Gold Medal, APS 1900-40 medal and PSPS award.

Robert P. Quinby " Russian Currency Stamps Used in Finland" Gold Medal

Juvalux 98, Luxembourg June 18-21

Alfed Kugel. "The Allied Intervention in Russia 1918-1925" Large Vermeil

Filatelic Fiesta, San Jose Calif. June 27-28

Alfred F. Kugel "Remember the Maine! America's War with Spain and its Aftermath" Gold Medal and Postal History Society Medal

M.R. Renfro. " Russian Offices Abroad: The Far East" Gold Medal and Rossica Award.

Richard Clever. "Tannu Tuva 1921-1943" Silver Medal

M.R. Renfro. "Imperial Russian Numeral Cancels" Silver Medal

Omaha Stamp Show, Omaha, Neb. Sept. 4-6

Alfred Kugel "Remember the Maine! America's War with Spain and its Aftermath" The Reserve Grand ,Gold Medal and Postal History Society Medal

Vesna Grinfelds "Latvian Traveling Post offices: Rates Routes and Cancellations" Vermeil and Rossica Award

Balpex 98, Hunt Valley, Md. Sept. 4-6

Alfed Kugel. "The Allied Intervention in Russia 1918-1925" Gold medal and APS 1900-40 medal.

MILCOPEX 98, Milwaukee, WIS. Sept. 18-20

Alfred Kugel "The New Order in the Baltic 1918-23" Gold medal and APS Research Award

Praga 98, Prague, Czech Republic Sept. 10-13

J. Verner "Czechoslovakia Field Post in France, Italy and Slovakia" Large Verveil

[Congradulations one and all! My apologies up front to anyone I've missed. Please let me know if you have exhibited and I missed you. ED.]

Northern California Chapter Meeting

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5. As for our Rossica Library, we feel that as long as someone will take care of it, we should retain it. To increase usage, creating mini-indices will help. A library source and postal guide will inform the membership what is available. One big problem we have is that much of the material is in Russian and few can translate it. To most that means no usage except for those that read Russian. [The librarian can supply such indexes on demand for a small fee, the master index is automated. I've done it for some of the topics I'm studying. But people have to ask. Ed.]

[It's good to see members getting together and sharing information and ideas. My goal with this column is to help spread these ideas with all members of the society in the hope that it will improve the Society and Russian philately. I hope other chapters of the society will let me know what they are up to and thinking about. Ed.]

Internet News

Continued from Page 4

The last site for this column is from the Netherlands. Mr. Jan Langenberg is maintaining a personal site just full of interesting Russian items. Areas addressed are Russian/USSR stamps, revenues, perfins, and Zemstvos. His site can be found at "web.inter.nl.net/hcc/Langenberg" and it's worth the look. Try to answer a few of his questions on Russian stamps.

In closing, I would like to say that what out on the web is good but there are very few sites devoted to Russia. At this time, there are more Ukrainian sites than Russian ones! Despite the fact that the web is a very powerful communications system, the best source of information is still the specialized societies' publications like our Journal. Ed.

Cover to Russia from Belgium--A Response

Continued from Page 3

Sources:

L. Hanciau, "La Poste Belge et ses Diverses Marques Postales de 1814 a 1914," Antwerp, 1981 reprint, pp. 264, 445-447, plates VI, XII, postmark types 232, 582.

Parry, Clive, "Consolidated Treaty Series," Oceana Publications Inc., Dobbs Ferry, New York, Vol. 125, pp. 160171 (1862).

Addendum

Your Editor address the cover's markings at the Austrian Border. The final two markings (front, lower left), the 10k and sgr 6 were applied at the Austrian border exchange office. These two amounts represent the proper fee collected. According to the Postal Treaty between Russia and Prussia/Austria, the rate for an unpaid letter was 10K for Russia and 6 Silbergrochen for the Austrians as this letter is marked. Given the exchange rates at the time, the recipient had to pay 30K for this letter!

Reference: "The Postal Treaty between Russia and Prussia, 10/22 August 1865" by Charles Leonard. The Post-Rider No 43, Nov. 1998, CSRP, pp. 29-34. ---Editor

Editors Corner

I would like to thank everyone for their letters of encouragement and support. I can only hope that this issue of the Bulletin will meet with your approval. With this Bulletin, I've added a lot of graphics. I hope the copies turn out well. My thank to George Shaw and the Washington folks for their support in coping and mailing out of the bulletin. Last, but not least, thanks to my wife, Nancy, for putting this into English and saving everyone from my babbling.