

ROSSICA SOCIETY
OF
RUSSIAN PHILATELY

BULLETIN OF THE ROSSICA SOCIETY OF RUSSIAN PHILATELY

NUMBER 32 Raymond J. Pietruszka: Editor: pietri@mindspring.com Winter 2001

Society News

Rossica National Meeting

President Gary Combs opened the 2000 Annual Meeting at the Philadelphia Stamp Exposition on Saturday, 7 October 2000.

The following members were in attendance: Jim Gotman, Ed Paule, Jim Reichman. Andrew Farbarov, Jeff Radcliffe, George Werbizky, Steve Alushin, Ray Ceresa, Ged Seiflow and Ray Pietruszka. We also welcomed Ms. Kane was a guest. Dave Skipton was manning the Rossica Booth.

The new officers for 2001 are President: Gary Combs; Vice President: Ray Pietruszka; Secretary: Ged Seiflow; Treasurer, Gary Combs; Librarian: Ged Seiflow; Board members: Adolph. Ackerman, George Werbizky, and Ray Ceresa and Auditor: Web Stickney.

The just-issued Journal is the result of the combined efforts of Ivo Steijn and Karen Lemiski. In the future Karen will resume her duties as editor. It was noted that we have many articles on Postal History and related subjects. Articles on stamps are always extremely welcome.

A summary of the officer's meeting is on page 2.

The status of future publications: Work on "The Mute Censors of Russia, 1914-1917, Part 1" is nearing completion. This work by Arnold Levin has been translated by Dave Skipton and will feature new illustrations - look for it early next year. Ged Seiflow continues to create new sections of the Rossica Specialized Catalog of the RSFSR - the next two

sections, 4th Anniversary of the Revolution, and the Volga Famine, will be published January 2001.

National Meeting-Continued on Page 8

2001 Membership Dues are Due!

This will be your last Bulletin unless you have paid your 2001 membership dues. Rate is now \$25.00 USA and mail payment to Gary Combs.

2001 National Meeting Location Selected

The 2001 National Meeting will be held in conjunction with the SESCAL 2001 Show in Los Angeles, CA October 5-7. Start planning to attend, more information will be provided in the next bulletin and on our Web Site: www.rossica.org.

In this Issue

Officers Meeting	Page 2
Internet News	Page 4
New Membership Listing	Page 4
Rossica's Medalists	Page 7
Russia's New Issues	Page 5

Minutes of the Officer's meeting held 7 October 2000.

Officers and future officers in attendance were:

Gary Combs - President
George Werbizky - Secretary
Ged Seiflow - Librarian and future Secretary
Dr. Ray Ceresa - Board of Directors
Dave Skipton - Board of Directors
Ray Pietruszka - Bulletin Editor and future

Vice President

Jeff Radcliffe - Web Master

Gary Combs opened the meeting and welcomed everyone present.

Gary commented on the lack of attendance at stamp shows. There were only two Rossica exhibits and very few members who were not officers in attendance at this show. This is not a uniquely Rossica problem.. While Internet sales may be a cause, Gary believes that collectors have to come to shows and club meetings in order to fully appreciate the value of philately. He intends to make greater use of the Internet to promote shows. Ray Pietruszka, the Vice President elect, has been tasked to develop a plan to address this issue.

Dave Skipton, for the first time in many years, will no longer be an officer of the Society. Everyone is aware of David's contributions and value to the Society and Dave's appointment as an official consultant to the society was met with approval by everyone.

Jeff Radcliffe's Web Master position will become an appointed officer position effective in 2001. The web site has become increasingly important to the Society and the Web Master needs the authority that an appointment confers. The Board unanimously approved this action after a brief discussion of the merits of elected vs. appointed officers. The suggestion that this should be an elected position was not agreed upon at this time - this is a position that requires both a volunteer and an individual with a

special skill set. For now, this will be an appointed position like the journal and bulletin editors' positions.

New Business:

Expertization: Gary announced that Leon Finik resigned as Expertization Committee Chairman basically because of the time commitment necessary. Discussion followed on what to do with this area. Gary pointed out that not only has this service been poorly used in the past few years, but the lack of experts with the knowledge, reference collections, and time to perform the function has also been problematic. The motion was made to terminate the Expertization Committee and passed unanimously.

Two follow-up items were discussed:

- Ged will contact the APS Expertization Committee to discuss sharing information with them. This would include providing them with a list of recommended experts and their field of expertise and providing copies of the expertization records for their files.
- The Rossica Constitution has to be amended to remove reference to the Expertization Committee. Society information will be updated to remove references to it.

Midwest chapter: Gary announced that efforts over the past year to reactivate the Midwest Chapter have failed and he therefore recommended to the board that it be declared inactive. Discussion followed on whether this Chapter should be disbanded or made inactive. The point was made that by simply declaring the Chapter inactive, the membership would be able to restart it without having to apply for a new charter making startup a lot simpler. The future Secretary was tasked with inquiring about the official records of the chapter since they should be stored in the Rossica library. Ged also stated that he would attempt to resurrect this chapter over the next few months.

Constitution: The results of the review of the Constitution by the membership raised the issue of

Continued on Page 8

Postal Statistics for 1876

Translated by Vitaly Charny

The following is a translation from an article from the newspaper "Minskie Gubernskie Vedomosti" of 1878. (See the end of this article for a reproduction of part of this paper.)

A book with the same title has been published a few days ago and has the following interesting information about the postal service in Russia in 1876:

There were 3571 post offices; 6181 post boxes; 5483 postal officials; 1633 post masters; 6754 postal workers; 4140 post stations with 50,4555 horses; 2463 clerks; 2250 supervisors; 18782 coachmen. 4,087,130 horses were used to transport mail and express mail; 8,097,391 horses were used to transport people (travelers).

The distance (given here in versta, 1 versta = 3500 ft) of the roads was as follows:

95,249 v. of unpaved roads; 18,867 v. of railroads; 8,118 v. of highways; 2,590 v. of field paths; 6, 916 v. by sea; 9,565 v. by rivers; 622 v. by lakes. The total distance of all ways used by post was 141,927 v. The total amount of versta made by post on the mentioned above roads was 50,015,186 versta.

The total amount of sent correspondence (including inter-town and out-of-town correspondence) was as follows:

67,800,056 letters (including open letters, postage-free letters, registered letters and closed letters); 3,055,782 postal wrappers (banderoles); 6,111,530 money packages and valuable packages (the total value of 1,534,014,099 rubles); 1,042,655 valuable parcels (the total value of 33,854,150 rubles); 689,691 parcels without indication of value; 36,555,796 periodicals and 31,961 express mail deliveries.

The inter-town correspondence itself included 14,687,587 letters, banderoles and periodicals.

The international mail was represented by the following figures:

4,030,988 letters sent out of Russia; 5,465,197 letters received from different countries; 1,068,501 sent banderoles; 1,498,138 received banderoles; 48,594 sent money packages and valuable packages; 141,843 received money packages and valuable packages; 661,216 sent periodicals; 3,314,281 received periodicals.

895 money packages got lost in mail in the total amount of 59,678 rubles and 7 kopecks.

The post offices of the Russian Empire (excluding Finland and Transcaucasian region) sold: 55,702,411 post stamps in the total amount of 3,917,301 rubles and 94 kopecks; 10,290,339 stamped envelopes in the amount of 873,124 rubles and 86-1/2 kopecks; 1,854,912 blank open letters in the amount of 61,101 rubles and 43-1/4 kopecks.

The total amount of revenue for the Postal Service Department reached 11,392,461 rubles 8-1/4 kopecks in 1866. On another hand, for the same period of time the Postal Service Department had spent 14,073,152 rubles and 59 kopecks. It being known that 6,259,501 rubles and 70 kopecks out of this amount were spent on the horse maintenance at the post stations; and 3,587,105 rubles and 58 kopecks were spent on the employees.

И № 8.	119
штуку, на сумму 3 917,301 руб. 94 коп., штемпельных конвертов 10 290 339 штук на 873 124 руб. 86 1/2 коп. и бланков для открытых писем 1 854 912 штук, на 61 101 руб. 43 1/4 коп.	
Общая цифра доходов почтового ведом- ства достигла в 1866 г. 11 392 461 руб. 8 1/4 коп., а израсходовано на почтовое дело в то же время 14 073 152 руб. 59 коп., причем наиболее значительны статьи издер- жек составляют: приплата за содержание лошадей на станциях (6 259 501 руб. 70 коп.) и содержание личного состава (3 587 105 руб. 58 коп.).	

New Members

Let's all welcome the new members of our Society.

James "Cap" Carone
P.O. Box 681541
Schaumburg, IL 60168

Thomas E. Chastang
6638 Marmont Circle
Indianapolis, IN 46220

Andrew Coombs
28398 Rey de Copas
Malibu, CA 90265

Bernard Furnon
RES St Luc Entree 2
1 Avenue des Tirailleurs Senegalais
83000 Toulon
France

Margarita Nelipa
P.O. Box 25
Farrer
A.C.T. 2607
Australia

David T. Penn
9573 Tall Tree Dr.
Kingman, AZ 86401

George J. Raunam
2436 Christie Ct.
Napa, CA 94558

David Rowell
17321 NE 31st Ct.
Redmond, WA 98052

Christer Warfvinge (returning member)
Stangholmsbacken 42
S-12740 Skärholmen
Sweden

Internet Corner

Jeff Radcliff has been doing some great things. Check out the site at www.rossica.org. Here are just a few of the items offered on our web site:

Free E-Mail Address! Get your free yourname@rossica.org E-Mail! We have a limited number of free e-mail addresses available to Members. We will provide these on a first come first serve basis. If you are interested, send an e-mail to: webmaster@rossica.org and request your [rossica.org](http://www.rossica.org) email address. Make sure you send your full name and member number and include your preferred login and a password. I'll get you set up as soon as possible. You can check your [rossica.org](http://www.rossica.org) email account from the Member's Page which means that you can check it from anywhere in the world that you have internet access!

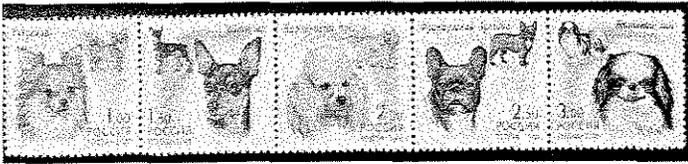
Pay Your Annual Dues On-Line! New at the Rossica Society; Members can now pay annual dues on-line using PayPal, the same on-line payment system used by eBay and other on-line auction houses. Members also have the option of paying for additional years. PayPal is not limited to US Members. Residents in the following countries are eligible for PayPal accounts; Australia * Austria * Belgium * Brazil * Canada * Denmark * France * Germany * Hong Kong * Ireland * Israel * Italy * Japan * Mexico * Netherlands * New Zealand * Norway * Portugal * Singapore * South Africa * South Korea * Spain * Sweden * Switzerland * United Kingdom.

Member's can order Rossica publications on-line! Winter Special: Peter Michalove's "The Philatelist's Guide to Maps, Atlases, and Gazetteers of Russia on CD ROM is available to the general public for a special postage-free price of \$15.00 for US and \$17.00 for international customers. You can order on-line using PayPal or fill in a printable form and mail it with payment in US dollars. Check out this special, limited time offer at: "<http://www.rossica.org/Bookshop/michalovespecial.html>"

Member E-Mail List. Alexander Safonoff maintains an email listing of Members which includes specialties and interest of each member. The list is sent out periodically to our Membership. If you are a member and would like to be added, contact Alexander today at "The_Tsar@pacbell.net".

Russia's New Issues

Decorative Dogs - 20 July 2000



The set of five postage stamps reproduces various breeds of decorative dogs. These sweet and faithful creatures are our pets. They give joy both to adults and kids.

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1.00 - Chihuahua | 1.50 - Toy terrier |
| 2.00 - Mini poodl | 2.50 - French bulldog |
| 3.00 - Japanese chin | |

Designer: A.Fedotova Printing: offset
Perforation: comb 12
Size: 32,5 x 32,5 mm (along perforation)
Print quantity: 400 000 copies of each stamp
Stamps per sheet: 30 (6 se-tenants)
Stamps per small sheet: 9

XXVII Olymic Games-15 August 2000



Three postage stamps are being issued to commemorate the XXVII Olympic Games 2000 in Sydney, Australia. The stamps feature those sports in which Russian sportsmen are traditionally highly awarded during international competitions.

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------------------|
| 2.00 - Fencing | 3.00 - Synchronized swimming |
| 5.00 - Volley-ball | |

Designer: S.Sukharev Printing: offset
Perforation: comb 12 1/2 : 12
Size: 28 x 40 mm (along perforation)
Print quantity: 300 000 copies of each stamp
Stamps per sheet: 36

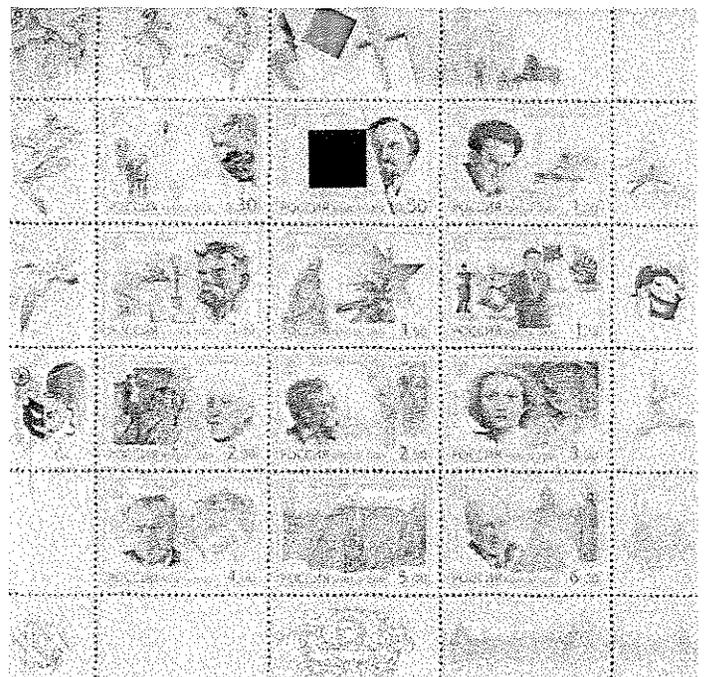
Minerals in Russia-20 September 2000



The set of four postage stamps is being issued to commemorate the 300th anniversary of Rock-Geological Service in Russia. The stamps feature, against the background of various Russian landscapes, the minerals which extraction is connected with the development of Rock-Geological Service.

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1.00 - Charoit | 2.00 - Haematite |
| 3.00 - Rock-crystal | 4.00 - Gold |
| Designer: I.Kozlov | Printing: offset |
| Perforation: comb 12 : 12 1/2 | |
| Size: 58 x 26 mm (along perforation) | |
| Print quantity: 300 000 copies of each stamp | |
| Stamps per sheet: 28 | |

20th Century Russian Culture -20 September 2000

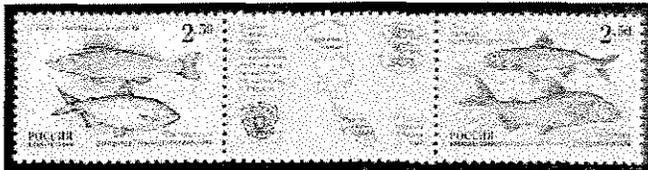


The set of 12 postage stamps honors key events of Russian culture of the 20th century. The stamps feature the portraits of great figures of culture, artistic images and works which show significant events took place in cultural life of Russia in the 20th century.

- | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 0.30 - Russian Seasons. Tours of Russian opera and ballet companies (1908-1914) |
| 0.50 - K.S.Malevich. "Black Square" (1913) |
| 1.00 - S.M.Eisenshtein. "Battleship Potemkin" (1925) |
| 1.30 - A.M.Gorky, writer |
| 1.50 - Symbols of socialism |
| 1.75 - V.V.Mayakovsky. "Showcases of ROSTA" |
| ROSTA-Russian Telegraph Agency propaganda posters (1919-1920s) |
| 2.00 - V.E.Meierkhold, K.S.Stanislavsky, theatre producers |

2.50 - D.D.Shostakovich, composer
 3.00 - G.S.Ulanova, ballet dancer
 4.00 - A.T.Tvardovsky, poet
 5.00 - Restoration of historical monuments and buildings.
 6.00 - D.S.Likhachev, literary critic, public figure.
 Designer: Yu.Artsimenev Printing: offset
 Perforation: comb 12 1/2 : 12
 Size: 42 x 30 mm Stamps per sheet: 12
 Print quantity: 350 000 copies of each stamp

Russia - Estonia Joint Issue-25 October 2000



Russia - Estonia joint issue of postage stamps and coupon depicts marketable fish of the Chudsko-Pskovskoye Lake. The lake is situated on the border of the Russian Federation and Republic of Estonia.

2.50 - Pike-perch (*Stizostedion lucioperka*) White-fish of Chudsko-Pskovskoye Lake (*Coregonus lavaretus manarnoides*)

2.50 - Smelt (*Osmerus eperlanus spirinchus*) Ryapushka - variety of white-fish family (*Coregonus albula*)

The coupon features the map of Chudsko-Priokskoye Lake and national arms of Russia and Estonia.

Designer: Yu. Artsimenev (Russia), Y.Saar (Estonia)

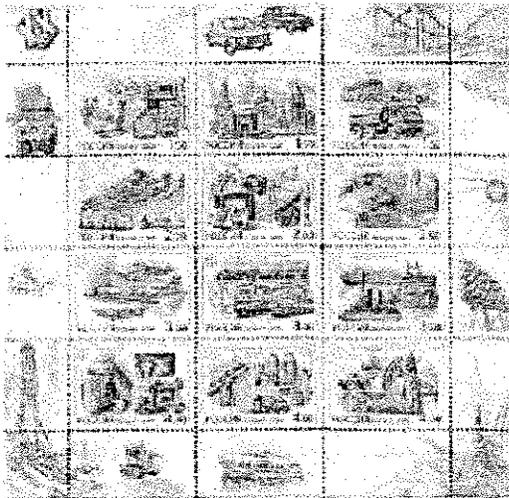
Printing: offset Perforation: comb 12 : 12 1/2

Size: 37 x 26 mm (along perforation)

Print quantity: 350 000 copies of each stamp

Stamps per sheet: 20 stamps + 10 coupons (10 se tenants)

20th Century Technology- 21 November 2000



The set of 12 postage stamps pay tribute to the most important branches of the diverse and complicated world of technology created in Russia in the 20th century – from the ice-breaker Krasin representing the beginning of the century to modern space technologies.

1.50 - Medicine 1.50 - Construction
 1.50 - Motor transport 2.00 - Power engineering
 2.00 - Communication 2.00 - Space technology
 3.00 - Aviation 3.00 - Rail transport
 3.00 - Sea transport 4.00 - Metallurgy
 4.00 - Oil-refining industry
 4.00 - Extraction of minerals technology

Designer: R.Strelnikov Printing: offset

Perforation: comb 12 1/2 : 12

Size: 42 x 30 mm (along perforation)

Print quantity: 350 000 copies of each stamp Stamps per sheet: 12

Happy New Millennium! 1 December 2000



The postage stamp honors the new Millennium. The stamp features the architectural ensemble of the Moscow Kremlin and Pokrovsky Cathedral (The Cathedral of the Intercession of the Virgin) located on the symbolic representation of the globe. The stamp bears Christmas-tree and commemorative inscription "Happy New Millennium!"

Designer: I.Komarov Printing: offset

Perforation: comb 12 Face value: 2.00 rbl.

Size: 50 x 37 mm (along perforation)

Print quantity: 400 000 copies

Stamps per sheet: 25 Stamps per small sheet: 6

Rossica Medalists

WESTPEX 2000, San Francisco, CA, 28-30 April 2000

Alberich von Fafnen, "How to Win a Gold Medal in the Third Millennium: Craftiness in Competitive Philately," Gold. (Albert L. Briggs, Jr.).

OKPEX 2000, Oklahoma City, OK., 5-7 May 2000

Alfred Kugel, "German WWI Military and Occupation Mail from Enemy and Allied Territory." Vermeil and APS Research Award.

ROMPEX 2000, Denver, CO., 19-21 May 2000

G. Adolph Ackerman, "Gems of Soviet Air Mail," Gold, Rossica Award, and American Air Mail Society Grand Award.

NAPEX 2000, McLean, VA, 2-4 Jun. 2000

Roger P. Quinby, "The First Postal Cards of the Republic of Finland, Saariene and Vaasa Cards; 1917-1930," Gold and APS 1900-1940 Medal of Excellence.

INDYPEX, Indianapolis, IN, 21-23 July 2000

Tom Chastang, "The Third Standard Postage Issue of the USSR. A Postal History View" Gold.

AIRPEX, Dayton OH, 23-24 Sept. 2000

Alfred Kugel, "German WWI Military and Occupation Mail from Enemy and Allied Territory." Vermeil.

Philadelphia National Stamp Exhibition, Fort Washington, PA, 7-8 Oct. 2000

Vesma Grinfelds, "Lithuanian Airpost Issues 1921-1936," Gold and Rossica Plaque.

David Skipton, "A Look Through the Judas Hole: The Imperial Russian Prison System Censorship," Gold, AAPE Creativity Award, APS Research Award, Rossica President's Award.

George G. Werbizky, "Ostarbeiter Mail in World War II," Vermeil.

MIDAPHIL 2000, Lenexa, KS, 13-15 Oct. 2000

Alfred Kugel, "The New Order in the Baltic; 1918-1923," Gold.

Peach State Stamp Show 00, Athens, GA, 27-29 Oct. 2000

Alberich von Fafnen, "How to Win a Gold Medal in the Third Millennium: Craftiness in Competitive Philately," Gold, AAPE Creativity Award.

[Congratulations one and all! My apologies to anyone I've missed. PLEASE send me palmares of any show you attend or exhibit, or where a Rossica member exhibited. Thanks! ED.]

National Meeting-Continued from Page 1

Internet/Computer Technology: There was a lengthy discussion on the impact the Internet and computers will have on Rossica. Ged Seiflow will head up the committee that will make a recommendation on this subject. It was strongly stated that the Society exists for both members who use the this technology and those that don't; publications will always be made available on paper, regardless of any other media (CD's for example) available.

Membership at Shows: The last issue discussed was the need to increase membership at the national shows. Gary noted that while the number of people actively collecting Russian philatelic material is on the rise, the number of collectors actively participating in anything other than collecting items is rapidly declining. Does anybody have an idea on how to reverse this trend? Part of the benefit of being a member of the society is meeting fellow collectors and sharing information and having a good time. Gary announced that he has asked Ray Pietruszka, the new Vice President, to work on this issue.

The location of the next meeting was not set. Gary Combs suggested either in San Francisco, Chicago, New York or at NAPEX.

(See notice on page 1-ed.)

Gary closed the meeting so members could join Dave Skipton at his exhibit on Prison Mail. titled "A Look Through the Judas Hole: The Imperial Russian Prison System Censorship" for the program.

Dave's exhibit was outstanding, showing the types of mail related to the Imperial Prison System. Including police, prosecutors, courts, prisons and prisoner's mail. In each section, Dave presented Postal examples of mail from each level of the bureaucracy- the Imperial state level to the rural village. He then showed mail from each type of prison, which also had different levels based on the crime. This included rare transit prison mail, prisons that were just holding centers for those on their way to other prisons or exile in Siberia. He showed prisoner mail representing the different types of mail services that prisoner had access. These included register mail, a money order from one prisoner to another and a letter from one prisoner to another. Finally he discussed the efforts of the state to censor mail and the prisoner's attempts to get around it. This

included letters in code, mail checked for invisible ink or mail delayed so as to render the information in them useless. Overall, an excellent presentation both of material and by Dave. Well done!

Minutes of Officer's Meeting Cont. from Pg. 2

membership and membership voting rights. The board agreed to review these issues and discuss it over the next few months. Gary stated he would pass on the comments received from the membership to all elected and appointed officials for their review and comments. The board will reach an agreement and publish a final draft for membership review and approval in the April 2001 issue of the Journal. As a result of the vote on the Expertization committee, the Constitution will also be updated to delete this stated benefit of membership.

Internet: There was a very lively discussion on the subject of the electronic age and how it affects Rossica. Members without PCs have definite concerns about how the Internet and the electronic age in general might affect them adversely. The primary concern noted was that there might be too much emphasis on electronic publishing to the detriment of paper publishing, thus creating a division in the Society. Gary appointed Ged to lead this effort.

Rossica Web Site: Jeff reported on an action to exchange banners with other societies. There was also a brief discussion on the use of PayPal to permit members to pay for publications and dues on line. The Board agreed to support this.

Pan Slavic Meeting: This meeting is scheduled for Chicago in November 2006. We need to start talking to dealers and exhibitors now to build support. Gary will follow up with Al Kugel, who is the Society liaison with the Chicago committee.

Dr. Ray Ceresa officially asked the Board if the Society would be willing to accept his reference collection as a bequest. The Board voted unanimously to accept his offer.

There being no further business, Gary adjourned the meeting.