



ROSSICA SOCIETY
OF
RUSSIAN PHILATELY

BULLETIN OF THE ROSSICA SOCIETY OF RUSSIAN PHILATELY

NUMBER 35

Raymond J. Pietruszka: Editor: pietri@mindspring.com

Winter 2002

Society News

Rossica National Meeting in conjunction with NAPEX in June 2003

Our next national meeting will be held this year at NAPEX on June 7 2003. NAPEX 2003 will be held on 6-8 June 2003 at the McLean Hilton, 7920 Jones Branch Drive, near Tysons corner Virginia. The Hilton is just outside the Capital Beltway (Interstate 495) to the west of Washington DC. Planning is underway to have the meeting Saturday afternoon and will include a general membership meeting as well as a program.

Directions: Take Exit 46A (Route 123 - South) from the Beltway. This exit is 4 miles south of the Maryland border (Potomac River Bridge) on I-495 and ten miles north of the Virginia junction of I-95 and I-495. Exit 46A is Chain Bridge Road West. Turn right at the first traffic light (Tyson's Blvd). Take the next right at the top of the hill onto Galleria Drive. Stay in center lane and follow signs to Westpark Drive and Jones Branch road (turn right). The Hilton Hotel is halfway down the hill on your right. Enter the driveway just before hotel and proceed to the 1000 space free parking lot at the rear.

Reservations: A special NAPEX room rate of \$105.00 per night has been arranged. The Hilton can be contacted at 703-761-5111 or fax 703-761-5100.

FLASH!

Rossica to Hold Mail Auction See Page 6 for details and Instructions

Notice

Due to the information about the auction, the normal format of the bulletin will not be followed. The next issue will return the usual features and will publish Ray Ceresa's presentation on Modern Fakes.

2002 National Meeting in Atlantic City

The Rossica Society had one of its best meetings this year at the APS show held in Atlantic City NJ. The membership meeting had one of the largest turnout in over ten years with over twenty members in attendance. The program consisted of two excellent presentations by Doctor Ray Ceresa on modern digital forgeries (to be published in the next Bulletin) and court documents showing the payment of fees for the Benefit of the Postman.

The show itself was a great opportunity for collectors of Russian material to add to their collection. There were at least a dozen dealers, including six society members, who

Continued on Page 8

Rossica Board Meeting Report

President Gary Combs called the Board to order in the morning of 17 August 2002. Attending were Gary Combs, President and Treasurer, Ray Ceresa, Board member and Ray Pietruszka, Vice President. The following items were discussed at the meeting and later presented to the members at the membership meeting:

a. Current membership stands at 360 and holding. Change over each year is 20-30 members a year. The main reason for member dropping out is they no longer collect Russia.

b. The last issue of the Journal was done by a new printer. The result is a better looking publication. Jeff Radcliffe needs feedback from the membership either good or bad, it doesn't matter, but he needs feedback. He also needs articles. There is no back log of articles to be printed and publication is being delayed until there are enough articles to go to print.

c. Library use is up. Ged Seiflow is doing a fine job responding to members' requests.

d. Shows where the National Meeting will be held for the next five years are NAPEX-03, WESTPEX-04, CHICAGOPEX in 05, 06 is Open and Pan Slav in FY 07, location To Be Determined. Ray Pietruszka is looking into having the 2006 meeting at the National Show in Washington DC.

e. Sales of society publications are dismal. Earlier this year the postage policy was changed. A member buying a paper copy has to pay extra for postage, but the CD version is sent postage paid.

f. Dues for 2003 will stay the same as this year. Under consideration is an overseas postage surcharge. The Post Office has announced an overseas rate increase planned for June of 03. The officers are looking for a way to avoid this. Air Mail delivery will require a surcharge.

g. Elections will be held in 2003, volunteers are needed to fill offices.

h. There is a lot of questionable stuff on the internet, items that are missed, identified, fake or have been enhanced. Despite the fact that the officers have all volunteered to assist members, no one has asked for help in identifying questionable material. Yet these items are selling.

i. E-mail use is up, 63% of the members claim to have e-mail, 30% of the Bulletins are sent by e-mail. One on-going problem is keep e-mail addresses up to date. Terry Page has been improving his Zemstvos pages.

Ray Ceresa suggested that the society offer a door price at the shows-possibly a one-year free membership.

As there was no more business, Mr. Combs closed the meeting.

Rossica National Meeting Report

President Gary Combs called the meeting to order at 1405 on 17 August 2002. The first order of business was introductions. This took a while as there were over 24 people in attendance! This was the largest turnout for a Rossica meeting in over ten years.

Items covered at the officers meeting held that morning (see above) were discussed. In addition Gary brought up the following points.

We had a very poor turn out with exhibits this year, only one! Part of this had to do with it being an APS show and very difficult to get in; the exhibits were sold out by March. But the lack of Russian exhibits has been a long-term trend. We, as members, need to seriously consider exhibiting at least at our national meeting show. Vice President, Ray Pietruszka, promised to do a better job getting information out for this year's NAPEX meeting.

The prices of our publications have been lowered. Despite this, sales have been very flat. Members should take advantage of the lower prices and build up their libraries. A full listing of available publications can be found in the latest issue of the Journal.

Dues and mailing costs were discussed. Two suggestions were brought up. Member Marvin Pehr suggested an increase in the amount of advertising in the Journal. Gary Combs agreed to look into how the Society could increase the number of ads. Member Al Kugle recommended a two tier dues structure with a higher rate for overseas members. This had been discussed at the officers' meeting and is seriously

Continued on Page 8

New Members

"For The Benefit of the Postman"

by Ray Ceresa

Let s all welcome the new members or returning member of our Society.

John C. Roberts
5565 N. Via Elena
Tuscon, AZ 85718-5109
USA

Maris Tirums
P.O. Box 5475
Albany, NY 12205
USA

Leon P. Palian
3836 Calvert St NW
Washington, DC 20007
USA

Ralph R. Merritt
679 Country Club Road
Bridgewater, NJ 08807
USA

Vadim Medish
2927 Arizona Avenue
Washington, DC
USA

Bruce H. Benjamin
3136 Harbour Drive
Palmyra, NJ 08065
USA

Robin Gates Elliott
4001 North 9th Street #704
Arlington, VA 22203
USA

Eugene Redko
8601 Spruce Mill Drive
Yardley, PA 19676

Prior to 1911 the Local District Courts employed their own staff to deliver Court Orders, Requests to attend Court, and other documents. A special 15 kopeck Court Fee stamp was fixed to the receipt on the packet of documents and the court officer received the fee when the signed receipt was returned to the Court.

In 1911, the Court Fee stamp was abolished, and delivery was given over to the postman and the 15 kop. General Purpose Fiscal stamps were provisionally overprinted "For The Benefit of the Postman" in red on the coupon portion. In 1912, a special stamp was printed and issued for the same purpose and it was used until 1919 when the payment system was abolished.



The 15 kop. Fiscal with overprint

When solicitors, attorneys or lawyers made requests to the District Court, a "For The Benefit of the Postman" stamp was required to be attached to the documentation for delivery of the court order together with revenue stamps appropriate to the type of document and 14 kop. in postage stamps.

Documents from solicitors are displayed showing 14 kop. in postage stamps (two 7 k. stamps for each summons required by the Court), a 15 kop. "For The Benefit of the Postman" stamp for each summons, an appropriate General Purpose Fiscal stamps levied on each document to the Court, and in some cases, Court Tax stamps.

Each summons from the District Court was sent out in a specially printed Court Packet with a free frank seal, and attached to the packet by a perforated strip was a returnable receipt. The packet was franked for registration and a registered label attached, and stamps for registration were attached to the receipt, both sets of stamps were cancelled at dispatch. A "For The Benefit of the Postman" stamp was applied to either the packet or the receipt. (An

Continued on Page 8

Russia's New Issues

IVAN LAZAREV - FOUNDER OF LAZAREV
INSTITUTEPOPULAR FILM ACTORS OF RUSSIAN
CINEMA ART

Yuri V. Nikulin

The set of nine postage stamps honors popular film actors of Russian cinema art. The names of these film actors were listed in the survey, which was held by MARKA Publishing and Trading Center to find the most popular film actors deserving to be presented on postage stamps.

- 2.50 - Faina G. Ranevskaya (1896-1984). Scene from Cinderella (1947)
- 2.50 - Mikhail I. Zharov (1899-1981). Scene from Peter I (1937, 1939)
- 2.50 - Lubov P. Orlova (1902-1975). Scene from Circus (1936)
- 2.50 - Nikolai A. Kryuchkov (1910-1994). Scene from Tractor Drivers (1939)
- 2.50 - Yuri V. Nikulin (1921-1997). Scene from Diamond Arm (1969)
- 2.50 - Anatoly D. Papanov (1922-1987). Scene from Alive and Dead (1964)
- 2.50 - Evgeny P. Leonov (1926-1994). Scene from Stripy Voyage (1961)
- 2.50 - Nikolai N. Rybnikov (1930-1990). Scene from Height (1957)
- 2.50 - Andrei A. Mironov (1941-1987). Scene from Twelve Chairs (1977).

Designer: B. Ilyukhin

Printing: offset

Perforation: comb 12 x 12 1/2

Face value: 2.50 rbl. each stamp

Size: 40 x 28 mm (along perforation)

Print quantity: 300 000 copies of each stamp

Sheetlet print quantity: 70 000 copies

Stamps per sheet: 36 values

Stamps per sheetlet: 9 values

First Day of issue postmark designer:

L. Mikhalevsky



The joint stamp issue between Russia and Armenia pays tribute to Ivan Lazarev (1735-1801), the founder of Lazarev Institute of Oriental Languages in Moscow. Count Ivan Lazarev (Ovanes L. Lazaryan) figured prominently in the development and strengthening friendly relationship between Armenian and Russian people. He came from an Armenian noble family. The Lazarevs founded an Armenian college in Moscow in 1815 which was reorganized in Lazarev Institute of Oriental Languages in 1827 and then it became Moscow Institute of Oriental Studies in 1921 (It had been existed up to 1954). To the left on the stamp there is a building of former Lazarev Institute of Oriental Languages in Moscow. To the right on the stamp there is a silver medal delivered to the students of Lazarev Institute who completed their studies successfully. The obverse features the portraits of the Lazarev brothers — Ivan and Ekim (Ioakim).

Designers: Yu. Artsimenev (Russia), A. Ketchan (Armenia)

Printing: offset

Perforation: comb 12 x 12 1/2

Face value: 2.50 rbl.

Size: 58 x 26 mm (along perforation)

Print quantity: 250 000 copies

Stamps per sheet: 28 values

First Day of issue postmark designer:

L. Mikhalevsky

DIALOG AMONG CIVILIZATIONS IN 2001



This Commemorative postage stamp is being issued

according to recommendation of the Universal Postal Union and the General Assembly of United Nations proclamation of the year 2001 as the UN Year of Dialogue among Civilizations. The design of the stamp symbolizes the dialogue among civilizations: strengthening relationships among nations, international co-operation, economic, social, cultural and humanitarian problem-solving, observance of human rights and basic principals of freedom for all people.

Designer: Urska Golob (Slovenia)
 Art design: A.Batov
 Printing: offset
 Perforation: comb 12 1/2 x 12
 Face value: 5.00 rbl.
 Size: 28 x 40 mm (along perforation)
 Print quantity: 90 000 sheets with artistically designed margins
 Stamp per sheet: 8 values

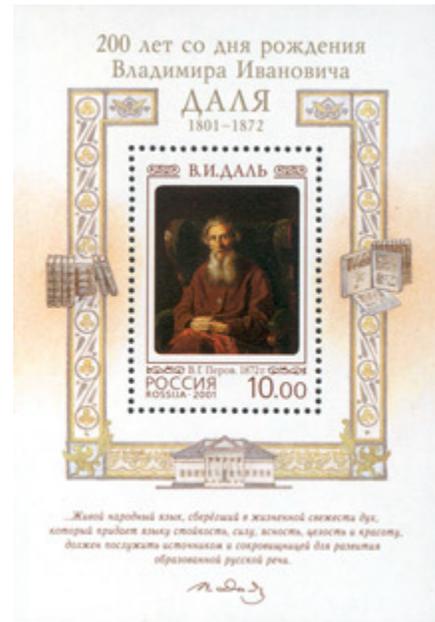
90th BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF A.I.RAIKIN, ACTOR



The postage stamp is being issued to mark the 90th birth anniversary of Arkadi I. Raikin (1911-1987), actor. Arkadi I. Raikin was at the head of the State Theatre of Miniature in Moscow (since 1987 — Satirikon Theatre). Arkadi I. Raikin was a Master of Momentary Reincarnation, Master of Ceremonies, Elocutionist of Monologues, feuilletons and sketches. Arkadi I. Raikin created the gallery of satirical and lyric characters. The stamp bears the portrait of A.I. Raikin.

Designer: L.Zaitsev
 Printing: offset
 Perforation: comb 12 1/2 x 12
 Face value: 2.00 rbl.
 Size: 28 x 40 mm (along perforation)
 Print quantity: 350 000 copies
 Stamps per sheet: 36 values

BIRTH BICENTENARY OF V. I. DAL, WRITER, LEXICOGRAPHER, ETHNOGRAPHER



The souvenir sheet is being issued on the occasion of the bicentenary of the birth of Vladimir I. Dal (1801-1872), Russian writer, lexicographer, ethnographer. The fundamental work of V. I. Dal is Explanatory Dictionary of Living Great Russian Language (1863-1866). He was conferred the title of Honorary Academician for this Dictionary. The stamp in the souvenir sheet features the portrait of V. I. Dal from the painting of the artist V. G. Perov (1872). The lower margin of the souvenir sheet bears quotation from V. I. Dal's works about the importance of Russian language and facsimile of the scientist.

Designer: Yu. Artsimenev
 Printing: offset
 Perforation: frame 12 x 12 1/2
 Face value: 10.00 rbl.
 Size of the souvenir sheet: 70 x 100 mm
 Size of the stamp in the souvenir sheet: 30 x 42 mm (along perforation)
 Print quantity: 250 000 copies
 Stamp per souvenir sheet: 1 value

ROSSICA AUCTION

Rossica has not held an auction for quite some time. Various reasons have prevented the idea from becoming a reality. As usual, there are the legal questions, the optimism and pessimism associated with anything new, but the major difficulty has been finding a person or people to actually do the work.

I am very thankful that one of our members of the Legion of the Seriously Unhinged has stepped forward and volunteered. This person is well known in the philatelic community and has the knowledge and skills to make this happen. So, let's help Ivo Steijn and have a good auction.

Ivo will control every aspect of the auction from gathering the lots, ensuring they are as accurately described as possible, compiling the catalog for mailing and posting on our web site, keeping track of who is doing what with which item, etc. He will report directly to the officers through me. We do not need multiple communications paths.

The Treasurer will handle all financial aspects of the auction to include receiving payment for the lots and dispersal of money to the winning vendors. The Treasurer will rely on the Auctioneer to send accurate information regarding bidding results.

We are offering two ways to pay: via regular mail, or via the Internet through PayPal.

Now is a golden opportunity to get rid of some of your duplicates and spend the money you make buying new material at the auction.

Please read through this entire document for information about the auction.

Here's to a good auction!! May the highest bidder get great deals!

Gary A. Combs
President
Rossica Society of Russian Philately

**ROSSICA AUCTION 2003
CALL FOR LOTS**

During 2003, the Rossica Society will organize an auction for and by its members. All Rossica members can send in material for this auction. Bidding in the auction is open to all Rossica and BSRP members. The auction is a purely postal auction — there will be no room bidding.

Members are invited to send in material for this auction, in the following categories:

- Postage stamps (Imperial Russia, Civil War period, USSR, Russia, post-Soviet republics)
- Postal stationery (see above)
- Postal history items (see above, including pre-stamp items)
- Fiscal and other non-postal material (see above)
- Literature (see above)

If you have material to contribute, please send it to the Auctioneer:

Ivo Steijn
P. O. Box 50988
Dallas, TX 75250
USA

The Rossica Society is not responsible for material lost in the post, so members are urged to send in material by certified or insured mail.

All lots must be accompanied by a list of descriptions and starting prices. The minimum starting price for a lot will be \$5.

The deadline for sending in material is January 31, 2003. The auction catalog will go out to members in February 2003, with the closing date for the auction set at March 31, 2003.

There is no buyer's commission for this auction. Vendors will be charged a commission of 10% on all successfully sold lots.

After the 2003 auction is concluded, the Rossica officers will review the results to see if this should be an annually recurring event.

Support your Society, get rid of that unwanted material and participate in an all-Russia auction!

All questions should be sent to the above address, or by email to auction@rossica.org

ROSSICA SOCIETY AUCTION CONDITIONS OF SALE

1. The Rossica Society Auction (RSA) is a postal auction organized and conducted by the Rossica Society.
2. The RSA is a postal auction only. Bids must be mailed to the auctioneer. Bids by email are acceptable, if a written and signed confirmation follows by mail.
3. Vendors may send in material to be auctioned. The lots must be accompanied by a list of descriptions and starting bids. The auctioneer may propose changes in the description to the vendor. However, if the vendor does not agree to the proposed changes the vendor may withdraw the lot from sale. Optionally, the auctioneer may reject the item.
4. The Rossica Society has taken great care to ensure that all statements in the lot descriptions are reliable and accurate, and that each item is genuine and authentic, unless the contrary is indicated. The statements are not intended to be, and are not to be taken as statements of fact and representations of fact. Neither the Society nor the vendor shall be liable for any fault or error of description, nor shall they be liable for lack of genuineness or authenticity of any lot or any item in a lot whether or not such lot is exhibited with any certificate of opinion or other supporting document or mark.
5. Lots comprised of 6 stamps or more, or lots stated to comprise or contain collections, issues or undescribed stamps shall be put up for sale not subject to return and shall be taken by the purchaser with all (if any) faults, lack of genuineness and authenticity, and errors of description and numbers of stamps in the lots, and the purchaser shall have no right to return the lot.
6. The following type of material will be accepted for the auction:
 - Postage stamps (Imperial Russia, Civil War period, USSR, Russia, post-Soviet republics)
 - Postal Stationery (see above)
 - Postal history items (see above, including pre-stamp items)
 - Fiscal and other non-postal material (see above)
 - Literature (see above)
7. The minimum starting price for any individual lot will be \$5. The minimum bidding step will be \$1. Bids that do not reflect the minimum bidding step will be rounded downward.
8. All bids are confidential, and shall not be revealed to third parties.
9. The highest bidder for each lot shall be the purchaser thereof. In case of dispute, the auctioneer shall have sole and absolute discretion to determine the dispute.
10. All lots remain the property of the vendors until the buyers pay them in full. Payment must be made in US funds by personal check drawn on a US bank, US money order, in cash (at sender s risk) or via PayPal within 15 days of receipt of the invoice. If payment is not received by that time, the RSA may choose to regard the lots as unsold and return them to the vendor. No lots shall be sent out before payment for them is made in full.
11. Payment to the vendors will be made within 2 weeks of all that vendor s lots having been paid for. Unless otherwise arranged, payment will be by personal check drawn on a US bank. The cost of any other payment arrangement will be born by the vendor. Vendors will pay a 10% vendor s commission to the RSA.
12. Buyers may specify how the lots are to be mailed to them. The mailing costs are added to the invoice. The RSA will not be responsible for lots lost in the mail. The buyer may choose to have the lots sent by insured mail, the cost of which will be added to the invoice.
13. Unsold lots shall be returned to the vendors by certified mail at the RSA s cost. However, the Rossica Society shall not be responsible for lots lost in the mail. The extra cost of any other method of mailing shall be paid by the vendor.
14. All lots are by definition sold as is . However, any lot of which the description is found to be incorrect may be returned within 1 week of receipt. If the lot is intact, the full price will be refunded. Bidders may request photocopies (B&W or color) of individual lots to be sent to them. The cost of this must accompany the request. Bidders may also request that a scan of a lot is emailed to them. While this is free, no more than 10 lots will be scanned and emailed to any individual bidder.
15. The submission of lots for sale and/or the placing of a bid shall constitute acceptance of the foregoing conditions of sale.

Payment Instructions:

Payment for lots won must be made BEFORE the lot is shipped, and is to be sent as follows:

For cash (at sender s risk), check in US \$ drawn on a US bank, or money order (no stamps will be accepted) send to:

Rossica Auction
c/o Gary Combs
8241 Chalet Ct.
Millersville, MD 21108
USA

For credit cards using PayPal only send to:

**Continued from Page 3
For the Benefit of the Postman**

auction@Rossica.org. Buyers sending money via PayPal must also pay the associated charge. Please see our explanation for this charge and how to calculate what it will be at:

<http://www.rossica.biz/services/ubb/Forum2/HTML/000151.html>

**2002 National Show
continued from Page 1**

were well-stocked with material: classic postal history, Imperial stamps, full sheets of the 1909 series all the way to the latest CIS issues on cover in the dollar bins.

Four days were not enough to look at it all. While there were only a couple of Russian area exhibits, the exhibits were breathtaking. The society table was a great place to stop and meet people. There was a steady stream of members, and the society signed up five new members. During the course of the show I had the opportunity to meet at least two dozen members for the first time. Overall, I d say it was a GREAT show.

**National Meeting Report
Continued from Page 2**

being considered. Airmail oversea will require a surcharge and depending on how much overseas postage rates are increased next year, the Society may have to go to two tier dues for all oversea members.

Officer elections are to be held in 2003 for terms staring in 2004. Gary asked for people to consider running.

The meeting s program was two talks by Ray Ceresa from the United Kingdom, Modern Fakes in the Market and For the Benefit of the Postman (found on page 3.)

analysis of 28 Court Packets/Receipts showed 18 on packets and 10 on receipts). The receipt allowed for 1) delivery to the named recipient, 2) delivery to a close relative, or 3) delivery to landlord, hetman or head of police, in the temporary absence of addressee. The Recipient had to sign for the packet. If it could not be delivered due to temporary absence of addressee and there was no one else to sign for it, it was taken to the local post office and displayed for 12 months before being returned to the Court. (This was the law but it rarely seems to have been applied).

Frequently, although an appropriate signature had been obtained for the packet, it was not possible to present it to the addressee, (who had been hospitalized outside the district, sent to prison, banished to Siberia, died, etc), appropriate notations were added to the back of the packet and the packet returned to the court. On being returned to the Court, the packet was date cacheted and filed.

Receipts with and without "For The Benefit of the Postman" stamps are displayed, likewise packets with and without these stamps and complete packets with receipts still attached, all of which had been returned to the Court.

Due to their large size, few delivered packets have survived and thus "For The Benefit of the Postman" stamps are rarely found on entires and those that have survived, like these from Kamanetz-Podolsk", have been 'liberated' from Court archives.

Each District Court had slightly differing designs both for the packets and for the receipts and nearly 30 examples are included in the display.