



ROSSICA SOCIETY
OF
RUSSIAN PHILATELY

BULLETIN OF THE ROSSICA SOCIETY OF RUSSIAN PHILATELY

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Society News

Rossica National Meeting in McLean, Va in June

ROSSICA s 2003 national meeting will be held in conjunction with NAPEX on Saturday, 7 June, from 2pm to 4pm in the Mt. Vernon Room. The membership meeting will start at 2pm followed by a two-part program on; Beginnings of the Czechoslovak Siberian Legion by Jerry Verner and Postal Uses of Cinderllas by Nick Sorokin. NAPEX is June 6-8 2003 and is being held at the Hilton McLean Tysons Corner, 7920 Jones Branch Drive, McLean VA 22102.

NAPEX will be sponsoring the annual American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors (AAPE) North American Youth Champion of Champions competition this year. The AAPE Youth Championship features youth grand award winners at nationally accredited shows as listed in the United States or Canada with at least a national level silver medal. The youth age limit now extends through age 20.

NAPEX is also very pleased to announce Mr. Wilson Hulme's participation in a one-hour forum on Sunday, June 8, from 1-2 pm. Mr. Hulme is the Smithsonian Institution's Curator of Philately at the National Postal Museum (NPM) where he has served since August 2002. During this forum, Mr. Hulme will give a presentation on his first year's experience at the NPM and offer his future

Continued on Page 2

FLASH

**The Rossica Journal will come out in
September and will be a double issue.**

SOCIETY NEEDS A VOLUNTEER TO RUN ELECTIONS!

The Society needs a volunteer to run the officers elections scheduled for next year. Duties include taking and verifying nominations, preparing the ballot and supervising the election. If you are interested and have the time please contact Gary Combs.

In this Issue

Auction Results	Page 2
Chapter Meeting Report	Page 2
Modern Forgeries	Page 3
Rossica s Medalists	Page 6
Russia s New Issues	Page 4

Northern California Chapter Meetings**National Meeting - Continued From Page 1**

One of our most active chapters, the Northern California Rossica meets two to three times a year. The following is a report on their activities for the past six months.

The Northern California Rossica met at SUNPEX (Sunnyvale, CA) on 9 Nov 02. The program, Metered Mail of Latvia 1908-1918, was given by Dzintars Grinfelds. Slogan and standard machine cancels were shown, including the first (provisional) cancel and some non-Riga markings, a very nice grouping made more impressive as it was done by a 14 year old!

There was little in the way of business at the meeting. A discussion of recent publications was held. The Shalimoff/Shaw/Walton catalog of USSR advertising/propaganda postal cards and the latest issue of ZfKRP (no 7) were extolled.

Ed Laveroni was unable to attend due to holiday in New Zealand and Fiji. He and Pat are taking this retired business seriously. Filling in was Mike Renfro. In attendance were Paul Ortega, Dave Waterman, Paul von Hungen, Vesma Grinfelds & Alex Safonoff.

The spring Northern California Rossica meeting was held at WESTPEX on Sat. April 26, 2003. George Shalimoff was the featured speaker on Soviet Propaganda Postal Cards. George has recently published a book on the subject so he is quite knowledgeable.

Dr. Ross Marshall, a Rossica member from New Zealand, attended the meeting. He and his delightful wife, Elizabeth, stayed with Ed Laveroni. Ross exhibited his Russia Antarctica 1955-59 at Westpex.

The next scheduled meeting of the Northern California Chapter will be at Sunpex in November 2003.

vision for philately at the museum. Following this presentation, he will answer questions from the audience. Show hours are 10 am to 6 pm on Friday and Saturday. The hours are 10 am to 4 pm on Sunday.

Hotel: The Mclean Hilton will serve as the headquarters hotel and has rooms for \$105 single/double; call 703-761-5111 and request the special NAPEX rate.

Directions: NAPEX 2003 will be held 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. 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). Hilton Hotel is halfway down the hill on your right. Enter the driveway just before hotel and proceed to the large 1000 space free parking lot at the rear.

Rossica Auction Results

The 2003 Rossica Auction was a huge success! Just over 1200 lots were offered by 23 venders. The auction offered something for everyone. There were stamps: 200 lots, postal history; 290 lots, postal stationery; 108 lots, fiscal/non-postal; 500 lots and literature; 35 lots offered. They represented all periods: Imperial: 655 lots including zemstvos and offices, Civil War: 154 lots, USSR: 352 lots, and Post-Soviet: 24 lots. The Civil War section represented the governments of the White Forces, Red Forces and independent countries, like the Ukraine. The auction was a great opportunity for

Continued on page 3

“Modern Forgeries” By Dr Ray Ceresa

The following article is a summation of the lecture on Modern Forgeries given by Dr. Ray Ceresa at the 2002 Rossica Annual Meeting. Dr. Ceresa, a Rossica member from the United Kingdom, is the author of a series of books covering the issues of the Russian Civil War.

Forgeries are coming from many sources. Ray obtained blocks of five different varieties of forgeries printed in 1926 in Paris from sheets with forged overprints from a French dealer, but it is not always clear where the forgeries were printed. Not all forgeries are being sold as genuine. 50-60 lots have appeared on E-bay over the past few years of declared forgeries of NorthWest Army or Western Army. But the next seller may not be as honest.

The most dangerous forgeries appearing over the past three years have been digital reproductions of both overprints and stamps. For example, Scott 224, the 20R/15K RSFSR Star Issue. A genuine 20R overprint was scanned into a computer, the stamp removed, the overprint duplicated to make a block of overprints and then the block of overprints printed onto a sheet of genuine 15 Kop. stamps. It took a 200-power magnifying glass to pick out the dots on the scanned overprint! With a glass of less power, one needs to look for a black mist around the edges of the overprint. This is a result of the ink being sprayed onto the stamp. Both inkjet and LaserJet printers do this.

But even this technology has been improved. One forger has taken this process one step further. He takes his file of the overprint and has a lithograph plate made! There is no mist around the overprint; no dots making up the overprint. It is an exact copy – a perfect forgery of the overprint! To detect this type of forgery, one has to either plate the overprint, something almost impossible today, or hope that the forger uses either the wrong stamps or ink. Both of these techniques require sophisticated tools.

Forgers are even applying the same technology to faking expertization certificates. Scanning them in, changing the information or photo and then printing them out. The only way to check was by the control number. So even a certificate needs to be verified with the issuing source. Never accept a copy of a certificate!

This new computer technology is also being applied to stamps. Ray Ceresa showed two sheets of the 49 stamps of the RSFSR 2R and 200R stamps of 1921. Both of these sheets were scanned fakes. The 2R was a very poor quality scanning, probably using a 300-600 dpi scanner. It was very crude to the naked eye, an obvious fake. But the color matched very well

though the details in the design were lacking. The 200R was perfect except that every stamp was exactly the same but as a single stamp you could not tell it from a real stamp. However there were several other things wrong. The paper was not right and a block of 49 in a 7 x 7 format is not found on these issues. Ray Ceresa believes that the intended use of this forgery is to create double or triple impression errors on a genuine stamp. Given the poor quality of the genuine issue, the only way to identify this type of forgery would be in the inks and the color mist.

Rossica Auction Results-Continued from Pg 2

collectors to add fiscal and non-postal items to their collections with 500 lots offered. 35 members made over 500 bids on 350 lots valued at an estimated \$8,900.

The bidding showed a lot of interesting things. The largest number of sales were for stamps, with 62% of Imperial, 74% of the Civil War, 38% of the USSR lots sold. This was followed by postal history, in which 35% of the Imperial, 100% of Civil War and 50% of the USSR sold. Imperial postal stationery sold well, 23% of the lot sold. Very few Fiscal and Non-postal issues sold, but those that did went for high prices. Imperial 27 lots for \$1250, Civil War 27 lots for \$490 and 34 USSR lots for \$662 were sold representing only 18% of the lots offered. Fifty percent of the Literature was sold, but mainly for the minimum bid. Only one lot of Post Soviet material was sold.

Editor's note: All numbers given in this article are based on his review of the initial results. **They are not the official, audited numbers of the auction.** Number of lots sold and their value are subject to change as lots are paid for and inspected by the bidders.

Russia's New Issues

10th ANNIVERSARY OF RUSSIAN FEDERATION CONSTITUTIONAL COURT



This postage stamp is issued to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation. The stamp features the tower of the building of the Constitutional Court in Moscow and the inscription on the sheet bears the state arms: "The Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation. 10 Years".

Designer: A.Batov
 Printing: offset
 Perforation: comb 12
 Face value: 3.00 rbl.
 Size: 37 x 50 mm (along perforation)
 Print quantity: 250 000 copies
 Stamps per sheet: 25 values

60th ANNIVERSARY OF BATTLE OF MOSCOW



This souvenir sheet pays tribute to the 60th anniversary of the battle of Moscow (September 30, 1941 - April 20th, 1942) which took place during the Great Patriotic War. The first important victory over the German

fascist Army was won in the battle of Moscow in the course of war. The stamp of the souvenir sheet and its margins show military parade (according to documentary photo) in Red Square in Moscow took place on November 7, 1941 and a map of Moscow campaign. In the foreground of the drawing there is a memorial to the defenders of Moscow (erected in 1966). The souvenir sheet also bears the Medal "For Defense of Moscow".

Designer: A.Moskovets
 Printing: offset
 Perforation: frame 12 x 12 1/2
 Face value: 10.00 rbl.
 Size of the souvenir sheet: 100 x 75 mm
 Size of the stamp in the souvenir sheet: 30 x 42

mm

Print quantity: 250 000 copies
 Stamps per souvenir sheet: 1 value

ANNIVERSARY OF COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES



This postage stamp issue commemorates the 10th anniversary of establishing of the Commonwealth of Independent States. The Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) is an intergovernmental union established on December 8, 1991. The Charter of the CIS countries was adopted in 1993. The Charter stipulates the goals of joint activities: security of human rights and freedom, co-ordination of foreign policy, formation of the common economic space, development of transport and communications systems, health protection and preservation of the environment, social and immigration policy, fight against organized crime, co-operation in defense policy and protection of outer boundaries. The stamp features the emblem of the Commonwealth of Independent States and the inscription.

Designer: I.Komarov
 Printing: offset
 Perforation: comb 12 1/2 x 12
 Face value: 2.00 rbl.

Size: 28 x 40 mm (along perforation)
 Print quantity: 250 000 copies
 Stamps per sheet: 36 values

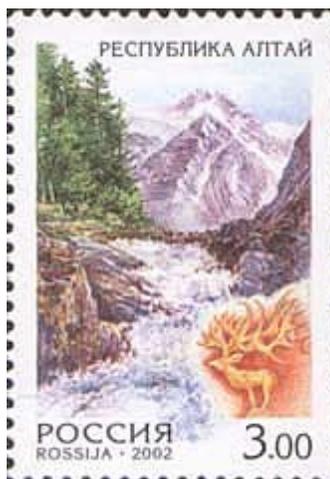
NEW YEARHAPPY NEW YEAR!



This Russian postage stamp honors the new 2002 year. The troika of white horses and Father Frost are depicted against a blue background of the stamp. Congratulatory inscription "Happy New Year" in the upper part of the stamp was produced with silver foil embossed printing.

Designer: S.Sukharev
 Manufacturing process: offset/relief printing
 Perforation: comb 12 x 12 1/2
 Face value: 2.50 rbl.
 Size: 37 x 26 mm (along perforation)
 Print quantity: 350 000 copies
 Sheetlet print quantity: 80 000 copies
 Stamps per sheet: 25 values
 Stamps per sheetlet: 6 values

RUSSIAN REGIONS Issued 2 January 2002



Designer: Vladimir Beilin
 Paper: coated
 Printing process: offset

Perforation: No 951 - comb.12 1/4 : 12; No 952-955 - comb.12 : 12 1/4.
 Size: 951 - 28 x 40 mm; No 952-955 - 40 x 28 mm.
 Sheet composition: 36 (6 x 6) stamps.
 Printing run: 250.000

3.00 (R). multicolored. Republic of Altai.
 3.00 (R). multicolored. Amur region.
 3.00 (R). multicolored. Karachaevo-Cherkeskaya Republic.
 3.00 (R). multicolored. Sakhalin region.
 3.00 (R). multicolored. Republic of Khakassiya.

WINTER OLYMPIC GAMES Issued 24 January 2002



Designer: Vladimir Beltjukov
 Paper: coated
 Printing process: offset
 Perforation: comb.12
 Size: 40 x 28 mm.
 Sheet composition: 36 (6 x 6) stamps.
 Printing run: 250.000

3.00 (R). multicoloured. Mountain skiing.
 4.00 (R). multicoloured. Figure skating.
 5.00 (R). multicoloured. Ski jumping

Rossica Medalists

BALPEX 2002, Hurt Valley, MD, 30 August — 1 September 2002

David M. Skipton, A Look through the Judas Hole: The Imperial Russian Prison System & Censorship, Gold and American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors Creativity Award.

MILCOPEX 2002, Milwaukee, WI, 20-22 September 2002

Vesma Grinfelds, Lithuanian Air Post Issues 1921-1936, Vermeil and American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors Award of Honor.

COLOPEX 2003, Columbus, OH, 14-16 February 2003

G. Adolph Ackerman, Via Red Skies - Development of Soviet Air Mail 1922-1945, Gold and the American Philatelic Society Research Award, Rossica Society of Russian Philately Award, The Edward E. Kuehn Award, The Columbus Philatelic Club Award of Excellence, The Columbus Philatelic Club Research Award, The Columbus Philatelic Club Postal History Award.

G. Adolph Ackerman, Russian Imperial Air Units in World War I, Single Frame Vermeil.

Literature

G. Adolph Ackerman, Soviet Air Fleet/Osoaviakhim Stamps/Labels, Silver.

Roger P. Quinby, The Finnish Philatelist, Vol. 7, # 1-4, Silver-Bronze.