



ROSSICA SOCIETY
OF
RUSSIAN PHILATELY

BULLETIN OF THE ROSSICA SOCIETY OF RUSSIAN PHILATELY

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Society News

Rossica National Meeting in San Francisco, CA in May

ROSSICA's 2004 National Meeting will be held in conjunction with WESTPEX on Sunday, 9 May, from 10am to 1pm. The membership meeting will start promptly at 10am followed by a program to be announced at a later date. This year's meeting is different from past years in that Rossica is not a convening society. This was due to our inability to guarantee a sufficient number of frames for the exhibit. As a result, the Rossica National Award will not offered this year. However, the President's and Member's awards will be offered.

The WESTPEX Stamp Show has moved and the 2004 event will be held at the San Francisco Airport Marriott Hotel. The new dates for the show are May 7-9, 2004. The show will maintain its 300-frame exhibition, dealer's bourse of more than 70 and meeting rooms for the numerous groups that annually participate at the show.

The San Francisco Airport Marriott Hotel is located one mile south of the San Francisco International Airport at 1800 Old Bayshore Highway, Burlingame. There is frequent free shuttle service from the airport as well as connecting to the newly expanded Bay Area Rapid Transit System, known as BART, with service to downtown San Francisco.

Show room rates for the 2004 event start at \$89 plus
(Continued on Page 2)

2003 Election Results

The results are in and have been approved. The officers for 2004-2006 are:

PRESIDENT: Gary Combs

VICE PRESIDENT: Raymond Pietruszka

SECRETARY: Edward Laveroni

TREASURER: Gary Combs

LIBRARIAN: Ged Seiflow

AUDITOR: Web Stickney

DIRECTORS: George Werbizky, Adolph Ackerman and Ray Ceresa

This was the first election to allow members to use e-mail to vote. Members with e-mail addresses were sent their ballots by e-mail and had the opportunity to vote by return e-mail. This option did have some problems with a few members reporting that they did
(Continued on Page 2)

In this Issue

The Czechoslovak Legion	Page 2
Journals on CD ROM	Page 4
Lobachevsky Catalog	Page 4
Membership Dues	Page 4
Russia's New Issues	Page 5

Election Results (continued from page 1)

not receive their ballots. The President followed this up by querying members by email and through the journal. The results of this effort did not produce any other reports of missed ballots. This option will be re-looked at prior to the next elections in 2005. The voting was as follows:

PRESIDENT Gary Combs 57; Ivo Steijn 33
AUDITOR Web Stickney 43; George Shalimoff 39
DIRECTORS G. Werbizky 75; A. Ackerman 61; R J Ceresa 72; and A. Farberov 40

As can be seen only 90 members voted; about 30% of the society. This was better than some elections but still not the level that the society should be. A special thank you to Jim Gorton for volunteering to run the elections.

National Meeting (Continued From Page 1)

local taxes. For hotel visitors and attendees there is plenty of parking at the hotel for \$5.00 per day, as well as free streetside parking in the area on weekends. The hotel has a large generously furnished lobby with a panoramic view of San Francisco Bay and airport. Attendees to the show will have ample space to relax and exchange notes. The hotel offers first class accommodations and services, a breakfast, lunch and dinner at Allie's American Grille, upscale JW Steakhouse and a Starbucks coffee kiosk for coffee and snacks. Seven other restaurants and lounges are within walking distance.

More details and information are available on the WESTPEX web site www.westpex.com or by mail at WESTPEX, P.O. Box 210579, San Francisco, CA 94121-0579.

The Beginnings of the Czechoslovak Siberian Legion

Presented by. Jerry Verner

Mr. Verner presented the following talk to the members at the National Meeting at NAPEX in 2003.

He showed several examples of mail from the Legion during these formative years.

The postal history of the Czechoslovak Legion started long before the Allied efforts to transfer the Legion from Russia to the western front. The Legion was an effort by the Czechs to gain Allied support for recognition of a Czechoslovak State early in World War I. The Czech Legion was established in Kiev Military district on 2 September 1914. It was organized as part of Russian Army and followed its regulations. It was initially staffed with Russian officers and composed of Czech volunteers who were Russian citizens. The Czech Society did the recruitment. By agreement between the Russians and the Czech Society, it was to be a special unit used for propaganda purposes and would serve as occupation troop instead of in combat. By mid-September over 700 men had volunteered. On 5 November 1914, the first Czech Officer was appointed. In December 1914, it was decided to accept POWs as volunteers.

The Legion followed Russian Field Post Regulations, however mail is scarce. The Russian volunteers were mostly semi-literate peasants. The POWs had no one to write to since their families were in 'enemy' hands. As a result, the earliest known example is dated 12 November 1914.

The Russians were slow to form the unit. It was not until April 1916 that the Legion was expanded to a Brigade of two regiments. It was not until after the March Revolution of 1917 that the Legion was expanded to 2 divisions under the command of the Provisional Government. By October 1917, 27,000 had been accepted and the legion expanded to a corp. Things moved fast at this point. The Allies promised the Czechoslovaks an independent state in 1918 and as a result, on 9 September 1918, the Czech Legion Post was established independent of the Russian Field Post.

From this point, the history of the Czechoslovak Legion is well known as it was withdrawn from the Eastern Front and moved east to Siberia where it became a key player in the Russian Civil War.

New Rossica Members

Please welcome the new members.

New members for 2003.

David Potts
2159 S. Alpine
Cornelius OR 97113
USA

James C. Wiseman
10349 West 50 North
Michigan City IN 46360
USA

Mark S. Vainer
1811 S. Quebec Way, #53
Denver CO 80231
USA

Yan M. Gurtovoy
345 N. Pantano Rd., #401
Tucson AZ 85710
USA

Guillaume van Turnhout
Mechelsesteenweg 209
Antwerp B-2018
Belgium

Lenard Tiller
12 Cumberland Close
Epsom, Surrey KT19 9JP
Great Britain

Timothy A. Davis
1600 Barton Drive
Normal IL 61761
USA

Richard A. West
P.O. Box 724
Norwich VT 05055
USA

Valeriy Bepalov
10074 Jeanes St. 1st Floor
Philadelphia PA 19116
USA

Michael G. Strother
4677 Spring Creek Drive
Lexington KY 40515
USA

Maria Sundin
Fyndfilатели, Sockenvagen 375
SE-122 63 Enskede
Sweden

New applicants for 2004.

Scott P. Culclasure
3704 Pinetop Road
Greensboro NC 27410
USA

Timothy J. Comas
11 Golden Eagle Court
Westminster MD 21158
USA

Efim Tsyrvine
Neva Philatelic Box 66
Cote Saint Luc Quebec H4V 1H8
Canada

Igor F. Myaskovsky
6820 Kasota Ct.
Mequon WI 53092-8524
USA

Victor Wasilov
1095 Timberline Place
Alpharetta GA 30005
USA

Paul J. Schupp
9929 Princess Cut Street
Las Vegas NV 89123
USA

Gregory P. Vaupotic
P.O. Box 1807
Wallingford CT 6492
USA

Burton D. Richman
3126 W. Cary St. #401
Richmond VA 23221-3504
USA

Anatoly Chlenov
415 S. Oakland Avenue #12
Pasadena CA 91101
USA

Thomas Berger
Bernstrasse 16
CH-3110 Münsingen
Switzerland

Igor Ryss
 Mihrabat cad. 145/Yamata
 34810Kavacik/Istanbul
 Turkey

Mike Shaver
 2808 W. Azeele St. No. 205
 Tampa FL 33069
 USA

Victor Slonim
 1035 Aspen Way
 Broomfield CO 80020
 USA

the process works and ask if there is a better way to place a reminder on members' calendars.

- Rossica considers the dues year to be January 1 - December 31.
- Dues are \$25 per year.
- Rossica offers a discount of \$5 if dues are paid by December 31 of the year before they are due. For example, dues for 2004 are \$20 if paid by December 31, 2003 (postmarked). After that they are \$25.
- Rossica sends a dues notice with the fall journal to every member. If a member has an email address, we also send the notice electronically.
- Members not renewing by March of the year for which dues are to be paid are dropped from the active roll and do not receive the journals.

Did You Know?

Journals on CD ROM

- Rossica has entered into negotiations with the University of Florida archival division to produce electronic versions of all Rossica journals from issue number 1 to date. There are several advantages to doing this.
- We will be able to offer a complete run on CD ROM/DVD for a reasonable price.
- The information will be available for all to read and enjoy.
- It will reduce significantly the storage requirements for back issues that do not sell.

Lobachevsky Catalog

Ged Seiflow has been reworking the excellent Lobachevsky catalog produced some time ago. He is adding color pictures for the examples used, where possible and enhancing the information. He is not replacing the information!

We are looking at an availability date of July 2004 for the epic work. It will be available in color on CD ROM or in B&W printed. Pricing has not been set as yet. Stay tuned.

Membership Dues

We continue to experience problems with paying annual dues. Our President asked me to explain how

Membership dues are very important. The more journals we order from the printer, the lower per copy cost is realized. The fewer we buy, the greater the cost.

Although the policy has not been voted upon by the officers, we are leaning very strongly towards ordering only the number required for the paid members, exchange copies, and donations, etc. anticipated for the journal. This would mean that if a member pays their dues after the date we order the journal, there would not be a copy for them to have. Stay tuned on this one. We will discuss it at WESTPEX in May.

Current journals on CD ROM

Jeff creates PDF files for all his journals. They are available for \$5 per issue. Starting with the April 2004 issue, members can elect to receive a copy on CR ROM for \$5 in addition to a paper copy or simply a CR ROM version. Every member is entitled to a single copy of the journal in paper *or* CD ROM. Please let us know you wish other than a paper copy.

Russia's 2003 Stamps Program**Issued March 4th**

These are the stamps issued in the first six months of 2003 as reported by Marka, the stamp printing company of Russia.

Issued January 8th

_ 818 The 100th birth anniversary of A.P.Alexandrov (1903-1994), a scientist.
Single 2.50 R stamp



_ 819 The 100th birth anniversary of I.V.Kurchatov (1903-1960), a physicist.
Single 2.50 R stamp

_ 820-821 Research of Antarctica.
Souvenir Sheet with 2 stamps 5 R each

Issued January 19th

_ 822-827 Russia Regions.
Six stamps 3R each

**Issued January 16th**

_ 828 The 10th anniversary of Intergovernmental Communication by Courier.
Single 3R Stamp

Issued February 19th

_ 829-831 Davis Cup 2002.
Two stamps 4R and 8R
Souvenir Sheet with 1 stamp 50 R

_ 832-835 The History of Russia.
Four stamps 8 R each

**Issued March 26th**

_ 836 The 300th anniversary of Petrozavodsk.
Single 3R stamp

_ 837-842 Monasteries of the Russian Orthodox Church.
Six stamps 5R each

**Issued April 15th**

_ 843 The 100th anniversary of Novosibirsk.
Single 3R stamp

_ 844 The 300th anniversary of Baltic fleet.
Souvenir Sheet with 1 stamp 12 R

**Issued April 24th**

_ 845 The 100th birth anniversary of Aram Khachaturyan.
Single 2.50R stamp

Issued May 5th

_ 846 Poster art. "Europe" program issue.
Single 8R stamp



Issued May 15th

_ 847-848 Carillon. Russia-Belgium Joint Issue.
Pair of 5R stamps

_ 849-855 The 300th anniversary of St.Petersburg.
Six 5R stamps
Souvenir Sheet with 1 stamp 50 R



Issued May 20th

_ 856 The 40th anniversary of the space flight of
V.V.Tereshkova, the first spacewoman.
Single 3R stamp

Issued May 23th

_ 857-858 The 300th anniversary of St.Petersburg.
Souvenir Sheet with 1 stamp 75 R
Souvenir Sheet with 1 stamp 100 R

Issued May 25th

_ 859 The World Second Antidrug Congress "The
21th Century Without Drugs".
Single 3R stamp

Issued June 3rd

_ 860 The 1100th anniversary of Pskov.
Single 3R stamp



Issued June 10th

_ 861 The 375th anniversary of Krasnoyarsk.
Single 4R stamp

_ 862 The opposition to the illegitimate incomes
legalization.
Single 5R stamp



_ 863 The 60th anniversary of the Kurskaya battle.
Souvenir Sheet with 1 stamp 10 R

Issued June 25th

_ 864-866 The World Natural Heritage of Russia.
The Virgin Forests of Komi Republic.
2R, 3R , 5R stamps plus label

Issued June 29th

_ 867 The 300th anniversary of the St.Petersburg
Postal Service.

Souvenir Sheet with 1 stamp 12 R

