



ROSSICA SOCIETY  
OF  
RUSSIAN PHILATELY

# BULLETIN OF THE ROSSICA SOCIETY OF RUSSIAN PHILATELY

NUMBER 39

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Winter 2005/2006

## Society News

### **Rossica National Meeting will be at Washington 2006 in May**

The 2006 National Meeting of Rossica will be held in conjunction with the Washington 2006 World Philatelic Exhibition.

Washington 2006 is being held at the Washington Convention Center between Mt. Vernon Place and N Street NW in Washington DC, May 27 to June 3, 2006. The American Philatelic Society is hosting this once every 10-year event. This is the Super Bowl of stamp shows with more than 200 dealers and over 4000 frames of exhibits. Show highlights include five days of philatelic auctions, items from the Queen Elizabeth II collection, the Postmaster General's collection, and three Inverted Jenny airmail blocks. Admission is free.

The day and time of the National Meeting has not been set yet, but we'll get the word out as soon as it is known.

Any hotel near a Metro line is perfect for this show as the Mt Vernon Square Metro Station is both on the yellow and the green line. If you want to be within walking distance, show hotels are still available for \$110-169 per night but are filling up fast. Check the [www.washington-2006.org](http://www.washington-2006.org) web site to make reservations for one of these hotels.

Hope to see you here!

### **2005 National Meeting held at Chicagopex, 19 November 2005**

The 2005 National Meeting of Rossica was held in conjunction with CHICAGOPEX on Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup>. The Society members brought 12 exhibits to the show, one of the best showings of exhibits in years. David Skipton's exhibit, "Military Censorship in Imperial Russia, 1904-1917," was selected as Best Russian Exhibit. The membership meeting was held at 11 AM and a presentation on Temporary Post Offices was given by Dave Skipton at 1 PM.

The 2005 Annual Meeting was called to order at 11:15 AM, Gary Combs presiding. Attendance was down from previous years with only 8 members attending. Gary Combs made the following report on the status of the society.

We are still the largest Russian philatelic society in the West with a current membership of close to 300 world wide. All of the other Russian philatelic societies are suffering from dropping membership and

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## 2005 National Meeting Continued from page 1

the problems associated with it. We are regularly offering our members two award winning journals a year, usually mailed out in April and October. Please note that this is the shipping date-mailing time will determine when you get it. We also provide a bulletin twice a year both on paper and digitally.

The Society has been reasonably successfully in holding down costs by going digital with its publications. The journal is produced completely on the computer with a file being sent to the printer for printing. 24 members have signed up to receive the journal only on CD-ROM. Nearly half of the bulletins are sent out by e-mail or down load from the web site. This reduction in printing and mailing costs, approximately 40%, means that current dues are covering costs and helping the society build up a small reserve. Given this, the Society has no intention of raising dues for the next couple of years despite the fact that the US Postal Service will be raising postage rates in January 2006.

As a Society we are still committed to straddling the world between paper and electrons. Regardless of the availability of digital journals and bulletins, any member who wishes their publications on paper will continue to receive them that way.

We continue to maintain the Library, though it is hardly ever used. Ged S., the librarian, stated that if people want to know what is available on a subject to write/email him and he would send a listing of the material available. Members can get copies of any of the material they need for the cost of copying and postage.

Mr. Combs announced that Mr. Dave Skipton has agreed to become PR Chairman. Mr. Skipton said that he has two short term plans to raise the visibility of the Society. First is to make available a membership pin. These medal prints are reproductions of the original Rossika membership pins produced in 1936. There are also Rossika Coffee Cups. These are now available; see the ad on page 3. The second effort is to publish the History of the Society. The plan is to have it available by Washington Show in May 2006. Mr. Skipton has asked members to help provide him additional information.

Mr. Combs then explained what the Society is not. We don't buy or sell stamps, don't do appraisals, and don't recommend dealers. The goal of the society is to serve as an educational organization for members to exchange information on Russian Philately. But there is more that the Society can do.

We need to provide more information to beginners. More and more members and non-members are asking basic questions. I had to explain to a gentleman at the show how to tell the difference between stamps issued before 1884 and after. The Scott Catalog does not show the difference- but the Gibbon's Catalog does. Its information like this, which we all learned from our elders, that we now have to pass on. We need mentors to help answer these questions. We do this on the Web site, but we need a room monitor to help manage this effort.

We also need to start spreading out the official duties. We need future leaders for the Society to survive. We need more people to volunteer to be officers in the Society. Mr. Anntoly Chlenov volunteered to take over the bulletin. Mr. Pietruszka has been doing it for over 7 years and his current responsibilities at work prevent him from getting the Bulletin out on a regular basis.

Member Michael Black asked a few questions.

Why is the membership list kept secret?

Answer—A list of member's names and e-mail is available by request but the complete list is restricted to protect the privacy of our members. Membership lists have been used in the past to identify homes to rob and to exploit the collector or for SPAM mail.

Why is the Library index not available free on the net or by mail to the members?

Answer---This is a function of its size. The printed index is over four inches thick. And it is not in a format that can be easily converted to a web-based format.

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**New Members**

1863 Kenneth Rhynas  
405 Church Street  
Ottumwa, IA 52501-4214  
USA

1864 Theresa Ryan Friburg  
863 Byron Dr.  
South San Francisco, CA 94080-2102  
USA

1865 Bruce Makas  
23817 S. Glenburn Dr.  
Sun Lakes, AZ 82548  
USA

1866 Gerald M. Knudsen  
308 Quarry St. Apt. 506  
Quincy, MA 02169  
USA

1867 John Cowell  
MacDonald Cottage, Kishorn  
Strathcarron, Ross-Shire N54 8XB  
Scotland  
stampman.cowell@lineone.net

1868 Michael D. Smith  
12001 Tallesin Place, Apt. 21  
Reston, VA 20190  
USA  
msmith1947@juno.com

1869 Alejandro V. Belikow  
Caseros 1583  
B16502AMC-Florida  
Buenos Aires, Argentina  
[abelikow@2vias.com.ar](mailto:abelikow@2vias.com.ar)

1870 Michael Levy  
6C-139 Drake Street  
Vancouver, BC V6Z 2T8  
Canada  
m.r.levy@mac.com

**2005 National Meeting  
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Can we offer a free or deeply discounted membership to Russian Immigrants?

Answer---While we are currently running a small surplus, it is not large enough to support many free memberships. The cost of our publications consumes most of the dues. Other societies have set up funds established with donations to support this type of effort. If this is something the membership wants to do, contact the officers and let us know.

Why don't we have an expertization service?

Answer---The Society did until five years ago but had to shut it down due to lack of use and the loss of our volunteer expertizers. We would gladly reestablish this if we could find two types of volunteers. We need two people to run the service and serve as identifiers and two or three recognized experts who would be willing to render an opinion. Without these volunteers, a service can not be run.

Gary closed the meeting with a call for all members to do more for Russian Philately by writing articles, attending meetings, exhibiting or mentoring a new collector. We all have to work to keep Russian philately healthy and growing.

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Rossica Society znaczki.  
\$10.00 post paid.

Proudly display your affiliation of the Rossica Society with this brand new pin and coffee cup! Both are available in limited quantities! For more information, contact:

Dave Skipton  
50-D Ridge Road  
Greenbelt, Maryland,  
20770 USA



Rossica Society coffee mug with double-headed eagle logo shown above. \$12.50 post paid to USA addresses.

## Temporary Post Offices A Presentation by Dave Skipton

This presentation was given to the membership at CHICAGOPEX. Dave had over 60 slides showing these temporary post office cancels used on a wide variety of postal documents including letters, registered letters, money orders and the like. The following is only a brief overview of the information provided.

A temporary post office is a postal establishment set up for a limited time to provide when a post office is not located near by. Such a function is both necessary and required for a Postal System to be considered update and modern.

In Imperial Russia, such services began to be provided in 1858 and, while never wide spread, were made available annually into the early Soviet period. There were two types of temporary post offices: one-time or special and reoccurring or seasonal.

Special Event Post Offices were opened to support one-time events such as exhibitions, conferences and congresses. These events could last as short as a few weeks to eight-nine months. Mail from these events is scarce to rare. The first such event was the Moscow Polytechnical Exhibition that was open in 1872 to commemorate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Peter the Great. This cancel has been found in both blue and black ink. The next event was the French Exhibition in Moscow in 1891. This event was held during of period of close Russian-French relationships that grew out the need to contain Germany. Its cancel is found only in blue.

The dawn of the new century saw a number of exhibitions in the province promoting improvements in agriculture and industry. The first of these was the Riga Exhibition in 1901 commemorating the 700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the City. This cancel found in both blue and black is one of the most common of these cancels. This was followed in 1910 by the Yekaterinoslav Exhibition. While it cancel is very rare, it is noted by a set of Imperial Postal Cards with pictures of the exhibits on the back. Twelve to fifteen different pictures were prepared in three

different printings. In the same year Odessa also had an exhibition noted for the fact it last almost 2 years. The first Siberian event was held in Omsk in 1911, this being one of the rarest cancel with only one recorded. This was followed in 1913 with the Kostroma Exhibition.

In addition to exhibitions, two conference/congresses are documented with having temporary post office. These were the 12<sup>th</sup> International Physician's Conference in Moscow in 1897 and the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Navigation Congress the following year in St. Petersburg.

This now brings us to the reoccurring or seasonal temporary post offices. There were several different types of these, annual fairs, resorts, dachas, spas, steamships, military camps and artillery ranges. The most famous of the seasonal TPO was at the Great Fair at Nizhni-Novogrod. This annual trade show had been going on for years prior to its first temporary post office being setup in 1858. This fair had a permanent fair ground with stone buildings located along the Volga River. For the three-four months a year it was open, it had a population bigger than the City and its post offices handled more mail in four months than the city post office handled all year long. Unlike most TPOs where only one or two cancels are recorded, this TPO used several types, the challenge being to collect all the types! David showed us the boxed line cancel of 1858, the Dot Cancel of 1859-62, the Double Ring, the Cross Date, Postage Due, multiple office cancellers. The TPO even had it own set of revenue stamps, challenging to collect as a dated set was issued every year. The Fair operated through WWI but was closed during the Civil War of 1917-1921. It was reopened in 1922 using the old Tsarist cancels.

The next area of seasonal TPOs was Resorts, Dachas and Spas. These were locations where the people of the cities went to escape the weather or to "take the cure." Examples from the Kazan Privalshskoye, a river transportation center for river steamships to various resorts and the Odessa Lagoons

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## New Issues of Russia-Fall of 2005

### 60th Anniversary of the Liberation of the Austrian Capital from Fascism by Soviet Army April 13 2005



Designer: Y. Baranov.

Stamps per sheet: 36 (6x6 stamps)

Paper - coated; manufacturing process - offset

Perforation: comb 12; Multicolor, 6 R

Stamp Quantity: 180,000

### NATURE. Russia - Belarus Joint Issue. April 15 2005



Painter: P. Zhilichkin.

Souvenir sheet

Paper - coated; manufacturing process - offset

Perforation: frame 12 x 12½; sheet size 132—68 mm

Spotted Eagle: Multicolor, 5 R

Butterfly (Catacola Sponsa L): Multicolor, 5 R

River Beaver: Multicolor, 5 R

Badger: Multicolor, 5 R

Souvenir sheet quantity: 100,000.

### 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Opening of First Line of Moscow Metro April 25 2005



Designer: Y. Baranov.

Souvenir sheet

Paper - coated; manufacturing process - offset

Perforation - frame 11½ x 12½; sheet size: 90—70 mm

Multicolor, 5 R

Multicolor, 10 R

Souvenir Sheet quantity: 100,000

### Gastronomy: Europa Stamp Issue Program. May 5 2005



Painter: V. Larichkin.

Stamps per sheet: 50 (10x5 stamps).

Paper - coated; manufacturing process - offset;

Perforation: comb 12½ x 12; Multicolor 8 R

Stamp Quantity: 250,000

Sheetlet:

Stamps per sheet: 6 (3x2 stamps).

Paper - coated; manufacturing process - offset;

Perforation: comb 12½ x 12; Sheetlet quantity: 70,000.

**Moscow - Candidate City to Host 30<sup>th</sup> Olympic  
Games of 2012  
May 5 2005**



Painter: V. Beltyukov.  
Stamps per sheet: 36 (6x6 stamps).  
Paper - coated; manufacturing process - offset;  
Perforation: comb 12.  
Multicolor, 4 R  
Stamp Quantity 170,000

**Birth Centenary of M.A.Sholokhov.  
May 20 2005**



Designer: V. Beltyukov.  
Stamps per sheet: 30 (6x5 stamps).  
Paper - coated; manufacturing process - offset;  
Perforation: comb 12; Multicolor, 5R  
Stamp Quantity: 180,000

**"FAUNA" Russia-DPRK Joint Issue  
June 1 2005**



Designer: A. Povarihin.  
Se-tenant  
Stamps per sheet: 3 (3x1 stamps).  
Paper - coated; manufacturing process - offset;  
Perforation: comb 12.  
Multicolor, 8 R

Multicolor, 8 R  
Se-tenant print quantity: 320,000

**Fauna. Insects.  
June 15 2005**



Painter: P. Zhilichkin.  
Stamps per sheet: 1 (1x1 stamps).  
Paper - coated; manufacturing process - offset + Varnish; perforation - comb 11½

Bombus Armeniacus: Multicolor 3 R  
Bombus Fragens: Multicolor 4 R  
Bombus Anachoreta: Multicolor 5 R  
Bombus Unicus: Multicolor 6 R  
Bombus Czarskii: Multicolor 7 R  
Stamp Quantity; 220000 of each

Sheetlet: Stamps per sheet: 6 (3x2 stamps).  
Paper - coated; manufacturing process - offset + varnish; perforation - comb 11½.  
Sheetlet quantity - 70000.

**The 750th Anniversary of  
Kaliningrad  
June 23 2005**



Painter: A. Pletnyov.  
Stamps per sheet: 50 (10x5 stamps).  
Paper - coated; manufacturing process - offset;  
Perforation: comb 12½ x 12.  
Multicolor, 5 R  
Stamp Quantity: 200,000

## Rossica Medallist

### CHICAGOPEX 2005, Arlington Heights, IL, 18-20 November 2005

#### Competitive Exhibits

**Arnold Levin**, "The Russian Mute Cancels of World War I," Gold.

**Vesma Grinfelds**, "Latvian Traveling Post Offices; Rates, Routes and Cancellations," Gold.

**Raymond J. Pietruszka**, "Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic," Vermeil.

**David M. Skipton**, "Military Censorship in Imperial Russia, 1904-1917," Gold, Rossica Award-Best Russian or Russian Area Exhibit and Rossica National Award-Best Russian or Russian Area Exhibit by a Member at the National Show and Military Postal history Society - Best Military Postal History Exhibit.

**Edward J. Laveroni**, "The Postmarks of the Trans-Siberian Railroad, Chelyabinsk to Chita," Gold.

#### Literature

**R.J. Ceresa**, *Postage Stamps of Russia 1917-1923, Forgery Guides, Parts 5, 7A, 12 and 13*, Bronze.

**Arnold Levin**, *The Mute Cancels of Russia, 1914-1917*, Silver, American Philatelic Society Research Award.

#### Non-Competitive Exhibits

**Alfred F. Kugel**, "Allied Intervention in Russia 1918-1925," Court of Honor.

**Alfred F. Kugel**, "Russian Post Offices Abroad in China 1900-1920."

**Alfred F. Kugel**, "The Romanov Tercentenary Jubilee."

#### Literature

**Jeff Radcliffe**, *Rossica Society Journal (2004)*, – Periodicals.

#### Russian Exhibits by Non- Members

**Vito S. Lukosevicius**, "Lithuania Postage Stamps and Covers from 1918-1944," Silver.

**Dzintars Grinfelds**, "The '3-Star' Issues of Latvia, 1923-1933," Youth Gold, Best Youth Exhibit - Chicago Philatelic Society Ralph S. & Better Herdenberg Award and the AAPE Youth Championship Award.

**James Mazepa**, "The Romanovs in Poland." (Non-Competitive Exhibit)

## Temporary Post Offices Continued from page 4

with two locations that had TPOs shown. The largest concentration of these type of seasonal TPO was in the Baltic region, where well-to-do families from the cities, like St. Petersburg, would escape the heat of the summer to places like Ost-Narva, Kurtengof, Pargolovo, Lyesnoye and Shoalovo. Moscow had three TPOs; Sparrow Hills, Pokrovskoye Glyebovo and the infamous Khdynskoye Pole where in 1895 hundreds of people were killed during a stampede during a Coronation event for Tsar Nicholas the Second.

There were also a group of temporary post offices that operated on the Steamships traveling on the White and Bering Seas. These were not the same as the steamship post offices that traveled up and down the rivers during the ice free periods. They were deemed TPOs because they were not used every year and the personal assigned to them were on temporary duty.

That brings us to military camps, called lagers, and artillery ranges. These temporary post offices were established at the annual training camps of the army where that years levies were trained. It should be noted that these were civilian post offices established for the convenience of the officers and the rank and file and not field post offices. These marks are very rare before 1900 but a lot more common after that. These camps were called lagers in Russia and were so noted on the cancels. Cancels for the Lyvloutsky, Vil'na, brest-Litovsk, Murav'ev, Orany, Vladimir, and Skobelev Lagers were shown. The Lager Skobelev was unique in that it was the only cancel that noted that it was a temporary post office.

Related to Lager cancels are the TPOs of the great artillery ranges. Annual practices were the artillery unites would get the opportunity to fire their guns held, in many cases being the only time during the year that they would. These cancels appear to be very rare with only three being recorded at Dvinsk, Luga and Sergiyev.

Dave closed the presentation with cancels from a temporary post office used at Opposed Forces Exercises. These exercises were annual events in which large units, such as multiple divisions or corps with all of their logistical units would maneuver against each other. What makes these post offices special is that while using event type cancels and handling all type of postal matters they were run by the Army using their own Field Post Office personnel.

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### London "The Baltic" Branch Office

Figure 1 shows a lovely Scott 96 2/ 6p stamp with a cancel of the "The Baltic B O/ E.C./Ja[nuary] 26 [18]93". Member Mel Kessler sent this in. This cancel was used in the Eastern Central (E.C.) Office of London, one of the main offices that handled oversea mail. What was the purpose of "The Baltic B.O.?" Did it handle mail to the Baltic Sea or was there a Baltic Shipping Line? Was this a Branch Office that only handled mail to and from the countries around the Baltic Sea; if so, why is this cancel not more common? If any members can help answer these questions please write to the editor.

