



ROSSICA SOCIETY
OF
RUSSIAN PHILATELY

BULLETIN OF THE ROSSICA SOCIETY OF RUSSIAN PHILATELY

NUMBER 40

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Society News

Rossica National Meeting Held At Washington 2006

The 2006 National Meeting of Rossica was held in conjunction with the Washington 2006 World Philatelic Exhibition. This was the largest turn out of people for a Rossica meeting ever. But, of course, what else should have been expected. It was the largest attended show ever.

More concerning the meeting will be published in the next Journal. So, instead we will publish the information concerning up-coming election process, member news, articles of interest and other items that may interest you. Of course, maybe a picture or two will pop-up to interest you as well.

Ballot Counting Process

Since this is the time for the election of new officers, we thought that, because you might not have a copy of the Rossica Constitution handy, that it would be good for you to have an understanding of the ballot distribution and counting process. The only thing not in the Constitution is the timeline. The following explains the process.

The Process

The Treasurer will prepare and send a list of eligible voters as well as members who are not eligible to vote to the Secretary by July 23, 2006. The Secretary will make a copy and send it to the counter of the votes along with the returned ballots.

The Secretary will prepare for the records a list of all nominees. The Secretary will retain an official copy and send a copy to the President immediately after the end of the nomination period. Email is acceptable and the anticipated due date is no later than 4 August 2006. The nomination acceptance window closes on 31 August 2006.

The Secretary will prepare the ballots using a random numbering system as stated below. A copy of which numbers were sent, but NOT to whom, and a list of the unused numbers will be retained for the record. A copy of the list will be sent to the counter of the votes to use while verifying the ballots. The Treasurer will double check the names on the proposed ballot BEFORE the ballots are prepared and sent for eligibility against the list of approved voters (eligible members). The accepted nominees are to be submitted to Treasurer no later than 2 September 2006. The Treasurer has 2 days to review, verify the

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list and return the reviewed list to the Secretary. This

should be accomplished no later than 4 September 2006. Once again, email is acceptable, but acknowledgment of receipt must be made at both ends.

Ballots will be on postcards or letters sent to all eligible members by the Secretary. Self-addressed stamped envelopes or equivalent for the completed ballot Instructions on or with the ballots will tell the member to complete the ballot and return it. The member will not be required to add their name or member number or any other identifying information. If they select to do so, that is their decision and will not invalidate their ballot. The member will be instructed to write on the outside of the envelope "ballot," "vote," or some other word that can be used to determine the letter contains a ballot. Members will be informed that no electronic votes will be accepted. Ballots are to be mailed by 5 September 2006. Allow one week for mailing.

All ballots are to be returned to the Secretary UNOPENED no later than 10 October 2006. At the end of the voting period, the Secretary will prepare a package with all the unopened letters considered a vote letter. Letters without wording indicating it is a ballot will not be forwarded to the ballot counter. The package will be sent to the counter of the votes as certified or registered with return receipt if possible by no later than 13 October 2006.

The vote counter will remove the ballots from the envelopes; verify them against the list of numbers provided as well as the list of names to ensure no person who is not eligible somehow got into the pool of votes.

The vote counter's basic duties are:

1. Make sure none of the letters have been opened
2. Using a provided scheme, determine if the ballots are legal. There will be no association of any ballot to any letter or name or postmark in which it was sent. If the member selected to write it on the ballot, so be it. If a ballot is not legal, remove it and document why. For illegal ballots, retain the envelope and any other information associated with the ballot.
3. Tally the votes for the candidates per the ballots

4. Retain all the envelopes in which the ballots were mailed, except disqualified ballots, which will go forward to the verifying individual
5. Forward the ballots and the results of your tally (retain a copy for the records of all ballots and your results) to a designated individual who will verify the tally and results of your effort. By no later than 31 October 2006.

At no point in time will the vote counter discuss any aspect of his/hers effort with any person. After the elections are over, the vote counter will forward all material to the Secretary for the records.

The verifying individual's basic duties are the same as the counter except that he/she is verifying the results. Hopefully, there will not be any errors. If there are any questionable ballots, a second verifying individual will be used.

Should a problem be encountered, the counter or verifier will notify the Secretary via email. The Secretary will approach the President and work on a solution as required.

The verifying individual will send the results of the election to the President via email and certified regular mail. Additionally, a paper copy of this correspondence will be a part of the package sent to the Secretary for the records by no later than 15 November 2006.

The President will perform one last eligibility check and, assuming no errors, accept the results for the Society. The President will forward electronically his acceptance of the results to the Secretary and request the Secretary notify the winners by no later than 20 November 2006.

Ballot Conformity

1. Ballots shall be numbered from 200 to 999. Random numbers will be deleted until we reach the number of members getting ballots. (251)
2. No record of who got what number will be kept in order to maintain anonymity.
3. All ballots will be mailed at the same time and the date will be posted somewhere for members to check.
4. Ballots shall be returned to the Secretary and held unopened for counting.

5. Ballots shall be checked for possible duplicate numbers or numbers that were not used. Any found shall be disqualified.

President's Message

Please allow me to take this opportunity to express a few thoughts.

First, Ray Pietruszka is to be commended for his years of excellent service as our Bulletin Editor. Please let him know at the first chance you get.

We welcome our new Bulletin Editor, Michael Gutter, with all the warmth we can put together and wish her only success. She has my full support and confidence in that she will serve the Rossica Society very proudly and enhance our visibility in the hobby. Please give her your full support in putting out your Bulletin.

The ballots are out. I highly encourage every member to cast a vote during the election. Please do not think your vote is not important. It always has been and always will be.

Start thinking about the big Pan-Slavic next year in Chicago. It was huge success the last time we had one. As details become available, we will let you know.

WASHINGTON 2006 was a huge success for philately, DC, and Rossica. We paid \$500 for our booth. We were elated that we not only recovered our cost, but put in the coffers a significant amount of money. When the dust had settled, we had added 27 new and returning members and put \$1776.50 in the Treasury. For those who came for the ultimate in a philatelic experience, it was clearly in DC.

Note From The Editor

I appreciate all the fine welcomes and words of encouragement that I have received from so many of you. I hope that I can do you proud.

This is, of course, my first attempt to edit and publish the Bulletin. And it has been a slow process. I have had a lot of suggestions but many of them I will be unable to fulfill without input from you, the reader. For example, I cannot know who won what award at what show unless someone tells me. That is the reason that there is no listing in this Bulletin this time.

However, I do plan some improvements, if time and money allows. First, as you will notice, a new column is started to encourage our members to share basic philatelic concepts with others. This is how we will be starting our new mentoring program. It will be in context with Russian philately but could be used in other areas as well. Second, we plan to publish in color whenever possible. Since I have the means to do the printing myself at a much cheaper cost than the commercial printing companies, we will experiment with this issue and see if you like it. Third, we would like to mail the Bulletin via email as much as possible. This would reduce the cost of reproduction of the Bulletin while providing a better quality product. I can send the Bulletin in either PDF or Word format. All I require is an email from you to know which format you would like. Fourth, I would like to include a picture of new members and old members occasionally so we can get to know one another. Everyone is so distanced from one another that a face to go with a name will help us visualize the people we get know through the Journal, the Bulletin and the web site.

Finally, as the editor, I will take no political stance on any question, so if you don't mind, don't ask. All you will hear from me is that I don't have any opinion even if I do. When I make an editorial comment, it would be related to philately, stamps or my age.

NEW MEMBERS

- 1873 Tony Adams, Tasmania, Australia
pamanddtony@bigpond.com
- 1901 James E. Behrons, Hummelstown, PA, USA
bluespider007@earthlink.net
- 1882 Michael I. Bloom, Portland, OR, USA
mbloom@oshore.com
- 1872 Charles Bromser, South Melbourne, Australia
chabro@optusnet.com.au
- 1875 Wen-Shiang Chen, Taipei, Taiwan
wenshiangchen@ntu.edu.tw
- 1893 Dr. Andrew Cheung, Hong Kong
amtc911@yahoo.com.hk
- 1897 Chuck Fagan, Portland OR, USA
chuck@chuckfagan.com
- 1895 Walter Figel, Castle Rock, CO, USA
walt@figel.org
- 1890 Dana Gioia, Washington DC, USA

Mdg1265@gmail.com

1886 Luis Griff, Jr., Rochester, NY, USA

1885 Roy J. Guenther, Vienna, VA, USA
royeilchr@cox.net



1879 Gary A. Hanson, Saskatchewan,
Canada myrma@shaw.ca

1876 Mark Hurst, Villanova, PA, USA

1899 Vitaly Katsman, Kharkov, Ukraine
Vil1978@inbox.ru

1878 Priit Kivik, Tallinn, Estonia
pkivik@hotmail.com or kivikp@yahoo.com

1894 Edward Klempka, West Yorkshire, UK
Edward.klempka@uk.pwc.com

1877 Alexander Kolyandr, London, UK
alex@koliandr.wanadoo.co.uk

1896 Chris Kulpinski, Scottsdale, AZ, USA
chris@kulpinski.com

1874 Valentin Levandovskiy, Moscow, Russia
levandovski@mtu-net.ru

1871 Thomas Loebbring, Holzappel, Germany
Thomas_loebbring@hotmail.com

1887 Anne V. Milana-Tedeschi Cole, Jersey City,
NJ,
USA

1884 Robert J. Montpetit, Ontario, Canada

1881 Anthony Nikischer, Courtlandt Manor, NY,
USA excalmin@verizon.net

1891 Anatoly Osatinski, Brooklyn, NY, USA
an-imperial@custom-cool.com

1880 Sijtze Reurich, Arnhem, The Netherlands
s.reurich@chello.nl

1900 Clarence C. Rowe, McLean, VA, USA
bulkis69@msn.com

1904 Arnold Ryss, Düsseldorf, Germany
arnoldryss@inbox.ru

1892 Larry Schall, Salisbury, NC, USA
llschal@bellsouth.net

1888 Robert D. Simpson Jr., Roanoke, VA, USA

1903 Bjorn G. Sohrne, Stockholm, Sweden
bjorn_gunnarson@yahoo.com

1883 Ivo Steijn, Arcadia, CA, USA
dr.ivo@ivosteijn.com

1889 Bill Strauss, Big Lake, TX, USA
baagrade@aol.com

1902 Bubnys Vygintas, Vilnius, Lithuania
vygintas-bubnys@xxx.lt

1898 Kent Weaver, Birosboro, PA, USA
kewsr@prodigy.net

Welcome to Rossica! We hope you will enjoy the benefits the society has to offer including the Journal, the Bulletin, the lending library, and the web site. Of course, if you have access to the internet, the Samovar is a great source of information and I encourage you to visit it and post your questions as well and news and discoveries you may have made. We also encourage you to share your collecting interests with others. Help us grow and bring new members into Rossica.

MEMBER IN THE NEWS



Vesma Grinfelds, a San Francisco philatelist, says she wouldn't support direct advertising on postage.

West Coast Chapter member, Vesma Grinfelds, was recently pictured in the San Francisco Chronicle. Both she and her son, Dzintars, are gold medal exhibitors of Latvian and Lithuanian material.

Mentoring Question

A new column is being started with this bulletin. We would like to introduce the mentoring program. This program is to encourage new and beginner collectors to the world of philately and Russian stamp collecting. Passing on our knowledge will allow the other collectors, especially the younger ones, to benefit from what we have learned and also allow the community of Russian philatelists to grow.

The question asked this time was, "How do I tell a lithographed overprint from a typographed overprint?" For mint stamps, the answer is simple although some make it difficult. Turn the stamp over

to the gummed side and look carefully for the impression of the overprint. If you see any of the overprint as though it were embossed into the stamp, the overprint is typographed. This is because the typographic method is an impact process and thus makes an impression on the stamp much like the typewriters did. The lithograph is a roll-on process and does not leave the impact impression. Now if the stamp is used, it is a bit harder to tell. The impact process will leave an outline (heavier ink) around the edges of the overprint whereas the litho overprint is very evenly inked.

This answers the question about typographed and lithographed overprints but does not explain how to determine the digital forgeries of the lithographs. Of course, forgeries of overprints are a subject into itself and can be discussed at a later time.

The Baltic S.O. by Ray Pietruszka

In the last Bulletin, No 39, I posed the questions as to what the postmark on the British stamp shown in to the left referred to and if it has a Russian connection. Several members responded providing information from which the following note was created.



The proper reading of the postmark is 'The Baltic S.O.' and per the British Post Office Guide of 1 January 1886, the complete name of this office was the 'Baltic Coffee House-Telegraph Business only'. It was under the Eastern Central district of London. This being a telegraph office would easily explain its use being found mainly on high value stamps such as the 2s/6d Victorian Stamp shown.

So why did a coffee house have a telegraph office? It seems that in the 18th century, coffee houses in London were some of the locations used as a business venue by shipbrokers. These are the gentlemen who found ships for cargo and cargo for ships. In the early years the Baltic coffee house, was the locations of brokers who did a large amount of business with shipping in the Baltic Sea. So there was a Russian connection before World War I. Over the years the Baltic Coffee House grew into the Baltic exchange located in St. Mary Axe, London EC

as its business grew to include shipping around the world. Despite the fact that most of its business was no longer involved with Baltic Sea shipping the name stuck. An operation of this size would justify a telegraph office in the 19th century.

The exchange was still operating out of its 1903 building until 1992 when an IRA bomb destroyed most of the building. It seems that there was a small post office in operation in the 50s. It has not yet been rebuilt.

Many thanks to members Martin Evans, Charles Leonard, John C. Roberts, Philip Robinson, Norman Banfield and Bill Stoten for provide the information used in this article. And many thanks to Melvin Kessler for providing the stamp and questions.

RED ARMY POW MAIL IN WW2 By George G. Werbizky

Historical background

The Soviet Union did not sign the International Geneva Convention in 1929 dealing with the treatment of prisoners of war by the warring parties and did not ratify the Hague agreements of 1899 and 1907 on rules governing the conduct of the war. In the past, the Russian imperial government ratified both of these agreements. Encyclopedia Britannica (1955, volume 5) states the following: "The first conference was called at the invitation of Count Michael Muravyev, foreign minister during the rule of Nicholas II." In 1907, the conference was again convened by Nicholas II as "suggested" by the US President T. Roosevelt. It is at that conference that humane treatment of POWs was agreed upon by major nations.

By not being a signatory to The Hague and Geneva Conventions, the Soviet Union left the Red Army POWs beyond the pale. Invading German armies did not need additional encouragement to mistreat POWs. In comparison, the death rate of Red Army POWs in German captivity in WW2 was 50 %; the death rate of German POWs and that of their allies in Soviet hands was 47 %; the death rate of Allied POWs in German hands was under 3 %.

The Soviet Union considered its POWs as traitors. On 16 August 1941, the Supreme Army Headquarters issued the infamous order No. 270, which said in part that Red Army POWs are to be destroyed by land or

air forces and their families are to be denied any government subsidy.

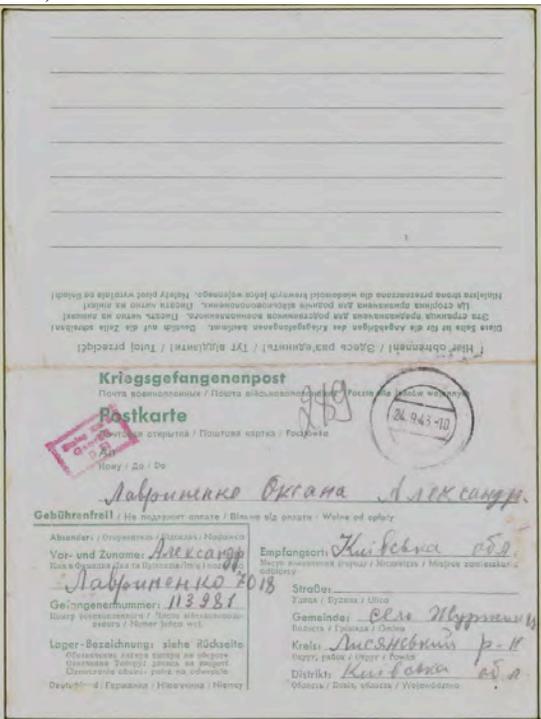
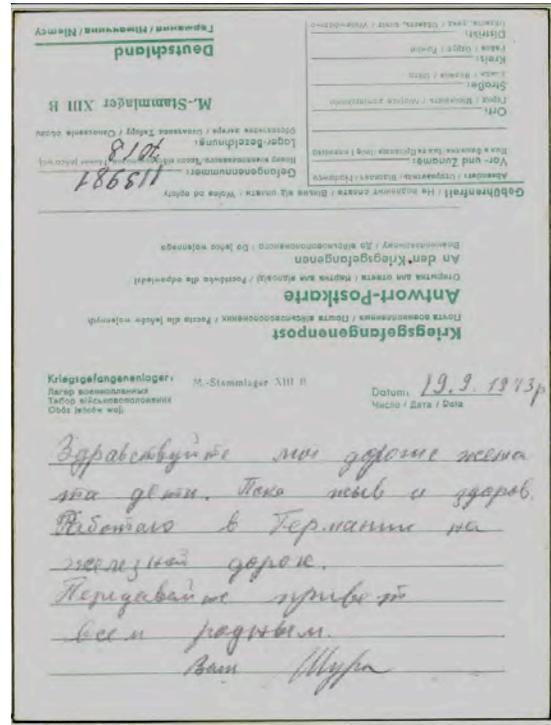
The result was that there was no POW mail sent home of either side. And yet there was mail!

Mail of Red Army POWs in German Hands

In May 1942, German High Command Oberkommando des Heeres decided that limited correspondence for POWs was to be permitted. Since there was no agreement for mail to cross front lines, the mail could be directed only to recipients in the occupied areas.¹ Permission to write home was not universal. It was up to the camp commander to decide which POW could mail a postcard home.

One such card, front and back, is shown in pictures 1 and 2.

¹ R. E. Lütgens, *Fremdarbeiterpost*, Landenhagen, Germany, 2005, in German.



MAPS & POSTCARDS & TRAINS
By Leonard Tamm

In a past *Rossica Journal* (145 of 2005), our respected friend and *Rossica* President Gary Combs showed some postcards picturing Russian postmen carrying mini-pouches that each had a “concertina” of tiny pictures. Some of the postmen shown bore an uncanny likeness to Tsar Nicholas II! Now Gary has always maintained that anything that went “choo-choo” attracted my total fascination,... so I match his “postmen cards” with these – maps and trains!

There are many of these. I show three from my collection. The different railway companies in Russia took every opportunity to advertise, and these postcards – usually in sepia, with the wording Сердечный Приветъ Съ Дороги (Greetings from the Railroad) were available at stations for travelers to use and spread the word of “this wonderful line.”

The joy of these postcards is that they all bear several tiny pictures of great scenes of the line – often the stations. And this is useful because the maps and the pictures often help us in establishing the location of cities, town and even villages

Illustration 1 – Greetings from the SAMARA-ZLATOUST railway. The map is accompanied by tiny pictures (top row) – UFA (street scene), ZLATOUST (coastal view), CHELYABINSK (town

scene) and CHELYABINSK (station and railway). From the left, the remaining four pictures are; 2 street scenes of SAMARA, a luxury passenger liner on the river near SAMARA and the railway at UFA. The postcard, illustration 2, was used from ST(ation) KROTOVKA SAM. ZL. RAILWAY 26-6-1912, arriving at Odessa five days later.

Illustration 1 & 2

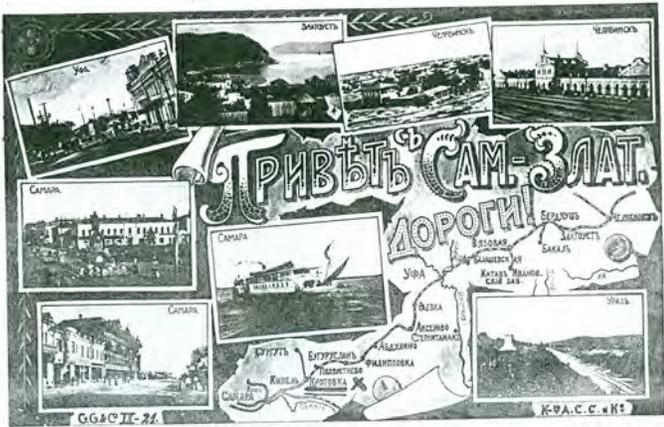


Illustration 3 – MOSCOW-YAROSLAVL-ARKHANGELSK-VYATKA – Greetings from the railway. The pictures down the left side; cathedral at the Archangelsk, river-side scene at Yaroslavl, street scene in Moscow and a view of the Moscow Kremlin. The pictures down the right side; Solovetzki Monastery, street scene in Vyatka, cathedral at Yaroslavl and finally the Moscow-Yaroslavl station in Moscow. Illustration 4 – the card was sent from Yaroslavl Station – pick postmark of the station post office on 31-10-1916, received at Revel a few days later.

Illustrations 3 & 4



Illustration 5 – Greetings from the Chinese Eastern Railway. The picture at the top left shows the station and the railway tracks at Manchuria Station – just over the Russian border into China. The top right picture shows a train standing at the platform of Khabarovsk station. The three pictures on the left side show; a train at the platform of Tzitzikar station in Manchuria, a ship on the river in Kharbin, and a picture, I think, of the railway station at Kharbin. On the right side is a steaming engine and train at

