



BULLETIN OF THE ROSSICA SOCIETY OF RUSSIAN PHILATELY

Bulletin 48

Spring / Summer 2011

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



It's 'fess-up time again, when the officers stand before the Rossica taxpayers and give an accounting of their labors. Quite a few things have happened since RMSS 2010 in May, some of which wouldn't require self-incrimination in the telling of them, so those I'll be happy to share with you.

Publications:

- 1) Appointed a new **Rossica Journal editorial team**, with William Moskoff as Editor-in-Chief, Mike Gutter as Layout & Design Editor and Jeff Radcliffe as Digital Media Editor. The first journal came out in Fall 2010, Rossica's first **all-color issue** (in paper, that is). That journal is now out, so if you have not received it by the time you read this article, please contact Mike Gutter and we'll try to rectify the problem. If you like the product, please let Bill, Mike and Jeff know and thank them for their hard work. They deserve it. And please, **WRITE!** We're always on the lookout for new contributors and groundbreaking articles. If you've got something you want to share but the Muse of Composition refuses your company, we can help.
- 2) Appointed Randy Woodward as **Rossica Bulletin Editor**, to replace Mike Gutter. Randy, a lifelong stamp collector, has been a member of Rossica for over 25 years and is very happy to be able to make a contribution back to the stamp-collecting community in general and to our Society in particular. He's been the editor of *Philamath*, a quarterly journal dedicated to mathematics on stamps, for 30 years, so he brings considerable experience to the table, and we're delighted to have him

aboard. Please welcome him to the job and give him some support with letters to the editor, short articles or translations. While the Bulletin is intended to be the Society's newsletter, that doesn't mean it can't have an article or two.

- 3) From mid-2010 to January, vetted the English text for Vidalion Vinokurov and Alexander Epstein's **FPO handbook**. The project is still ongoing; as of 10 January I am up to page 117. (It looks like the English version will exceed 225 pages.) This work is very impressive for its depth and detail, such that anyone interested in this field will be able to collect and exhibit intelligently. It should be ready for sale to the membership by June of this year, if not before. (The prices have not yet been established.)
- 4) Wrote, co-authored and translated a number of **articles** and a **review** for *Rossica Journals* 155-156 and the *Rossica Bulletin*.

- *Long Way Home, the Hard Way (the Saga of Battleship "Chesma")*.
- *Covers with Khar'kov County Zemstvo Stamps. Little Surprises*, by V. Katsman (translation).
- *One Aspect of Russian Military Censorship Abroad, 1914-1915*.
- *Rossica at the 2010 Rocky Mountain Stamp Show*.
- *Finnish Offices Abroad. In the Soviet Union...*
- *Letters No One Wanted to Receive. Notifying Next of Kin in WWII* (with William Moskoff and Carol Gayle).
- *When Noting the Flight of a Dirigible, There's No Need to Scare the Workers*, by D.B. Valeron.
- *Unknown Rarities of Russian Philately*, by Pavel Pavlov (translation).
- *ROPiT + Odessa RR = R.O.P.T.O.Zh.D.* by V.G. Levandovskiy (translation).
- *Perfins of Imperial Russia and the Russian*

Rossica Annual General Meeting (AGM) schedule:

Rossica's next four AGMs are now finalized. In the past, since we have always had elections every three years, we have been reluctant to obligate future administrations to attend a show that might be a bridge too far for the new officers to accommodate, but given that the 2014 show for which we're penciled in – WESTPEX – and given the fact that we've got a big, active chapter out there, it seems to be a safe bet. The schedule looks like this:

- BALPEX 2011 (a big "Rossica and Baltic States Show" for which we've been promised 150 frames) - 2-4 September, in Timonium, Maryland. (Much more about this as we get closer.)
- NOJEX 2012 - 25-27 May, in Secaucus, New Jersey.
- PIPEX 2013 - 10-12 May, in Portland, Oregon.
- WESTPEX 2014 - 25-27 April, San Francisco, California. Here, we've been allocated 60 frames, but if members get their applications sent in early enough, we could go up to 80.
- 2015 - ? Still open.
- NEW YORK 2016 - 28 May - June 5, in New York. This will be the big FIP-sponsored International in the U.S., and Rossica has every intention of being there. After the great success we had at WASHINGTON 2006, we'd be crazy to miss it.

As you can see from the 2012-2014 shows, we're making a concerted effort to plant the Rossica banner in new places, and I'm pleased to report that NOJEX and PIPEX sought us out and extended an invitation to us. We have a couple of things now working in our favor where shows are concerned, one of them being the success of ROSSICAPEX in 2009 and the other being that although we're not a huge society, we can field A LOT of quality exhibits, which is always attractive to APS-sponsored exhibitions. (Sad to say, the Society's collective wit, verve and sheer good looks appear to have played no role in attracting outside attention. But two out of three ain't bad.)

Preparations for BALPEX 2011.

Arranged for and am currently coordinating Rossica's participation in the "**Rossica and Baltic States Show**" at BALPEX 2011.

Arranging for and helping to coordinate the **Rossica vignette souvenir sheet** (which will incorporate all four vignettes issued since CHICAGOPEX 2007 – design by Bill Dwyer), designed and procured the U.S. postage stamp for Rossica (to be unveiled at BALPEX) and ordered a spiffy 6x9" cacheted envelope being prepared by the Curtises.

Exhibiting.

Established the "**Rossica Fire Brigade**," an exhibiting team, to give Rossica greater exposure in APS World Series of Philately shows. The team, composed initially of Vesma Grinfelds, Ed Laveroni, Nik Sorokin, Steve Volis and yours truly, will have its baptism of fire in February at AmeriStamp 2011. The exhibiting-team idea is fairly new, and credit for it goes to Tony Dewey of the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors. The hope is that such competitions will help induce more people to try exhibiting and sharing their knowledge at exhibitions around the country.

Events other than AGMs.

Helped arrange for Rossica's participation in the **Blount Symposium** 2010 at the National Postal Museum (September 30th), at which three Rossica members (Robin Gates Elliot, Alexander Kolchinsky and William Moskoff) gave well-received presentations. One, two or all of those will eventually end up in the Rossica Virtual Gallery. See elsewhere in this Bulletin for the particulars.

Helped coordinate a visit by Leon Finik to the National Postal Museum (NPM) to view the nation's collection of Imperial Russian stamps (22 November 2010). Leon's input will influence the way parts of it are presented to the public. The visit produced a number of important discoveries, not the least of which was the long-missing fifth "Tiflis" stamp. The result will be a re-visitation of the controversy over the "Tiflis" stamp, either in a separate monograph or an article in the pages of the Rossica Journal (or both), not to mention a report on the visit itself.

Leon was quite impressed with the Imperial part of the collection, which has many rarities in addition to the Tiflis stamp. One of them is a block of four used Russia #1... I am told that the NPM is planning to take digital photographs of the collection and post them, but no deadline has been set.

Shortly after the Blount Symposium ended, Alexander Kolchinsky also got a chance to look over the NPM's zemstvo collection and offer them an overview and brief characterization of what they had. According to

Alexander, it has quite a few covers but they are not in the best of shape.

Other.

Attended the **APS StampShow** in Richmond, VA, helped Ian Sellick and Laura Malytska with Rossica booth-minding chores.

David Skipton

Greenbelt, MD

11 January 2010

Rossica at the National Postal Museum's 2010 Winton M. Blount Symposium
by David Skipton

This particular symposium is a prestigious event sponsored by the American Philatelic Society, the American Philatelic Research Library and the Smithsonian National Postal Museum (NPM) in downtown Washington, D.C. Held on 30 September and 1 October, its theme this year was “Stamps and the Mail: Imagery, Icons, & Identity,” which took a rather different view of stamps, not in terms of what basic function they perform (i.e. paying postage) or the processes by which they are produced (offset, photogravure, etc.) but the underlying messages that the authorities who issue them want to convey by means of their designs. This message “encoding” can and often does have historical, cultural, and political implications, and as the National Postal Museum’s website points out, “[s]tamps, as official government documents, can be treated as primary resources designed to convey specific political and esthetic messages.” Given that the Soviet Union was a state that relied heavily on propaganda to advance its political aims, this particular symposium was made to order for Rossica.

Answering the call for papers were three Rossica members, Drs. Robin Gates Elliot, Alexander Kolchinsky and William Moskoff, speaking on “*Stamp Design in Post Communist Eastern Europe and the Successor States to the Soviet Union*,” “*Stalin on Stamps: Design, Propaganda, Politics*” and “*Soviet Postal Material and State Propaganda, 1928-1945*,” respectively.



Figures 1-2
Part of the NPM’s display of American mail delivery over the years.



Figures 3
Robin Gates Elliot gives her presentation.



Figures 4 – 5

Kolchinsky and Moskoff give their presentations.

A fourth speaker, Andrew Oleksiuk, is not a Rossica member but gave a presentation in a related field, “Contemporary Cultural Attitudes in Ukraine: Using Postal History, Marcophily, and Philately as a Gateway to Historiography and Cultural Memory.”

Their abstracts can be found at <http://www.postalmuseum.si.edu/symposium2010/>, followed by clicking on “Abstracts.” They are quite informative, and I urge readers to visit that site and take a look at them.

This was the largest contingent of Rossica members ever to speak at this event, and their presentations, which were favorably received by the assemblage, are eligible for inclusion in the Smithsonian Institution Press. If their papers are not chosen for publication by the SIP, we hope to be able to print them in the Rossica Journal.

Our congratulations to all, and we owe each one of them

a debt of gratitude for their work and time spent in preparation.



Figure 6

NPM Atrium and a part of the mail delivery display.



Figure 7

On the way into the Symposium. A marble Ben Franklin sells the tickets.

NEW EMAIL ADDRESS

Please note the new email address for George Werbizky:

ggw@stny.rr.com



Figure 8

From left to right: Laura Malytska and Ian Sellick, Alexander and Irene Kolchinsky, Bill Moskoff and Robin Gates Elliot. Ian and two of the speakers are properly attired with the Rossica lapel pin. Robin – NOT properly attired with same – will have to endure scathing criticism and the usual barrage of rotten vegetables. (And yes, the photographer had his pin, too.)

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

I am pleased to accept the position as Editor of the Rossica Bulletin that has been entrusted to me by the Rossica Board of Directors. It will be both an honor and a challenge to produce a Bulletin of the quality Rossica members are used to seeing.

For my first official act, I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Rossica Society to thank Mike Gutter for her many years of outstanding editorial service in publishing the Rossica Bulletin. Her dedication has been greatly appreciated by me as well as the rest of the Rossica community. Mike did a great job as Editor of the Bulletin and with her occasional assistance I will do all I can to ensure the Bulletin continues to be a fine and useful publication.

I am taking the position as Editor with a fair amount of trepidation. I've been a Russian collector for quite some time but I've pretty much stayed in the background, keeping a low profile most of the time. Transitioning to Bulletin Editor will require a radical change in my approach and I expect it will be a bit of a learning

experience for me. So please be patient – and helpful. I am open to all suggestions and critiques.

My goal is to make my transition to editor as seamless as possible. The Bulletin is an instrument facilitating the flow of information from Rossica officers and board members to the general membership. I would like it to also be a conduit for information flow between members.

My goal is to continue publishing the Bulletin in the Spring and the Fall. It will contain the required Society information such as tentative new members, new members, upcoming meetings of Rossica or one of its chapters, summaries of activities at these meetings, (Mike: what else goes here?). This information will come from Rossica officers and board members through the Bulletin to all members of Rossica.

I will also publish activities and achievements of members such as presentations by members and exhibit awards given to members.

Another important Bulletin feature I hope to continue is the question and answer forum initiated by Mike. This forum allows members to ask general questions, specific

questions, or just get some clarifying information. Send your question(s) to me, I will find the appropriate expert, and hopefully get you your answer.

I will continue to publish member – to – member adlets, reviews or comments on articles seen in various journals, translations, and small articles or notes that would be of interest to Rossica members. Thus if you have an interesting stamp, cancellation, or cover you would like to describe, send it to me and I can publish it in the Bulletin.

However to make all this happen requires that I have the information available. And this requires your support. I will need you to inform me of your activities, achievements, and awards. I will need you to send me questions addressed to the general membership. I will need you to send me small notes of interests, translations, small articles, etc.

With your support we will continue the fine Bulletin we have had over the years.

I look forward to being your editor.

Thanks – and cheers!

Randy Woodward,
Oceanside, CA
rswoodward@theriver.com

MEMBER TO MEMBER ADLET

"I am looking for material to complete a study on Lodz postmarks between 1824 and 1914 - types, serials, date of use, etc. If you have any items, please send (full ownership) a 300-DPI scan at 1:1. People sending items will be acknowledged in my work. Thanks in advance. Leszek S. Osródka, Lodz, Poland. Email: ciemiorek.c8@wp.pl"

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to Rossica! We hope you will enjoy the benefits the society has to offer including the Journal, the Bulletin, the Library, and the Website. 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 any 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.

1986 Mordechai Dougatz, Teaneck, NJ
1987 Barry Danard, Killarney, Canada

1988 Craig Grothaus, Mountain Home, AR
1992 Howard Benson, Jr., Aurora, CO
1993 Steven John Pearson, Wheat Ridge, CO
1994 Gregory Frantz, Parker, CO
1995 Richard E. Small, Reston, VA
1996 Arkady Avrorov, Pompano Beach, FL
1997 Mark Waligorski, Levittown, PA
1998 Jay Carrigan, Hendersonville, NC
1999 Mrs. Linda Simpson, Roanoke, VA

The following are our tentative members who will become full members within 90 days unless our regular members provide Rossica a reasonable cause as to why they should not become a full member.

2000 John Macco, Shadyside, MD
2001 Mikhail Alshibaya, Moscow, Russia
2002 Konstantin Kozlov, Pincourt, Canada
2003 Vsevolod Pritula, Moscow, Russia
2004 David Warful, Loudon, TN
2005 John Ciko, Spring Grove, IL
2006 Thomas K. Brom, Lafayette, CA
2007 Eric Balken, Gaithersburg, MD
2008 Christopher F. Grippo, North Brunswick, NJ
2009 Steven P. Ehrhardt, Ithaca, NY
2010 Juris Romanovskis, Riga, Latvia
2011 Jerry H. Miller, Glen Ellyn, IL
2012 Victor Wasilov, Alpharetta, GA

ROSSICA'S 2011 DUES ARE NOW PAST DUE

As of April 1, 2011, anyone who has not paid their Rossica dues is classified as delinquent. Your name will be reluctantly dropped from our active membership database effective April 30th. In order to be reinstated you will have to send \$30 plus any additional money for the postage that applies for Canadian (\$5) or foreign (\$10) postage. The United States is raising its rates, as we feared, on April 17th. While you cannot use our website, you can send your payment via PayPal to sales@rossica.org.

You can also send a check to:

Rossica
% Michael Ann Gutter
PO Box 20305
Carson City, NV 89721
USA.

Just remember that the \$30 applies to the download, the CD and the paper version of the Journal. Next year you will be able to pay your dues at the normal rate if you pay on time. One additional note, if you haven't yet paid for last year, you will need to send an additional \$30.