



# BULLETIN OF THE ROSSICA SOCIETY OF RUSSIAN PHILATELY

Bulletin 52

Spring 2014

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

To Rossica members one and all: Happy New Year Greetings! Last year was a busy year, this year I look forward to even more.

Last year, 2013, was a year of reorganizing. The Society got a new board, one much different than the one elected. You have a new President, Vice President, Secretary, and Journal Editor. Your leadership handled a special election, sales of the Keastlin book and changed the way we make decisions by going to quarterly officers meetings instead on one annual meeting and a lot of e-mail. Well we still have a lot of email but we get to talk with each other a lot more often.

We have initiated a more open means of communications between members by making available the names and contact information of fellow members of like interest who want to interact with other members. The board also agreed that the Society's 2016 meeting will be at the National Show in New York and we have paid our initial fees. We had our annual meeting at PIPEX, which was a good show for those who did attend. We even have started to develop procedures to improve our Society's presence at national shows.

This year, 2014, I intend to continue working with the officers to improve the services provided to our members and start to find ways to increase collector's involvement with Russian Philately. This year's national meeting is at WESTPEX at the end of April. WESTPEX is always a great national show and I am happy to report that over 90 frames of Russian material will be on display! The Northern California chapter of Rossica is going all out to make this a great meeting of the Society. They are supporting a hospitality suite and working hard with the Show committee to insure we are treated like boys. If you can, attend the show if only to see the exhibits and say hi to the Society representatives at the table.

The board is working on several services for the members. One that should start this year is an identification service. This service, while not a full fledge expertizing service, will provide members a place to get stamps and cancels identified and help them with sorting through their unknown items. The board is also studying the feasibility of improving the look of the journal, if the costs work out. We'll provide a more complete rundown at the National meeting at WESTPEX that Saturday.

We still have a lot to do. We have great officers, very active members, amazing researchers and writers but we don't have enough. Our attempts last year to find new volunteers was a failure. Our Society does not have a backup team of volunteers who can step up and replace officers who leave. That was one of the main reasons it took so long last year to fill the vacancies in the Board. I know in past years some of the officers were very good at pushing people away, I might even have been part of that problem, but most of those officers have moved on and it's time for the next generation to start moving in. But there is progress! There are several members who have stepped forward and become active in the running of the Society and their enthusiasm is encouraging. We must nurture this and if we do, the Society will continue to be the Western world's Premier Society for Russian Philately!

Raymond J. Pietruszka  
President

## URGENT CALL

Dear Philatelists!

After receiving a gold medal at the International Show in Brazil, my 8 frame exhibit entitled "Travelling Post Offices of Latvia: Rates, Routes and Cancellations" has been "lost or stolen" in the United States Express Mail Postal System.

The 128 pages were comprised of approximately 75 tsarist era TPOs with route numbers relating to the territory which is now Latvia, about 200 Latvia (1919-1940) TPO's on

cards and covers with all route numbers complete and about 30 TPO's from the WWII German Occupation Era to 1944. Included were, of course, rare and unusual items, as well as, discovery copies and earliest known usages. About 50 items were postage dues with many being TPO postage due markings (as shown in my monograph which you published).

Also, missing/lost or stolen, is a one-frame traditional exhibit of the Map Stamps of Latvia which had 8 pages of proofs, errors and varieties and about 20 covers and cards showing usage of this 5-kap stamp.

Both exhibits were in the same box posted back to me in San Francisco from Ohio by the US Commissioner. All pages are/were in protective Mylar pouches.

If such material is offered or found, please contact me at: [dzvesma@sprintmail.com](mailto:dzvesma@sprintmail.com) This is a sad loss to Baltic philately.

Vesma Grinfelds

## **MINUTES OF THE TELECONFERENCE OF THE ROSSICA SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS November 17, 2013**

In attendance: Ray Petruszka, presiding; Michael Gutter (joined at 3:00 Central time); Alexander Kolchinsky; Greg Mirsky; David Skipton; Nik Sorokin; Jeff Radcliff.

The meeting was called to order by RP at 2:05 Central time.

1. The question was raised how the minutes of the previous meeting should be made public. After discussion, it has been decided to post it on the Rossica web site for members only (protected by password) and publish it either in the Journal, or in the Bulletin, whichever appears first.
2. Special election results. AK reported that he received the results, which included 60 votes cast for Charles Rehwinkel with one abstained and one write-in for Alexander Kolchinsky. The results were approved.
3. AK reported on the results of the "Sharing Information" survey. The "Sharing list" has 42 names. Of those 42, twelve did not provide any information about their interests. Nine have no emails. From his experience as the Librarian, GM encourages inclusive policy towards members without emails: they are often willing to have contacts with other members over the phone or by regular mail. Mr. Lovitz proposed in the future a) not to send election bulletins together with questionnaires and the likes; b) to enclose return envelopes for answers; and c) to shorten the time for vote from 45 days to, say, 30 days. The board unanimously agreed that a) combined mailing will not

be used in the future; b) that no return envelopes are necessary; and c) that 30 days is enough for collecting votes.

4. The results of the election and appointment of NS as Journal editor will be published by default in the Journal and will appear on the web site and in the Bulletin.
5. RP is venting George Shaw as the membership chairman to help AK who is currently working in this capacity. This position must be filled to have a presence at WSP shows.
6. Kaestlin book. DS reported that Smithsonian publishers apparently work on a digital version of the book, which would be detrimental to our sales. Rossica has 136 unsold copies. Measures were discussed to promote sales during the holiday season, including free shipping till the end of the year.
7. AK: We need to get ready for WESTPEX-2014. RP will contact Randy Woodward to place the announcement in the Bulletin; will contact George Shaw in order to send postcards to local members (residing in California); will take care of the prizes to be awarded by the Rossica Society. Discussion ensued about filling 60 frames assigned for Rossica exhibits. RP proposed to repeat his "Romanovs" presentation since the attendance in Portland was so low. After a brief discussion, it has been decided against any additional lectures or seminars, as they had not been effective as promotional tools in the past.
8. Expertizing options include "Quick look" service by email (CSA does it for \$3) or full service with certificate that will require a manager and a group of experts. The Board decided to keep looking for volunteers to coordinate the "Quick look" and later possibly the full expertizing process. The coordinator would be responsible for sending an invoice on behalf of the Society and either will do the job, or will find an expert and forward the scans to him or her.
9. AK: Do we need to change the By-Laws to make appointed officers eligible for vote at the Board meetings? DS: it is and should be up to the President. RP will prepare an explicit amendment allowing the President to determine the voting eligibility of appointed officers.
10. Collaboration with other Russian philatelic societies. RP: The question is if we cover those areas of interests that are better covered in other philatelic periodicals because, for instance, we don't have enough members involved in these areas. NS, GM, and AK proposed to add a permanent section reviewing current periodicals and books published in Russia and in other languages. In addition, some articles could be posted on Rossica web site. GM proposed to add selected original Russian articles to the Journal; the majority opposed

this idea because only a small proportion of the membership reads Russian. AK proposed to add a section to the journal analyzing major auctions and philatelic aspects of the markets of Russian material. It has been agreed to keep it strictly philatelic. GM proposed to clearly announce the deadline for Journal submissions on our web site; this has been approved unanimously.

11. AK proposed to clarify how to deal with returning members: how to charge their dues, send them missed issues of the Journal, assign member numbers, etc. MG: back in 2011, during the BALPEX show, it had been decided to charge those members who missed two years or less a \$20 fee on top of membership dues. It would be much easier for everybody to admit these applicants as full members after the approval of the Board without publishing their names and without going through tentative status. Members agreed that the By-Laws should be clarified as to how to handle these situations, and MG volunteered to write the corresponding amendment.
12. Treasurer's report and Auditor's report. DS questions how the money listed as bank deposits (about \$5,100) could be counted as a profit. MG: this refers to income from Kaestlin book sales, should be taken out and added to \$943 received from the sales of other publications. GM: The report only covers the period up to August 1, 2012. What is our fiscal year? MG: this is a partial report and it should be revised. RP: What is our current fiscal situation? MG: We have approx. \$2,900 in checking account and approx. \$7,000 in saving account. It is below the amount we should have expected after the completion of the Kaestlin project, and I have to go back and revise our returns from that project. The Board put forth a formal request to the Treasurer to revise our accounts and produce a full report covering the time period till December 31, 2013, by the next meeting.
13. NS raised the question of the price of the Journal for third party subscription services. MG proposed to charge \$45 per year plus postal expenses at cost, which was approved. Digital version will not be distributed to non-members.
14. After a brief discussion, it has been unanimously decided to participate in the world Stamp Show – NY2016 at sponsor level (\$250).
15. NS: How long does it take between sending an electronic copy of the Journal to MG to finish the mailing? MG: A month and a half.
16. The Board decided to have the next teleconference in mid-February.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15.

## **NEW MEMBERS**

We welcome the following people to full membership in ROSSICA.

- 2028 David B. Cole, OR
- 2029 Lewis Kellert, M.D., MD
- 2030 John Abrams, NM
- 2031 Andrey Averkiev, Russia
- 2032 Ron Bergstrom, CA
- 2033 Andrew Woycitzky, CA
- 2034 Ron Matteri, CA
- 2035 Jonathan Topper, TX
- 2036 Igor Grigorian, CA
- 2037 Valery Zagorsky, GA
- 2038 Marco Gasparinetti, Italy
- 2039 Marius Holt, Norway
- 2040 Yuri Obukhov, Russia
- 2041 Dr. George Plotkin, TX
- 2042 Marcelo Cruz, WI
- 2043 Michael Kushnerenko, Canada
- 2044 Dave Tribe, Canada
- 2046 Gerard York, FL
- 2047 Hugh Lawrence, CA
- 2048 Leonid P. Beck, Washington, DC
- 2049 Howard Wunderlich, NY
- 2050 Albert Aldham, PA
- 2051 Tris Nermina, Canada
- 2052 Mikhail Yakhkind, MA
- 2053 Terrence Shawn Tarlton, OH
- 2054 Stuart Levene, MD
- 2055 Venera Gilmore, WA
- 2056 David C. Clayton, UT

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.

## **PROPOSED NEW MEMBERS**

There are no proposed new members as of this writing.

## **WESTPEX 2014**

ROSSICA's national meeting will be held this year in San Francisco at WESTPEX on Saturday, April 26. WESTPEX is always a fantastic national show and as of this writing there will be over 100 frames of Russian material on display.

The General Meeting of the Society for all members will be held on Saturday. The meeting will be followed by George V. Shalimoff's presentation of *Russian-American Relations Depicted on Postal Material*. There will also be a tour of the Russian exhibits on Sunday at 11:00 guided by the attending exhibitors.

Go to [www.westpex.com](http://www.westpex.com) to see a complete itinerary of activities at WESTPEX.

This is a great opportunity to meet with other ROSSICA members, add to your collection, and see world-class exhibits of a wide variety of Russian material. Hope to you see there!

## EXHIBIT AWARDS

**Hy Lovitz** was awarded a Silver Medal at NOJEX 2012 and the Novice Award for the best exhibit by a first-time presenter for his exhibit *The Semi-Postal issues of Imperial Russia - "The Charities" of 1905, 1914 and 1915*.

**Igor Myaskovsky** was elected as a Foreign Member of the *National Academy of Philately of Russia*. This is prestigious honor since many Academy members are well known Russian philatelists.

(<http://www.rusacademfilately.ru/spage/no/membership/>).

**Jerry Miller** received four exhibit awards (3 Gold and 1 Vermeil) in 2013.

1. Minnesota Stamp Show 2013. 7 Frames. *Watch on the Rhine: The American Occupation of the Rhineland 1918-1923*. Vermeil Award, APS Research Award, GPS Special Prize.
2. APS STAMPSHOW. 10 Frames. *The Evolution of 'Via Siberia' Mail ... 1899-1945*. Gold Award.
3. APS STAMPSHOW. 10 Frames. *From Hinrichsen to Micheliuss ... The Wilhelmian-Era Experimental Machine Postmarks of Germany 1866-1914*. Gold Award, Machine Cancel Society Award.
4. FLOREX 2013. 8 Frames. *German Post Office at Shanghai 1886-1917*. Gold Award

**Vesma Grinfelds** won five Gold medals awards in 2013.

1. SEAPEX Gold for *The Slogan Handstamps of Latvia: 1936-1940*.
2. PIPEX Gold for: *Latvian Travelling Post Offices: Rates, Routes and Cancellations*
3. AmeriStamp Expo Gold for: *Handcrafted Provisional Cancellations of Latvia: 1919-1920*
4. NAPEX Gold: *Handcrafted Provisional Cancellations of Latvia: 1919-1920*
5. BRASILIANA 2013: Gold for *Latvian Travelling Post Offices: Rates, Routes and Cancellations*

Vesma also received 77 points for her single frame exhibit *The First Stamp of Latvia: Printed on Maps*

**Vitaliy Katsman** received two medals, one in the Traditional Class and one in the Literature Class:

1. Brasiliana 2013 (Rio de Janeiro, 11/19-25/2013) world exhibition (92 points) for her exhibit *Zemstvo postage stamps of Kharkov province* in the traditional class.
2. Brasiliana 2013, a Vermeil for her book *The Kharkov province Zemstvo post 1868-1918* in the literature class (82 points).

**Alexander Kolchinsky** received a Gold at PIPEX and a Gold at CHICAGOPEX for his exhibit *Stalin on Stamps, Covers, and Postcards*. He also received a Vermeil in MILIPEX 2013 (Milwaukee, an APS show) for his exhibit *The Mail of Leningrad Blockade*.

**Yuri Obukhov** received a Gold Brasiliana 2013 (Rio de Janeiro) for his exhibit *The History of Zemstvo Posts of the Perm Governorate (1880-1920)*. He received another Gold in Melbourne for his exhibit *Zemstvo stamps of Perm governorate (1871-1919)*

**Igor Grigorian** received a Silver for his exhibit *Pre-Christian Armenia and Temple of Garni*. His exhibit was also voted the Most Popular Exhibit and won the ATA 1st Award.

**Valentin Levandovsky** won several awards. He won a Gold in Australia for his 8 frames of *Development of Advertisement on Russian Mailings*, he received another Gold in Thailand for is 5 frames of *Service Marks, Postmarks and Labels on Mailings Sent via Russian Railway Post Offices*, and he won a large Vermeil in Brazil for his 5 frames of *Railway postmarks of the RSFSR and Russia*. And congratulations to his 11 year old son Kirill Levandovsk who received a Large Silver for his 3 frames of *The War of 1941-1945 through the eyes of Children*.

**Andrew Cheung** received a Large Vermeil for his 5-frames at FIAP Sharjah 2012 (November 2012). He also gave a non-competitive display at the ROSSICA 2013 show in Moscow in September/October of (i) *Imperial Russian Post Office in China - the Overprinted Issues* and (ii) *Imperial Russian Postal Stationery used in China*. He submitted these exhibits to 3 FIP shows but both were rejected because he was in Jury for all 3 shows!

**Ed Laveroni** was in the Champion of Champions at the APS Stamp Show 2013 in Milwaukee for his 8-frame exhibit *The Trans-SiberianRailroad, Chelyabinsk to Manchhuriya*. Ironically he won the Gold and Grand at MILCOPEX 2012 which was in Milwaukee. He won a Gold at the APS AmeriStamp Expo 2013 with his one frame *St Petersburg-Moscow Railway (Nikolaevskaya Railway)*. Also, he won a Gold at the FIP Australia 2013 for his *The Trans-Siberian Railroad, Chelyabinsk-Manchhuriya*.

**David Skipton** entered two exhibits at PIPEX 2013 in support of the Rossica Annual Meeting. He received a Reserved Grand, Gold award for his 8-frames of *Watchmen at the Gates* and a Gold plus the APS Research Medal for his 8 frames of *Muscovy's Mayflies*.

**Bill Perdomo** earned a Vermeil at NORDIA 2013 for his exhibit *The Romanov Tercentenary and Subsequent Issues*.

**Ray Pietruszka** earned a Vermeil at the Southeastern Stamp Expo for his exhibit *Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic*

**Ross Marshall** earned Large Gold and a Grand Award at HUTPEX 2013 for his exhibit *Russia Insured Mail*. He also won a Gold 93 at Australian FIP exhibition.

**Bogdan Pelc** earned a Large Vermeil at IPHLA 2012 – the International Exhibition of Philatelic Literature for his exhibit of the 343-page catalogue he and Vladimir Dudarev created. The title of the catalogue is *Postage Stamps of USSR Special Catalogue of Plate and Print Errors and Other Varieties 1961 – 1991*.

## MEMBER NOTES

\* ROSSICA member **John Macco** is looking for articles on Russian Space Philately. Please send information and inquires to him at [johnmacco007@comcast.net](mailto:johnmacco007@comcast.net).

\* Long time ROSSICA member **Misha Ercolini** sent in a note on two recently published articles that might be of interest to Russian collectors. Both articles appeared in *Topical Time*, *The Journal* published by the American Topical Association. The first appeared in Sept.-Oct 2012 and covered the City Post Stamps of Luboml, 'a thriving market and commercial center, approximately 200 miles southeast of Warsaw.....under Russian rule.'

The second article was in the Sept.-Oct. 2013 issue of the journal and covered the Second Yessayan Issues of Armenia.

The editor of *Topical Time* can be reached at [wystamps@gmail.com](mailto:wystamps@gmail.com)

\* **Michael (Misha) Ercolini** also notes that *The Chronicle of US Classic Postal Issues* is running a substantial and detailed article: *United States-Russian Mail: 1840-1875*, by Richard F. Winter, in two parts. Part 1, *Bremen Mail*, *British Mail*, *Prussian Closed Mail* appeared in the Feb. 2014 issue. Dwayne Littauer [[dl@kullmanlaw.com](mailto:dl@kullmanlaw.com)] is the Foreign Mails editor.

**Michael (Misha) Ercolini** published an article on this topic in *Pochta* in January 2005.

\* The last Bulletin (Fall, 2013, #51) included a note about the misspelling of Benjamin Franklin's name on Scott #1875. Rossica member **Matthew Kahane** suggests that Soviet authorities were using the Russian form of Benjamin, namely Вениамин, or Venyamin, which does start with a V.

## TRANSLATING SERVICES

\* **Matthew Kahane** has offered to translate articles into English from Russian, Polish, French, or Italian. This is an incredible offer, one that could easily keep him quite busy. He can be reached at [matthewkahane@yahoo.com](mailto:matthewkahane@yahoo.com)

## MEMBER QUESTION CORNER

\* **Michael (Misha) Ercolini** asks this question. Scott 31a of Offices in Turkey is listed only as unused. The attached photo of the stamp is a used copy with a very light cancellation, unfortunately difficult to make out. The stamp was sent to the APS Expert Committee in September 1989 and they declared the "stamp was genuine in all respects."

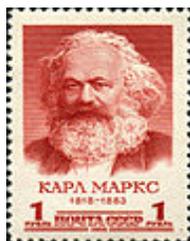


They added a note that the "stamp is not the dark variety nor is the overprint dark carmine." This suggest they were convinced the overprint was made on the yellow green Scott No. 56 and not the dark green Scott 56a and that the overprint is red and not carmine. Does anyone know of have other examples of this inverted overprint stamp in used condition? If so, why aren't they listed in catalogues?

\* The previous ROSSICA Bulletin asked if there was a list of people on Russian stamps. ROSSICA member **Sergey Spivakovsky** points out that there is such a list in the Soviet catalogue of 1918 – 1974 stamps, published in Moscow by Souzpechat' in 1976. There is a general list of names in alphabetical order with the references to stamp catalog numbers. There is also a list without names of famous people combined by their profession, like writers, composers, scientists, etc. The lists are in Russian.

## MARX AND MATHEMATICS

by Randy Woodward



Karl Marx



Friedrich Engels

Karl Marx was a philosopher, economist, sociologist, historian, journalist, revolutionary socialist – and an avid and skilled mathematician. His early mathematical training was at the Gymnasium of Trier, the Rhineland city where he was born. At graduation, in 1835, his knowledge of mathematics was considered adequate. There are no indications that he pursued mathematics before 1848, the year he and Engels developed their outlook on the world.

The first indication that he again became interested in mathematics is from the period he lived in London. In a letter to Engels of Jan 11, 1858, Marx wrote

*“During the elaboration of the economic principles I have been so damned delayed by computational errors that out of despair I undertook a quick scanning of the algebra. Arithmetic was always alien to me.”*

From this point on, until his death in 1883, Marx showed continued interest in mathematics, often returning to it as a diversion during his many days of illness. However his level of his effort – and accomplishment – was more than a diversion

### Background

Isaac Newton and Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz independently invented calculus at the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. However the foundation of their calculus was on very shaky mathematical grounds. Essentially ‘the’ calculus was based on numerical ‘ghost’-like quantities (*fluxions* by Newton and *infinitesimals* by Leibniz) that were both zero and not zero, whichever was needed at the moment. They were not zero when a quantity had to be divided by them (division by zero is not allowed) yet they instantaneously became zero after the division, at the final step of the calculations.

Mathematicians were well aware of this problem. Two of the most prominent mathematicians of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, Jean le Rond d’Alembert (1717 – 1783) and Joseph-Louis Lagrange (1736 – 1813), developed two different methods

they thought eliminated the ghost-like quantities and therefore solidified the foundations of calculus.

Unfortunately each of their methods introduced their own foundational problems.

### Marx’ Mathematics

This is the status of calculus as Marx saw it when he began his serious study of calculus. Marx studied ‘the’ calculus from textbooks that were all written under the direct influence of the great mathematicians of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries: Newton, Leibniz, Euler, d’Alembert, and Lagrange.

He dissected these texts in minute detail, challenging each and every step. He wrote copious notes to himself, intent on understanding the foundational problems.

Marx wrote *On the Concept of the Derived Function* in 1881. Here he set out the very basic and intricate mechanics of calculating the derivative. In particular he showed how to find derivatives of the functions  $y = ax$ , a cubic function, a functions of the form  $y = ax^m$ ,  $y = a^x$ , and  $y = \sqrt{a^2 + x^2}$ ,

However Marx was interested in more than the mechanics of calculating derivatives. He wanted to understand the *process* of differentiation itself. To this end, he developed differentiation methods that satisfied his requirement of utmost clarity of thought in interpreting a formal theory. In the end, his methods were very similar to those of d’Alembert.

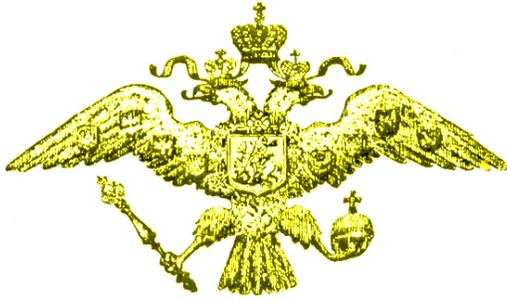
In the later days of his life Marx cast some reflections concerning differential calculus on paper and sent them to Engels, explaining that on the surface his work appears very theoretical but in then may be very useful for Hegel’s work on military applications.

A portion of a letter of Aug 18, 1881, from Engels reads

*“Yesterday I found at last the courage to study your mathematical manuscripts even without reference to textbooks, and I was glad to see that I did not need them. I compliment you on your work. The matter is so perfectly clear that we cannot be amazed enough how the mathematicians insist on mystifying it.”*

Marx wrote over 900 pages of notes, clarifications, and his own thoughts. A transcript of his works can found at <http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1881/mathematical-manuscripts/>

On the quality of Marx’ mathematical work, the eminent math historian Dirk T. Struik states *“Marx’ opinions on the origin of the calculus demonstrates that publication of his other mathematical manuscripts is also desirable”*.



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