



THE SOCIETY OF RUSSIAN PHILATELY

Bulletin 57, Summer 2016

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President's Message

Rossica members and friends, just a quick note to let you know that New York was a success for Rossica!

Despite the usual morning chaos at the start of the show on Saturday, activities went very well the rest of the day. Through determined efforts by Steve Volis and Nik Sorokin, the booth was quickly stocked and set up. The crowd was large and friendly, and it was so nice to meet all of the

members who came to New York.

We had our membership meeting that afternoon. It was extremely well attended with an informal head count of 58. This, I believe, is one of the largest meetings we have had since the 1960's. The meeting included reports from the officers, our annual awards, and a program. Good news is that the Society is growing steadily, having nearly 270 members before the show started. Plus our treasury is still in good shape.

The Library continues to grow, and our Journal is receiving both national and international recognition. An additional improvement is that Steve and Nik have been aggressively seeking advertising for the Journal, and that is bringing the cost of the Journal printing down. We have also established a committee to develop an expertizing service, possibly in collaboration with one of the commercial services.

The awards went to Nik Sorokin and Leon Finik for the Best Journal article published in 2015 (*History of two Ardatov zemstvo posts*), and Nik received the Service Award for his efforts as the Journal Editor over the last few years.

In their program presentation, Dave Skipton and Steve Volis spoke about the dot postmarks used by the Soviets in their Censorship efforts based on their new book on Soviet Clandestine Censorship. It was delivered in English with full Russian translation, as there were nearly 20 native speaking members and guests in attendance.

Saturday night we gathered again for a great dinner at one of the better restaurants in New York, the Ocean Prime. Twenty members, wives, and friends attended for great food and interesting conversations. For the record, we did try and go to a Russian restaurant, but they either didn't make the grade or were too small to accommodate our group.

The rest of the show can be summed up in one word: WOW. There was more to be seen than could be viewed in a week and I couldn't do it in two days. The exhibits were amazing: over 4100

frames, yes frames. The Russian material was just awe inspiring. The first issue, Railroad postmarks, zemstvos, and so much more. You quickly went numb. Our members received quite a few awards – below is a listing of the awards.

Next year's national meeting of Rossica will be at SESCAL in Los Angles in October 12-15, 2017.

Ray Pietruszka

Officers' Reports

Treasurer Steve Volis noted that he does not anticipate any significant changes in the projected budget for 2016. With full support of the Board, he made sure that membership dues for 2016 have been paid on time. Thus, a total of \$8,865 of dues has been collected.

Additional income consists of donations (\$420), advertising in the Journal (\$1,250), and the award that the Rossica Journal received in Christof Gärtner competition (\$700). It makes a total income of \$11,235.

Our major expense is the printing of the journal (a total of \$7,000 for two issues). Other expenses include library subscriptions and acquisitions (\$800), insurance (\$620), and minor expenses (web site hosting, various postage and shipping, additional printing, and purchase of awards) in the amount of \$400. Thus, our total expenses are expected to be \$9,210, leaving our finances for the year firmly in the black.

Secretary and Membership Chairman Alexander Kolchinsky reported on his responsibilities. He organized and recorded meetings of the Board which are now held quarterly via teleconferencing; maintained relationships of Rossica with philatelic organizations, shows, and publications; as the Membership Chairman, compiled, constantly updated, and distributed the "Information Sharing List" among participating members. In the end of his previous term in 2015, he

organized the election of the new Board. The election was delayed because of poorly maintained database and financial records. This problem has been resolved through close collaboration with the Web Master Jeff Radcliffe and newly elected Treasurer Steve Volis.

Alexander noted the need to have volunteers ready to back up the work of current officers. It will secure the functioning of the Society in case of personal emergencies.

Librarian Greg Mirsky reported on his work that includes maintenance of the library, fulfillment of literature requests usually via electronic communications, and reference service. Besides his regular work with Rossica members, Greg often has to deal with a variety of inquiries coming from non-members. In addition, Greg agreed to participate in the planned expertizing service.

Editor Nik Sorokin spoke about the success of the Journal in its new format both among our membership and in competitions. He ascribed this success not only to greatly improved quality of printing and binding, but to his policy of increased diversity of material. Nik encouraged members to submit materials of various length, including letters to Editor, and on topics going beyond traditional philately – topical, ephemera, revenues, social philately, etc.

New Applications to the Society

We welcome the following new applicants with Tentative Membership into the Rossica Society. If there are no objections from the membership, they will become full members in the Society:

2105 Vitalii Lysenko	Russia
2106 Dr. Susan Smith	Washington, DC
2107 Mikhail Urievich Lapushkin	Russia
2108 Dr. Alexander Krugljakov	Germany
2109 Lonnie Gene Buss	MO
2110 Alexander Mramornov	Russia
2111 Aristide M. LaVey	OR
2112 Dr. Wilhelm Grundmann	Germany
2113 Michael Biel	KY
2114 David Schuessler	NJ
2115 Igor Zlatkin	MA
2116 Igor Kirzhner	Ukraine
2117 Captain Vladimir Y. Boyko	Ukraine
2118 Peter Woieslagle	NY
2119 Casey Palowitch	PA
2120 Danny Kin Chi Wong	Hong Kong, China
2121 Ben Shoichet	NY
2122 Myron Palay	OH
2123 Gregor Gätjens	Germany
2124 James Chenevert, III	MO
2125 Joseph Geyfman	PA
2126 Irina Rutsкая	Ukraine

We welcome the applicants below as full members

2094	Mr. Tommy A. Thomas, SC
2095	Sir Jian Jiang, People's Republic of China

Awards for exhibits by Rossica members

National and International Awards

New York-2016 International Stamp Show

Large Gold

Valentin Levandovskiy.
Railway Postmarks of the RSFSR and USSR.

Alexander Mramornov.
Early Postmarks of Russia: 1765-1815.

Yuri Obukhov.
Zemstvo Stamps of Perm governorate.

Gold

Vitaliy Katsman.
Ukraine Zemstvo Postage Stamps of Kharkov province, 1868-1918.

Edward Laveroni.
Imperial Postmarks of the Trans-Siberian Railroad, Chelyabinsk to Manchuriya.

Björn Sohrne.
Russian (Caucasus) - Persian Inter Postal Relations.

Large Vermeil

Vladimir Berdichevskiy.
The Postal Correspondence of the Russian Navy Personnel (1901-1918).

Vesma Grinfelds.
Provisional Cancellations of Latvia: 1919-1921.

Large Silver

Kirill Levandovskiy.
The War in 1941-1945 as viewed by Children.

Literature Class

Gold

Vitaliy Katsman.
The Zemstvo Post of Kharkov Province. 1868-1918.

David Skipton and Steven Volis, published by Collectors Club of Chicago.
Soviet Clandestine Mail Surveillance, 1917-1991.

National WSP Shows

ARIPEX, Mesa, AZ, February 19-21, 2016

Gold

Richard E. Clever.
Classic Mongolia, 1881-1932.

Vesma Grinfelds.
Cancellations of the Provisional Era in Latvia: 1919-1921.

Vermeil

Vesma Grinfelds. Latvia: The Rising Sun Stamp of 1919.

PLYMOUTH, MI, April 16-17, 2016**Gold**

Jerry Miller.
Crown & Eagle Series: The 2-Pfennig of 1900-1902 & Its Usage.

Jerry Miller.
The Rise & Decline of a Nation (1867-1945).

Vermeil

Myron Palay.
Russo-Japanese War, Manchuria, including Forerunner Sino-Japanese War Boxer Rebellion.

WESTPEX, San Francisco, April 29-30-May 1**Gold**

Ross Marshall.
Russian Mail via the Austrian Border to 1874.

COMPEX, Arlington Heights, IL May 20-22, 2016**Gold**

Jerry Miller.
The Rise and Decline of a Nation (1867 – 1940).

NORDIA 2016**Large Vermeil**

Roger Quinby,
Classic Postal Cards of Finland, 1871-1884.

Large Silver

Guillermo Perdomo Jr.
Griazovets Zemstvo.

ROSSICA Show

Organized under the auspices of FEPA (Federation of European Philatelic Associations), Berlin, May 2016

Gold

Bernard Furnon.
Rarities of the Zemstvo Post.

AMERISTAMP SOUTHEASTERN STAMP EXPO**Gold**

Roger Quinby.
Classic Postal Cards of Finland, 1871-1884.

COALPEX. Walnut Creek, June 11 – 12**Gold, Grand Award**

George V. Shalimoff.
Usage of the Romanov Tercentenary Issue of Russia 1913-1917.

PHILATELIC SHOW**Northeast Federation of Stamp Clubs, Boxborough, MA, May 6 – 8, 2016****Vermeil**

Igor Grigorian.
Incense and Armenian Scented Paper (Papier d'Armenie).

Submitted by
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Contact Us

Questions? Comments? If you are interested in the content of this Bulletin and would like to provide feedback, or respond to a volunteer opportunity, please contact us! You can find our elected officers on our website at <http://www.rossica.org/contacts.php> or simply send an E-mail to

info@rossica.org.

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