



## THE SOCIETY OF RUSSIAN PHILATELY

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### President's Message

Greetings from Alabama! As I write this letter it is two weeks to Christmas but you'll be reading this at the beginning of 2017. I hope the Holidays were good to you and that you got the philatelic presents you were hoping for. Our Society ended the year on a high note. Membership is up, cash reserves are up, our Journal continues to earn high marks in competition, and great offerings of Russian material were sold off. I'll mention only one of the several major auctions that occurred during 2017. I will also mention some major changes in exhibiting rules that were made.

Ray Casey's Collection of steamship mail was sold off in December. If you didn't get the catalog, I recommend getting a copy. The gentlemen had the opportunity to build his collection in the early days before the West even knew there

was anything like Russian ship mail and he became one of the leading experts in the field. He had many unique examples of postmarks and uses. His collection was simply amassing.

The passing of Doctor Casey is a great loss to Russian philately. Over the past few years his vast collection has been sold off. While his steamship mail was great, his Offices in China collection was breathtaking. The deluxe album books that David Feldman produced of the collection have helped preserve the information and study that went into Casey's Collection.

As we all are just caretakers of these philatelic treasures, the future generations will have an opportunity to collect and exhibit this material.

The APS has issued a new Judging manual effective 1 January 2017. There are some significant changes that will affect those who exhibit, but once you study them you'll see that they are for the better. First off is the most obvious. Judging is going back to points. On the exhibits evaluation sheet exhibitors will now see the points they got for all of the judging criteria. They should also expect to see comments from the judges that address the areas where points were deducted and recommendation on how to improve them. This is a big change and it will take time to educate us judges on how to make beneficial comments on areas that need improvement.

The APS is also going to the 8 medal levels with Large Gold, Gold, Large Vermeil, Vermeil, Large Silver, Silver, Silver Bronze and Bronze. So points are going to have a bigger impact.

The next big change is that the number of exhibiting categories has been reduced and simplified.

The new exhibiting manual is only sixty-four pages long. The exhibitor is being given more freedom to define his own unique exhibit. But with greater freedom comes greater responsibility. The exhibitor must define the purpose of his exhibit clearly in his Title page, The exhibit will be judged against the Title page! If you are exhibiting Russia #1 as a traditional exhibit, you need to have the preproduction, production and uses covered. There is an artist proof of Russia number one!

The third biggest change from my view is that the importance of the "Story" is now a key factor for success. Just showing a collection of superb material chronologically may earn you a large gold but it will not get you a Grand without the exhibit telling a good story about your subject. At FLOREX this year I saw a few amazing exhibits of Ukraine material. Great material, but no story and it hurt them medal wise. This means that exhibitors need to review and update their exhibit so that it tells a story – they will need to do more than just show their material.

So get yourself a copy of the new Judging Manual. It's on the APS web site and it's a free download Go to Stamps.org; Events/shows; Judges/Judging; Manual and Score Sheets.

Have a great 2017 and help our Society continue to grow: recruit a new member, exhibit your material, and support the collecting of the Russian area at your local club.

Our next national meeting is at SESCAL in October 2017, I hope to see many of you there.

Raymond J. Pietruszka  
Rossica President

## ***New Applications to the Rossica 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:

2132 Ivo Szostok	Czech Republic
2133 Aleksander Goldshtein	CA
1940 Roberto Molteni	Italy (returning member)
2134 Simon Horecky	Slovakia
2135 Dr. Vladimir Pitchko	Canada
2136 Tagir Muhutdinov	Russia

## **Rossica Exhibit Awards**

**AMERICOVER 2016**, August 19-21, Falls Church, VA  
**Ross Marshall**  
Vermeil and American Society of Polar Philatelists  
Grand Award  
"Transcontinental Flights Between Russia and Antarctica"

**CHICAGOPEX 2016**, November 17-19, Itasca, IL  
**Alfred F. Kugel**  
Vermeil  
"Austro-Hungarian Forces in World War I"

**Alexander Kolchinsky**  
Vermeil and AAPE Award of Honor  
"Welcome to the USSR! Foreign Visitors and Hospitality Services, 1918-1953"

**COLOPEX 2016**, June 10-11, Columbus, OH, Vermeil;  
**Myron Palay**  
Vermeil  
"Russo-Japanese War"

**MINNESOTA STAMP EXPO 2016**, July 15-17,  
**Myron Palay**  
Crystal, MN, Gold  
"Russo-Japanese War"

**MILCOPEX 2016** September 16-18, Milwaukee, WI,  
**Myron Palay**  
Vermeil  
"Russo-Japanese War"

**OKPEX 2016**, June 17-18, Midwest City, OK,  
**Myron Palay**  
Vermeil  
"Russo-Japanese War"

**FLOREX 2016**, 2-4 December, Orlando, FL  
**Paul B. Spiwak**  
Silver and Rossica President's Award  
"Zemstvo (Rural) Stamps of Ukraine"

**INDYPEX 2016**, October 7-9, Noblesville, Indiana  
**Jerry H. Miller**  
Grand and Gold  
"The Evolution of "Via Siberia" Mail 1897-1945"

**SEAPEX 2016**, September 9-11, Tukwila, Washington

**Richard E. Clever**

Gold and APS Pre-1900 Medal of Excellence  
"Classic Mongolia 1881-1932"

**Vesma Grinfelds**

Gold and Rossica Society Award  
"Cancellations of the Provisional Era in Latvia:  
1919-1921"

**SESCAL -2016**, September 24, Los Angeles, CA

**Igor Grigorian**

Vermeil and AAPE Gold Award of Honor  
"Pre-Christian Armenia: From Origins to Temple  
of Garni"

**Igor Grigorian**

Vermeil (single frame)  
"Incense and Its Evolution into Armenian Scented  
Paper (Papier d'Armenie)"

**Igor Grigorian**

Silver Bronze, Single Frame  
"Ivan Aivazosvsky (1817-1900): Hymns to the Blue  
Seas"

**Hovhannes Koshkarian**

Vermeil,  
APS Medal of Excellence: Post 1980.  
Armenian Philatelic Association Award  
"The Day The Earth Shook"

**APS STAMPSHOW**, August 4-7, 2016, Portland, OR

**Edward J. Laveroni**

Gold  
APS 1900-1940 Medal of Excellence  
"Imperial Postmarks of the Trans-Siberian Rail-  
road, Chelyabinsk to Manchzhyriya"

**Vesma Grinfelds**

Gold, Single Frame  
"Official Mail and Postmarks of Riga: 1772-1860"

**GREATER HOUSTON STAMP SHOW 2016**

**Igor Grigorian**

Silver  
"Ivan Aivazosvsky (1817-1900): Hymns to the Blue  
Seas"

**NEW YORK INTERNATIONAL STAMP SHOW 2016**

**Vesma Grinfelds**

Large Vermeil, Single Frame  
"Cancellations of the Provisional Era in Latvia:  
1919-1921"

**Vesma Grinfelds**

Large Vermeil  
"Latvia: The Rising Sun Stamp of 1919"

**Valentine Levandovskiy**

Large Gold  
Railway Postmarks of the RSFSR and the USSR

**Kirill Levandovskiy**

Large Silver  
The War in 1941 – 1945 as Viewed By Children

**PHILATAIPEI 2016**, October 21-26, World Stamp  
Championship Exhibition, Taipei, Taiwan

**Aleksandr Mramornov**

Large Gold  
"Monetary and Insured Correspondence of Rus-  
sia (1780-1917)"

**Kirill Levandovskiy**

Vermeil  
"The War in 1941-1945 as Viewed by Children"

**Valery Zagorsky**

Large Silver (literature)  
"Postage Stamp Catalogue. Russian Federation.  
1992-2015"

**Mikhail Dymshits**

Silver  
"USSR Official Mail Postmarks and Stationery  
(1929-1941)"

**Meer Kossoy**

Gold, Single Frame  
"Telegraph Communication in Russia (1858-  
1879)"

**Vladimir Berdichevskiy**

Large Vermeil (single frame)  
"Using of RSFSR Semi-Postal Stamps (Volga Fam-  
ine Relief Issues, 1921-1922) for the Postal Cor-  
respondence Franking"

**Kirill Levandovskiy**

Vermeil

Special prize for rare material

The War in 1941 – 1945 as Viewed By Children

**ARMENIAN INTERNATIONAL STAMP SHOW 2016,**

**Igor Grigorian**

Large Silver

“Ivan Aivazosvsky (1817-1900): Hymns to the Blue Seas”

**Igor Grigorian**

Large Vermeil

“Pre-Christian Armenia and Temple of Garni”

**Igor Grigorian**

Vermeil, Single Frame

“Incense and Its Evolution into Armenian Scented Paper (Papier d'Armenie)”

**JERUSALEM-2016** International Show, November 13-17

**Vesma Grinfelds,**

Large Vermeil, Single Frame

“Official Mail and Postmarks of Riga: 1772-1860”

**Meer Kossoy**

Vermeil

“Censorship of Foreign Printed Matter Correspondence in St. Petersburg-Petrograd (1876-1917)”

**Genady Berman**

Silver

“Post in Crimea During Transition Period, March-October 2014”



# The Challenge of Common Items

By Raymond J. Pietruszka

We all have them, those common items that we simply can't seem to find. That low value, low cost stamp or common rate cover.

One of my challenges has been to find two common Romanov stationary items used. The two items I'm talking about are the 3 kopecks envelope and the 10 kopecks letter card.

The 3 kopecks envelope was issued to meet the 3 kopecks local city post letter rate of 15 March 1909. The envelope was issued in two sizes, and, as part of the 1913 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Romanovs, it has an image of Alexander the III. See figure 1.

Finding the envelope mint is neither difficult nor expensive. Finding them uprated for a different rate is not hard either See figure 2. But finding them used for intercity mail at the 3 kopecks rate has proved very hard.

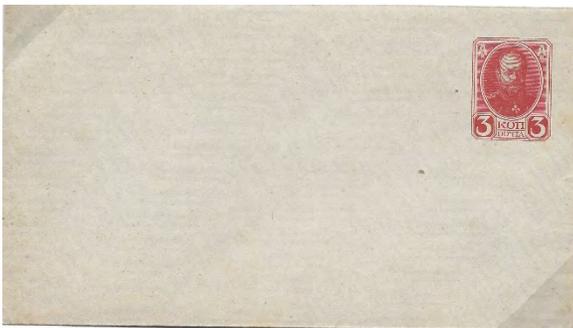


Figure 1: 3K Mint

Figure 3 shows the example I finally found. It was used in Moscow on 13 November 1913. I should be happy but it seems to be philatelic, so my search continues.



Figure 2: 3K uprated to 10K

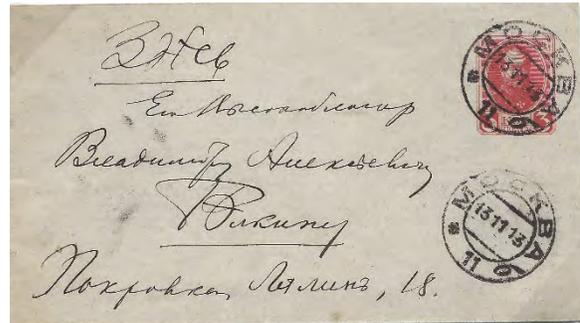


Figure 3: 3 K used locally

The 10 kopecks letter card was issued for the foreign letter rate of 8 March 1889. Letter cards are interesting items in that they are like postcards but can be folded over and sealed to become letters. The advantage of a letter card is that it is both paper and envelope in one; they are like modern aerograms.

The incoming message is read by removing the perforated edges. See figure 4.



Figure 4: 10 K Mint

The Russian Imperial Post Office had been issuing letter cards since 1890 and as part of the Romanov issue produced 3, 7 and 10 kopecks cards. All three of them are easy to find mint; the 3 and 7 kopecks cards are not difficult used, but are a little pricey.

But the 10 kopecks card has proved to be elusive. One would have thought that with the 21 September 1914 rate increase for domestic mail to 10 kopecks, use of these cards would have increased but that appears to not be the case. One theory that has been discussed is that because of wartime censorship, people did not want to use the cards; I also think that the Post Office discouraged their use. Under censorship, to mail one of these cards, the sender had to submit the card opened. There is no practical way of opening these cards without destroying the seal around them.

So why use it if your message was not private. Has anyone even seen a censored 10 kopecks letter card? Figure 5 is the example I've found. It

is from Mitava sent on 19 November 1913 going to Prague in the Austrian-Hungarian Empire. It's a great item and a nice addition to my collection. I found it on Delcampe.



Figure 5: 10 K Used

So what's one of your challenges? What can't you find that should be readily available? Let us know, maybe we can build another article or you may find a fellow member that has a duplicate.

## 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](mailto:info@rossica.org).

Visit us on the web at [www.rossica.org](http://www.rossica.org)

Submitted by Randy Woodward  
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