



THE SOCIETY OF RUSSIAN PHILATELY

Bulletin 60, Winter 2018

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President's Message

Happy New Year! The holidays are over and we have entered the "Dark Ages"—a period of continuous darkness and cold weather. That is except for us Philatelists! For us it is the start of the busy season—Stamp Shows, Auctions, and time in our dens updating our albums. I'm already scheduled to attend 6 shows through April. Three as a Judge, two as an exhibitor and one for fun. You can bet I'll be showing Russia, looking for more items and promoting Rossica.

Several bits of news. First we have space for a meeting at WESTPEX in April 2018. Greg Mirsky has the lead for this effort. This is to be an informal meeting. We are not sure if we will have formal speaker, but at least we will have an opportunity to meet, "show and

tell", ask for advice, opinion, etc. So, the objective is simply to have a place and time for Rossica members to see each other and talk stamps. So, check WESTPEX events schedule/program for exact time and place. (Editor's note: The meeting is currently scheduled for Saturday, 11 AM, Room 8024.)

Next, congratulations to Alexander Kolchinsky for his article in the January APS Magazine on the Intourist agency in the early days using Postcards and promotional material. A very interesting and informative read.

Reminder, this is an election year. Please consider running for office. While the current slate of officers has been doing a great job, they have been at it for a while and may be happy to try something else for a while. I've been President for two terms. Are we ready for a change? I haven't polled the current officers yet, so I don't know of any vacancies but I will report that in the Spring Journal. But please let myself or Alexander know if you are interested in serving, maybe you would want to shadow a current officer.

SESCAL was a great show for Rossica. We signed up a couple of new members and even brought one back to the fold. The Russian Exhibits were powerful. Ed Laveroni won the Single Frame Grand and Ross Marshall from New Zealand brought two great exhibits also winning Gold, Randy Woodward won a Gold Medal as well as the WESTPEX award, and I even won a Gold medal. In addition, Judges recommended that I write a book on early Post Soviet Postal Rates—any helpers out there? While the turnout of members was small we still had a great meeting and a good time.

The last issue I need to talk about is an odd situation that your Society finds itself. There is a club in Russia using the Rossica name. No big deal when the name is used only in Russia by the other organization but it has been reported that souvenir sheets have been overprinted with the Rossica name and sold in Europe! We are not producing any stamp issues nor are we affiliated with any organization in Russia. So don't be fooled, these items do not have our sponsorship. Your officers are considering our Society's options to protect our name. I will keep you posted.

Well that's about it for this issue. Don't forget to pay your dues and remember this is a hobby-please have fun!

Ray 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:

2152 Michael Kramarenko	Kiev, Ukraine
2153 Jack Kifedjian	California
2154 Mark Chinsky	New York
2155 Dr. Howard G. Crane	OH
2156 Victor L. McHenry	VA

Obituary

With deep regret we announce that our member Howard Benson passed away January 13, 2018. He was born in 1944, grew up in Wisconsin and Illinois, and for 15 years served in USAF. Later he was a systems engineer and an avid collector of stamps and coins. Mr. Benson was operations director of Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library.

Minutes of Board Meeting

Minutes of the Board Meeting January 22, 2018

In attendance: Alexander Kolchinsky, Greg Mirsky, Ray Pietruszka, Davis Skipton, Nik Sorokin, Steve Volis.

1. The first issue on the agenda was to make official the distribution of the bulletin as digital edition to members having email addresses. More specifically, it was proposed to send it by default digitally, and to send black and white copies on demand for free and color copy for an additional fee of \$5 per year to cover our expenses. GM emphasized that this new policy

should be announced in the journal and, if approved, on the website. AK indicated that it would be mentioned in the upcoming bulletin. SV reported that we have just about ten members without emails. It was unanimously agreed that the most recent two to four bulletins should be displayed on our website for members only (with password-enabled access), and the rest put in open access. RP suggested not to alienate our older members by this change and proposed, together with SV, to send out mass mail before making final decision.

2. In line with our educational mission, NS is working on Dick Sheper's book on Russian Imperial perfins. It will consist of 55 pages of catalog and history, same format as the journal, and will be available in both paper and digital format. It is a significantly updated version of an older private edition. The Board discussed technical details of the publication. RP suggested to place an ad in the spring journal. DS noted that the book, unfortunately, does not have a detailed bibliography, but a searchable e-book will to some extent compensate this omission. The Board unanimously approved the expense of \$800 for this publication.

3. Our Treasurer SV presented a brief financial report. We have about \$18,000 in checking account, over \$10,000 in saving account, and \$1,500 in Paypal account, for a total of \$30,050. We have 220 members who paid for 2018 and 50 payments pending, which will bring another approx. \$1,500. We already received \$6,500 in dues, a little more than last year. We haven't paid yet \$2,500 to our printer Premier for the fall issue of the journal because of their accounting problems. Report was approved unanimously.

4. This year we will have election of the board: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Auditor, Librarian, and three members of the board at large. Current members of the board were asked to inform the President if they are going to run. Attending members of the board asked our President Ray Pietruszka to stay. RP appeals for volunteers, especially for the position of Vice-President. The board will be looking for a volunteer to collect the votes and perform other technicalities (Balloting Committee).

5. Potential ways to attract new members were discussed again. RP will attend a number of shows and promote Rossica. GM asked how many members we

currently have. SV and AK replied that the statistics that existed before the election of the current board was unreliable, and many former members existed on paper only and received the journal without paying the dues for years. The database has been brought up-to-date. We currently have 278 members, either paying their dues, or with dues waived. Over the last two years we were not losing members, we are adding members. GM suggested to constantly analyze the demographics, interests, reasons to join Rossica, etc. of new members. RP asked to estimate how many members we are losing per year, so how many we need to recruit. GM insists that our largest target group of collectors resides in Russia, therefore the more publications, abstracts, webpages, etc. in Russian language we use, the more members we will reach in Russia. This is our new audience. Besides, we must use our member(s), including some dealers, during the large FIP show in Israel at the end of May to promote Rossica. The distribution of postcards and flyers during the show will be arranged.

NS suggested to have two meetings a year, maybe on the East and West coasts, to give existing members an opportunity to meet and possibly to recruit new members. RP reminded that in view of this suggestion we already plan to have a "Social gathering" of Rossica at Westpex on April 28 at 11:00.

NS stressed that the best way to recruit new members is personal interactions.

Rossica Exhibit Awards

INTERNATIONAL

Bandung 2017 world stamp exhibition, August

Large Gold

Obukhov Yuri
Russia: Zemstvo Stamps of Perm Governorate
(1871-1919) 95 SP

Gold

Mramornov Alexander
Stamps of Civil War in Russia (1918-1924) 93 SP

Banfield Norman
Russia - Airmail Services 1922-1950 91 SP

Large Vermeil

Mukhutdinov Tagir
Postal History of Kazan and Kazan Province
(1779-1917)

Ryss Igor
Postal Emissions of Georgia 1919-1923 85

Vermeil

Mramornov Alexander
Turkestan (1868-1917)

Levandovskiy Kirill
Postmarks of the Moscow Railways 1853-1917

Dymshits Mikhail
USSR Preferential Postage Civil Organizations
(1921-1938)

Bromser Charles
USSR Postal Stationery of the 10th Standard Issue
(1961-1967)

Silver

Boiko Vladimir
Philatelic Literature

Brasilia-2017 – Specialized World Stamp Exhibition, October

Gold

Kirzhner Igor
RSFSR. 1918-1923

Mramornov Alexander
Monetary and insured correspondence of Russia
(1780-1917)

David M. Skipton and Steve Volis
Soviet Clandestine Mail Surveillance (1917 - 1991)

Rossica Society of Russian Philately.
Rossica Society's Journal: Rossica

Large Vermeil

Obukhov Yuri
Local stamps of RSFSR (1919-1922)

Levandovskiy Valentin
Railway Postmarks of the RSFSR and the USSR

Vermeil

Rys Igor
The postal history of Georgia

Levandovskiy Kirill
The War in 1941-1945 as viewed by children

NATIONAL

Filatellic Fiesta 2017, San Jose, CA, November 11

Gold

Ross Marshall "*Russian Mail via Austrian Galicia to General Postal Union 1875.*"
Non-competitive
Ed Laveroni "*St. Petersburg- Moscow (Nikolaevskaya) Railway.*"

FLOREX 2017, Orlando, FL, December 1-3, 2017

Large Vermeil

Ray Pietruszka "Type 1 St. Petersburg Surcharge."
Also AAPE Gold Award of Honor.

NAPEX 2017, June 10, 2017

Single Frame

Large Gold

Semyon Melamed "Unissued and Recalled Stamps of the USSR."

NTSS 2017 Exhibition, Columbus, OH, June 23-25, 2017

Gold

Igor Grigorian "*Pre-Christian Armenia and Temple of Garni*"

Vermeil

Hovhannes Koshkakarjian "The Day the Earth Shook."
Also AAPE Award of Honor

Single frame

Gold

Igor Grigorian "*Incense and Armenian Scented Paper (Paper d'Armenie).*" Also AAPE Creativity Award

Vermeil

Igor Grigorian "*Ivan Aivazovsky (1817-1900): Songs to the Blue Seas*"

Rocky Mountain Stamp Show, May 26-28, 2017

Large Vermeil

Ross Marshall "*First Soviet Antarctic Expedition - 1955-1957*"

Single frame

Large vermeil

Ross Marshall "Oasis Station - Soviet Antarctic Expedition"

APS STAMPSHOW, Richmond, Virginia August 3-6, 2017

Single frame

Gold

Vesma Grinfelds "*Latvia: The First Banknote Issue and Its Overprints*"

SESCAL 2017, Los Angeles, October 14, 2017

Reserve Grand and Large Gold, also ROSSICA Best Russian Exhibit

Ross Marshall "*Russian Mail via Austrian Galicia to General Postal Union 1874*"

Large Gold, also APS Medal of Excellence, 1900-1940, AAPE Plan and Headings
Vesma Grinfelds "*Cancellations of the Provisional Era in Latvia: 1919-1921*"

Gold

Ray Pietruszka "*The Dis-Union of the Soviet Union, 1990-1995*"

Randy Woodward "*Late 1923 Soviet Postal Rates and the Transition to the Gold Ruble,*"
also WESTPEX Merit Award

Large Vermeil

Ross Marshall "*Russian Foreign Postal Rates 1991-1996,*" also ROSSICA President's Award for Best Non-Gold Russian Exhibit

Vermeil

Hovhannes Koshkarian "*The Day the Earth Shook.*"

Single Frame Grand and Large Gold

Edward J. Laveroni "*St. Petersburg - Moscow Railway, Nikolaevskaya Railway*"

Gold

Semyon Melamed "*Unissued and Recalled Stamps of the USSR.*"

In addition, our member Wilhelm Grundmann let us know that in 2017 he received the following awards for his exhibit "*Mongolia- Land of Dschingis Khan. Post offices and postmarks 1878-1939*":
RHEIN-RUHR-POSTA 2017, Leverkusen/ Germany - **Gold;**
SÜDWEST 2017, Remseck / Germany - **Gold and Honorary Prize;**
OLDENBURG 2017, Oldenburg (Rang 1) - **Large Gold (92 points) and Honorary Price;**
MULTILATERALE HERTOGPOST 2017 - Hertogenbosch /Netherlands - **Large Gold (93 points) and Honorary Price.**

Unfortunately, we cannot watch all philatelic events in all countries where our members reside. Therefore, we would greatly appreciate if award recipients would inform either Alexander Kolchinsky or Randy Woodward about their achievements in exhibiting. Please do so in a timely manner so that the Bulletin can remain current.

Abrau-Dyurso

By Dr. Ivo Steijn



Since I like postmarks from odd places I'm used to seeing some unusual-looking place names. Since both the Russian Empire and the USSR were states with lots of ethnicities, you can find all sorts of interesting place names represented in postmarks. But the postmark on this 1936 cover took me by surprise.

ABRAU-DYURSO (Black Sea province)? I couldn't even guess! As it turns out Abrau-Dyurso (named after Lake Abrau and the Dyurso River), close to Novorossiisk, is a location beloved to all Russian wine-drinkers. It was founded in 1870 specifically to provide wine for the Tsar's household. In 1891 French specialists were brought in and production of a very fine Champagne began.

The Revolution diminished the demand for Champagne but after an interval, wine production started up again (though without the French specialists who had all resorted to Plan B: Run Away). The Champagne was now marketed as Sovetskoe Shampanskoe, or Soviet Champagne.

The winery suffered during WW2 as well as during Gorbachev's anti-alcohol campaign but it survived long enough to see new prosperity in the post-Soviet Russian Federation. A lavishly illustrated website can be found at www.abraudurso.ru

Note that the sender of this 1936 letter to New York described it as the Abrau-Dyurso Sovkhoz.

A Used and Censored 10 kopecks Letter Card

By Dr. George Shalimoff

I can provide one example of a used censored 10 kopecks letter card, suggested by Mr. Pietruszka in the Bulletin 58.

The letter card was apparently sent by a German prisoner of war, addressed to the Petrograd Inquiry Bureau about Prisoners for Conveyance to Germany, written at the top. It is postmarked Elabuga Vyatsk, October 30, 1914. On the back of the card there is a Petrograd circular marking dated November 5, 1914 along with a red oval Petrograd Military Censor marking. The front of the cover also has a red circular Red Cross Central Prisoner of War Bureau marking in French. The message inside the folded letter card is in German script, very stylized and difficult to read.

The letter card's perforations appear to have been cut with scissors, instead of simply torn apart. One cannot say if this perforation separation was done at the time of the initial sending, or if the censor in Petrograd did it later.



Submitted by Randy Woodward
Editor, Rossica Bulletin

