



ROSSICA SOCIETY  
OF  
RUSSIAN PHILATELY

# BULLETIN OF THE ROSSICA SOCIETY OF RUSSIAN PHILATELY

NUMBER 43

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Winter/Spring 2008

## Society News

### ROSSICA'S NATIONAL MEETING



**Come One! Come All!**

The Rossica 2008 National Member Meeting will be held at BALPEX 2008 this year. The show will take place at the Marriott Hunt Valley Inn, 245 Shawan Road, Hunt Valley, MD. BALPEX will actually be held on August 29-31.

The annual meeting exact time is tentatively set for 10:00 noon on Saturday, August 30<sup>th</sup>. We are, however trying to change it to later that afternoon.

We will have 73 frames at the show. They are (in alphabetical order):

Ray Ceresa – “The Revenue Stamps of Armenia”

Ray Ceresa – “The Trident Revenue Stamps of Podolia”

Vesma Grinfelds – “Latvian Traveling Post Offices: Rates, Routes and Cancellations”

Al Kugel – “Allied Intervention in Russia 1918-1925”

Al Kugel – “Russian Post Offices Abroad in Central Asia”

Ed Laveroni - Imperial Postmarks of the Trans-Siberian Railroad, Chelyabinsk to Manchuria”

Arnold Levin – “Russian Mute Cancels and Registration in WWI”

Ray Pietruszka – “Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic”

Roger Quinby – “Finnish Railway to St. Petersburg 1870-1918”

Dave Skipton – “A Look Through the Judas Hole. The Imperial Russian Prison System and Censorship” Dave

Skipton – “Watchmen at the Gates: Imperial Russian Censorship of Foreign Publications”

George Werbizky – “Russian Rural Post (Zemstvo) Use of Bisected Stamps”

Our guest speaker will be our member Joseph J. Geraci, talking on "Postal Connections between Russia and Italy in the Nineteenth Century; an Exploration of Routes and Rates Involved."

We will, of course, have a booth there, and Catherine Nickle is working on the Salisbury vignette as we speak; that will be ready for sale at the show, barring catastrophe, and we will also have the Arkhangelsky vignettes on sale again, plus Rossica literature, znachki and coffee cups.

As is customary, Rossica will offer docent tours of the Russian and related-areas exhibits, usually by the exhibitors if they are attending.

### Note from the Editor

A lot of information has been disseminated since the last Bulletin was published. A new Rossica Journal was published. A new year has begun and this year is already half through. The Rossica Web Site has been changed and a Virtual Exhibit Gallery has been added to the site.

We are saddened by the passing our good friends, collectors and contributors who now have the answers to questions about Russian philately that they have searched for. Don't we wish they could pass the answers on to us? But then we wouldn't have as much fun asking and researching for the answers ourselves!

We find that our Society continues to thrive while our sister Societies must discontinue their important activities. This is not an event we ever care to see happen. They all have something to offer to the future of the growing interest in Russian philately. But as it does happen, we do invite

each member of the other Societies to join us in our endeavors to improve the knowledge of both the past and present of the history of the Russian and Russian-related philately in all arenas. This knowledge is worth preserving and passing on to future generations.

You are asked to vote on two changes to the Constitution. Please read the Bulletin and vote on the changes. The changes are a good step forward in correcting a mistake in the Constitution. But we need a lot of you to vote.

The prices for Russian material continue to rise at alarming rates and at a greater percentage than the price of gasoline. It makes the collectors, philatelists and historians wonder if they will ever be able to purchase the stamps, postal history or other material for which they had been saving their money. And no one has a guess as to when it will peak. I have been asked many times, "Will this continue?" My answer is "No". I am asked, "When will it stop?" My answer is "When the speculators quit speculating!" "When will that be?" "Damn if I know but you might take a clue from the Chinese. How long did they hoard the Golden Monkey before they decided they wanted some of their investment back?" I might suggest you do some homework and determine what is really being hoarded and what is really going into collections. That which is scarce will always be scarce. I am not making this a soapbox. Maybe my email inbox won't be as full in the morning now.

The Rossica Journal #150 was recently published. If you have not received yours as of yet, please notify either myself at [michael.gutter@rossica.org](mailto:michael.gutter@rossica.org) or Jeff Radcliffe at [jeff.radcliffe@rossica.org](mailto:jeff.radcliffe@rossica.org).

I hope you find this Bulletin #43 to your liking. I received two excellent articles. I hope you enjoy reading them. I also hope to see a number of you at the Annual Meeting. I am planning on being there.

Mike Gutter, Bulletin Editor

## Annual Meeting Minutes, 2007

### 2007 Annual General Meeting Minutes, 16 November

At 1:07, Dave Skipton, Vice President, opened the 55<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Rossica Society.

Dave noted that this was the first Pan-Slavic show since 1993.

First order of business was the introduction of the officers, with Dave Skipton, Vice President, Ray Pietruszka, Board member, Michael Ann Gutter, Treasurer and Gregory Mirsky, Librarian. This was followed by the members introducing themselves, with 26 members in attendance.

### Old Business:

Review of the minutes from the 2006 membership meeting as published in the Bulletin. There was no discussion. A motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded and approved unanimously.

Before going to New Business, Dave Skipton made a motion to move up the presentation. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

The Presentation was on the collections of the famous Faberge family by Kaj Hellman of Finland. Mr. Hellman had the pleasure of knowing Oleg Faberge and studying parts of his Russian collection with him. As a result he was able not only to recount the family history from the Russian Revolution and the move to Finland, but also, using enlarged photocopies, show parts of Faberge's collections and the studies and notes he made while researching his material. This was a superb presentation that kept the entire audience riveted for nearly an hour.

At the conclusion of the presentation and a short break, Dave Skipton reconvened the meeting.

### New Business:

1. Dave Skipton formally announced the release of the vignettes. These are the first vignettes issued by Rossica since 1957 and picture founder Eugene Arkhangel'sky. Dave also pointed out that a special Rossica canceller had also been created and could be used to cancel the vignette on envelopes at the show. The vignettes were on sale after the meeting at \$1.00 each, \$30 a sheet and \$50 for artist-signed sheets. All sheets were numbered.
2. It was announced that due to the editor's schedule, the Journal would probably be delayed until early December, and that members were likely to receive them in late December or early January.
3. It was also announced that there would be "docent" tours of the exhibits by the exhibitors for those members who were interested.
4. Next item of business was the Officer reports. At the beginning of the meeting copies of the Bulletin with the reports were handed out to all members who requested a copy. Mr. Skipton asked if there were any questions or discussions on the reports.
5. There being none, the Vice President then opened the floor to any questions from the membership. There were no questions.

With no other business, the Vice President made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was duly seconded and passed unanimously. The meeting was closed at 2:28.

Raymond J. Pietruszka  
Acting Secretary

## Annual Officer's Meeting Minutes, 2007

### Minutes of the Rossica Officer's Meeting; November 16

Vice President Dave Skipton opened the meeting at 1455.

In attendance were:

Dave Skipton, Vice President  
Ray Pietruszka, Board Member  
Webster Stickney, Board Member-by proxy to Michael Ann Gutter  
Michael Ann Gutter, Treasurer  
Greg Mirsky, Librarian

A quorum having been made, all votes are binding.

#### 1. Old Business

The 2006 minutes. The 2006 minutes was discussed and were recommended for approval.

*A motion was made and seconded to approve the 2006 minutes as published. Motion was approved unanimously.*

#### 2. New Business

##### 1. Proposed 2008 Budget.

The Treasurer, Ms Gutter presented the proposed budget. Budget items discussed included the business year. Current business year is from March-to-March. This was done to manage the membership renewal process. However, the tax reporting requirements make using this accounting year more difficult for double-entry processing.

*A Motion was then made to change the accounting year from March-to-March to calendar year. This was seconded and approved unanimously.*

Further discussion of the budget included: 1) Other Income and what it contained. 2) How the amount of Book Sales was determined; and that this year's numbers were used, and 3) the Awards budget was in-

creased to support proposed changes to Awards. Also discussed was the possibility of Rossica advertising in Scott's catalog in the Russia section as a way to attract new members who are unfamiliar with Rossica. These discussions did not generate any changes to the proposed budget.

*A Motion was made to accept the proposed budget as presented. It was seconded and unanimously approved.*

2. Status of Society's tax exemption. Based on an IRS letter received this year by the society, the Treasurer prepared and submitted to the IRS Form 990. The IRS is apparently requiring annual submissions in order for the Society to maintain its tax exemption. The Treasurer has submitted the paperwork and is waiting for a response.
3. **Membership Fee structure.** The Treasurer reported that the membership fees did not have to be raised this year. Current income will support the 2008 budget. However the *Treasurer did take an action to compare actual 2008 expenses against the current fee structure and report back to the officers whether any changes have to be made to the fee structure in 2009.*
4. **Scheduling of National meetings.** The Vice President, Dave Skipton, proposed the following meeting schedule:
  - a. 2008 BALPEX: Baltimore, MD
  - b. 2009 WESTPEX/SESCAL: California
  - c. 2010 CHICAGOPEX or APS Show
  - d. 2011 NAPEX, Virginia

*A motion was made to contact the BALPEX committee to have Rossica hold its national meeting as a convening society there in 2008. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.*

##### 5. Awards.

Ray Pietruszka presented his proposals for changes in the awards as outlined in the Bulletin. This report generated discussion in the following areas.

- a. The officers believe that we must make giving the award simple for the Judges and show committees to understand.
- b. Award for a Russian exhibit or a Rossica exhibit. Discussion leaned to a Russian award without a member requirement, the idea being to promote the Society to non-

member collectors of Russian material. The exception to this would be the National Award.

c. It was also suggested that we add a separate literature award.

d. *The proposal was tabled with Mr. Pietruszka taking an Action item to redo the proposal and resubmit it to the officers by email.*

6. **Membership Interest Questionnaire.** The membership interest questionnaire was discussed and certain changes to the form were noted. The new membership package was not presented. *Both items were therefore tabled.*

7. **The Vice President proposed a new exhibit web site.** This would be an extension of our existing web site but would be designed to provide a gallery of Russian exhibits for philatelist to study. *The VP agreed to take an action item to discuss this with Jeff Radcliff on the feasibility and address the support requirements and rules before any further discussion. This item was tabled until the VP reports out.*

8. **The agenda item concerning attracting new members was discussed.** The Treasurer proposed that we institute a policy of a free year's membership for any member who brings in two or more new members as a way to bring membership up. Officers would be excluded. *No action was taken on this proposal, except for the officers to discuss it further this year.*

9. *Discussion on the need to establish a committee to update the Constitution was brought up.* This is only to form a group to look into the need to update the document. *This generated a Motion to explore the need to establish the committee. It was seconded and passed unanimously.*

Final action was made by the Vice President to adjourn the meeting.

*A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously. The meeting ended at 17.01.*

Motions made:

a. To approve the 2006 minutes as published. Motion was approved unanimously.

b. To change the business year from March-to-March to calendar year. This was seconded and approved unanimously.

c. To accept the proposed budget as presented. It was seconded and unanimously approved.

d. To contact the BALPEX committee to have Rossica hold its national meeting as a convening society there in 2008. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

e. To explore the need to establish a committee to update/revise the Constitution. It was seconded and passed unanimously.

Action items:

A. The Treasurer took an action to compare actual 2008 expenses against the current fee structure and report back to the officers whether any changes have to be made to the fee structure in 2009.

B. Mr. Pietruszka took an action to redo the Awards proposal and resubmit it to the officers by email.

C. The VP agreed to take an action to discuss the feasibility of an Exhibit Web site with Jeff Radcliffe and address the support requirements and rules before any further discussion.

Raymond J. Pietruszka

Acting Secretary

## 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.

1920 Genady Berman, Holan, Israel,

1921 Michael Welch, St. Paul, MN, USA

1922 Lecel Neves, Cleveland, TN, USA

1923 Michael H. Cavanaugh, Washington, ID, USA

1924 Samuel Rentsch, Geneva, Switzerland

1925 Anthony Calvert, Wivenhoe, United Kingdom

1926 Felix Yavnoshan, Palatine, IL, USA

1927 David Vigor, Haslett, MI, USA

1928 Michael Didio, Blue Island, IL, USA

1929 Yuri Kuznetsov, Pearland, TX, USA

1930 Jacek Kosmala, Warsaw, Poland

1931 Alex Khislavshivy, Dayton, NJ, USA

1932 Sam Ginsberg, Berkeley, CA, USA

The following are our Tentative members who will become full members within 90 days unless, you, our Regular

members, provide some reasonable cause why they should not become members.

1933 Denis Dant, Lake Oswego, OR, USA  
 1934 Richard Clever, San Jose, CA, USA  
 1935 George Tarnowski, Lansdale, PA, USA  
 1936 Nikolai Krylov, Cambridge, MA, USA  
 1937 Vladimir Antropov, Ames, IA, USA  
 1938 Chris Ceremuga, Sydney South, New South Wales  
 1939 Buel Boaz, Bakersfield, CA, USA  
 1940 Roberto Molteni, Canzo, Italy  
 1941 James Reichman, Colorado Springs, CO, USA  
 1943 Andres Schlichter, Buenos Aires, Argentina  
 1946 Jan Kaptein, Maarssen, Netherlands  
 1947 Michael Astashkevich, Short Hills, NJ, USA  
 1948 Michael Carski, Columbia, MD, USA  
 1949 Rein Vasara, Vancouver BC, Canada

## The Rossica Library

Rossica maintains one of the most complete Russia and related philatelic libraries in the world. If you are conducting research or would like to find out more information on a specific subject, contact our Librarian, Greg Mirsky at his email address [greg.mirsky@rossica.org](mailto:greg.mirsky@rossica.org). This is a Rossica member benefit and only available to other researchers with special permission of the Librarian or officer of Rossica.

## Our Award Winning Members

### ROPEX, May 18-20, 2007, Rochester NY

Orville F. Osborne—Zemstvos: The Russian Rural Post System, gold

### APS Stampshow, August 9-12, Portland OR

Edward J. Laveroni—Railroad Postmarks of the Trans-Siberian Railroad, Chelyabinsk to Irkutsk, vermeil and Rossica award

### Southeastern Stamp Show, September 28-30, Atlanta GA

David M. Skipton—Zek: The Soviet Slave-Labor Empire and its Successors 1917-2000, gold

### SANDICAL, January 25-27, 2008, San Diego CA

Edward J. Laveroni: "Trans-Siberian Railroad, Chelyabinsk to China" gold

### COLOPEX, February 1-3, Columbus OH

G. Adolph Ackerman: "The Russian Far North and Arctic Seas" gold, Rossica Society award, Columbus Philatelic Society research award

### National Philatelic Exhibition (NAPEX) 2008

The Rossica Journal 2007, gold medal and a very solid 92 points for Journal #s 147-148. The journal was entered in the periodicals section of the literature competition

Chris Kulpinski, "Soviet Occupation of Poland, 1939-1941: A Postal History" vermeil, literature

David Skipton, "A Short History of the Rossika Society, 1929-1968" gold medal, literature

Al Kugel "The Turkish Occupation of the Caucasus and Persia During the First World War"

Al Zulueta "Afghanistan: Habibullah Khan Period, 1901-1919" gold, American Philatelic Society Award of Excellence, Predominately 1900-1940

### Romanian Philatelic Exhibition (EFIRO) 2008.

Normal Banfield - "Russia - Censorship of Mail 1878 - 1920." Large Gold

## An Unidentified 1983 Art Sheet

By George V. Shalimoff

The sheet is 6 ¼ by 9 ½ inches with the impressions of 12 stamps, 4 rows of 3 stamps. Each stamp is 1 ¾ by 2 inches, containing a 1 ¼ inch circle in the center with a multi-colored painting. Each stamp is labeled in the lower left corner "Pochta CCCP", the date "1983" in the center and "4 k." in the lower right corner, all in gold ink on a deep red background, making it difficult to see the text.

The perforations are simulated, not punched, and the deep red background of the stamps continues into the sheet selvages. In the top selvedge there is a black number – 45020 atop 7 fine gold-colored lines.

Centered in the bottom selvedge in gold in Russian is "Norodnyi Russkie Ckazki (Russian Folk Tales) Zarevna-Lyagushka (Frog Princess)". In smaller print "Artist A. Kurkin –Palekh Village."

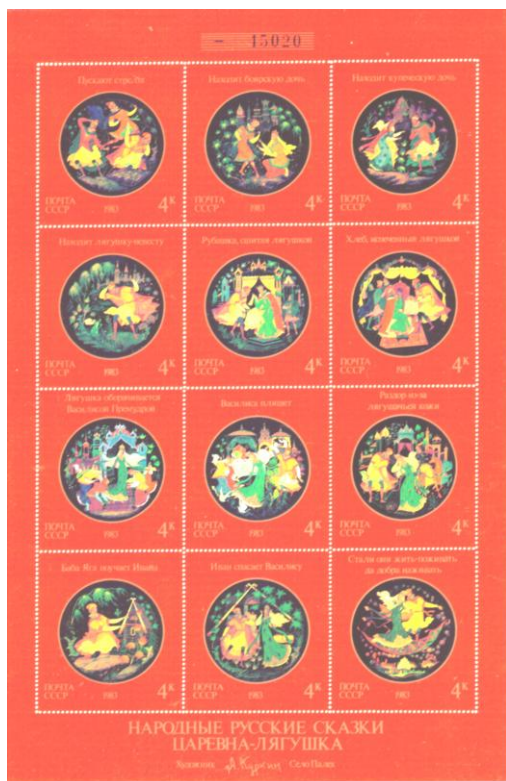
The paintings in the black circles are different on each stamp, with short text printed in gold above each circle. The story appears to be about three men who are shooting arrows to find brides, one finds a boyar's daughter, the second finds a merchant's daughter, the third finds a frog for a bride. A chemise is sewn for the frog and presented to a king with baked bread. The frog turns into a maiden who dances, but there is quarrel about the frog skin. An old witch instructs Ivan, who saves the maiden and they live happily ever after.

There was no mention in the Soviet philatelic literature about any 1983 issue featuring Russian fairy tales with Palekh village paintings. In 1984 the Soviet Union postal administration did release a sheet of 12 depicting Russian Folk Tales, with paintings by I. Ya. Bilibina, but not by the

Palekh village artist Kurkin. One stamp depicted the three archers and tale title, The Frog Princess, another showed the archer and the frog.

It is possible this sheet was an essay for the Russian Folk Tales set to be issued in 1984, because the word Pochta and a value 4 kopecks were included, 4 kopecks being the lowest common value in use in 1983. Or it is simply a Cinderella sheet made for some other purpose. Does anyone know any other details of this sheet?

The fine Palekh village paintings are best known on lacquerware boxes and other wooden items. The minute details on the paintings are extraordinary and oftentimes rendered with a single strand of hair of a paint brush. Consequently, such items are very costly.



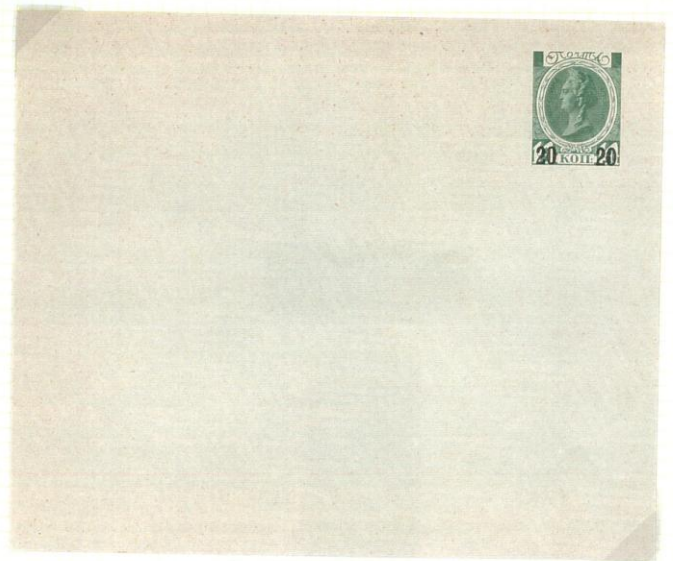
Editor's Note: I reset the brightness and contrast of the sheet so that you may see the gold imprint on the sheet.

### 1916-17 Surcharged Postal Stationery By Leonard Tann

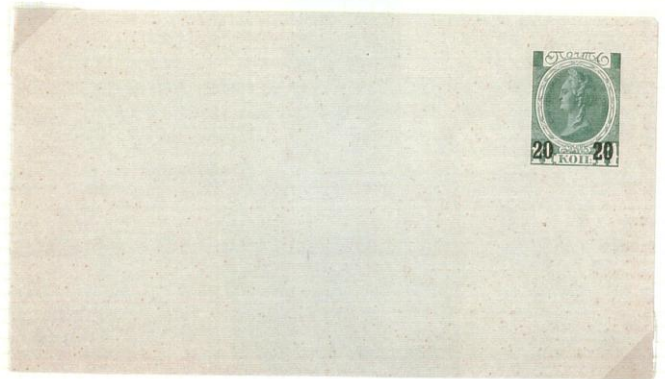
In the Rossica Journal #143 of 2004, I wrote about the surcharges Arms stationary; the 7k letter-card types overprinted in black "10k". They were issued to use up the dormant supplies after the postal rates were raised to 10 kopecks in September 1914. I did not refer to the Romanoff stationary in that article.

Let me immediately applaud the recent outstanding catalogue of Russian Postal Stationery by our dear friend Alexander Epstein of Tallinn. I saw the text last year and was very impressed. Postal stationary is very much the poor stepsister of Russian philately. It deserves to be more in the limelight! And let be also applaud Rossica for publishing it too!

The 14k Romanoff stationary envelopes with the imprinted Catherine II stamp were overprinted in black "20.....20" in exactly the same way as the stamps of the time. The 20/14k Catherine envelope is certainly known in mint (unused) condition as shown here in two sizes. But these are uncommon and are valued in the region of \$70 each.



20 / 14 kopek postal stationery envelopes.



Used, in any condition, is a different matter. They are undoubtedly *scarce*! In my opinion, I believe that a full cover of the Catherine 20/14k nicely used with any postmark, even the most common, should be valued at \$100+. I show here a cut-out of the 20/14k stamp (I would happily strangle whoever cut it off the full cover!) with much of the circular "243" railway postal office. Curiously, the post-

marks of routes 243/244, Chita-Bochkarevo out in Siberia, never had oval types. Perhaps the older circular types never wore out and were never replaced.



'Cut out' stamp 20k / 14k, from stationery-envelope. Used with pmk of TPO CHITA - 243 - BOCHKAREVO of Trans-Siberian Rlwy.

I express my opinion here, both regarding these envelopes and the 10/7k Romanoff envelope, Nicholas II (read further on) that the overprinted types existed only in small numbers, but enough to be worthwhile to overprint them with the new rates. I think that they were circulated only in Petrograd, perhaps some in Moscow. Use elsewhere, as in the "cut-out item shown, does not imply that they were available there. I believe that in this case, as I said regarding the Arms letter-cards, travelers would buy them in Petrograd and Moscow, write on them while travelling, and post them at their destination or en route. So it is entirely possible for their use to be far away from Petrograd/Moscow.

There is another "clue" I must take into account. The Catherine 20/14k envelope is known later with a "revolutionary overprint". The imprinted stamp has a black laurel-wreath with hammer and sickle in the center. These were used, I believe, with the August 1922 Arms stamps the "philately for children" overprint. This tells us that there was a residual supply of this envelope in the State Printing Office. Should I add, and if there had been any of the Nicholas II envelopes 7k with the black "10 ....10" overprint, would these have been used likewise?

Alexander Epstein, probably replying on my opinion, does list the "matching" Nicholas II 7k envelope with "10 ....10". I know I have seen one and testify to this. It was many years ago but I remember it clearly. Alexander suggests it may have been a *proof* and never actually issued, and he notes it as such. I believe that it was issued, but in very small numbers, in Petrograd, and, as one has never been discovered, mint or used, I concede that it should be listed with a question mark. I simply suggest here that if it was issued, not only might it have only in Petrograd, but perhaps only at the main post offices therein. I promise you all, dear readers, if I find one, it will be presented as a star item with reverberating fanfare of trumpets! Let us presume it did exist, was issued, mint/unused it would be worth \$100+.<sup>(Note 1)</sup> Nicely used, even with the most common Petrograd postmark of the time, the value would be

\$120+. So watch this space!!! I may be able to show you one to you .....some day. (See editor's note)

In the meantime, I am searching for a nicely used full cover of the Catherine 20/14k. And if any fellow collector has one, please show it to us. We'd really love to see it.

Thank you.

Note 1: If, after more than 90 years, a stationary envelope of Nicholas II 7k with the "10.....10" surcharge surfaced, it should be subjected to expert inspection to ensure the surcharge has not been faked.

Editor's Note: The Rossica Bulletin is proud to publish this article by Leonard Tann. It is probably the last article written by him. However, we are also sorry to announce of his passing in November 2007 shortly after I received the article.

## Proposed Rossica Constitution Changes

The following changes have been approved by the Board of Directors. According to the Rossica Constitution, the regular members must vote on the changes. It requires 2/3 of the participating regular members to determine if it is accepted or not.

The request for you to vote is required to be done and the response time for answering must be before the next general membership meeting at BALPEX. The Bulletin Editor has been tasked with getting the information to you.

The following two proposals are given for your consideration and vote.

### Change One

*Article II, Section 2, c*, 1st sentence as written states, "Tentative membership is open to all individuals who successfully apply. A person is considered Tentative until his/her name is published in the next journal and a period of ninety (90) days has passed with no negative comments from the Regular membership."

Propose we change the word 'journal' to 'Bulletin' since this is really an internal Rossica event. The proposed wording is "Tentative membership is open to all individuals who successfully apply. A person is considered Tentative until his/her name is published in the next bulletin and a period of ninety (90) days has passed with no negative comments from the Regular membership."

### Change Two

*Article II, Section 2, e*, 1st sentence as written states, "Applicants shall be notified by the Treasurer of their accep-

tance into or rejection by the Society."

Propose we change this to reflect the Secretary instead of the Treasurer has this function. The proposed wording is "Applicants shall be notified by the Secretary of their acceptance into or rejection by the Society."

A ballot has been attached to this Bulletin if you are receiving it in paper format. Vote on each change and return it to Ed Laveroni, our Secretary. His address is on the ballot. You must print and sign your name to the ballot.

If you are receiving this Bulletin by email, the ballot is a separate attachment to the email. Please open the attachment. The attachment is in Word format. If this is a problem for you, please let me know. Vote for each change. Type in your name at the bottom of the ballot. Save it and send it in an email to [michael.gutter@rossica.org](mailto:michael.gutter@rossica.org).



