

BULLETIN OF THE ROSSICA SOCIETY OF RUSSIAN PHILATELY

NUMBER 45

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Special Edition 2009

Society News



This is an election year for the new Rossica officers. Remember to vote. For once you won't become involved in politics or campaigns. We are just a non-profit society of people who enjoy Russian and Russian-related philately.

As you will find reading this edition of the Bulletin, it is a combination of both a regular Bulletin and a Special Edition. Because ROSSICAPEX 2009 and the Annual Meeting are being held so early this year and the need to call for nominations of officers by the membership, it was decided to put out a Special Edition of the Bulletin. We hope it provides both the necessary Society information as well as information for your enjoyment.

This Bulletin, once again is a bit long. It contains some much needed information for both the members who would like to submit nominations for the new officers as well as for those members who will be attending ROSSICAPEX 2009 and the Annual Meeting. In addition, the Treasurer Report and Financial Statement is included so you can review it before the Annual Meeting on June 27th.

Please note that all nominations for officers need to be submitted no later than June 30, 2009. To date, only two officers have agreed to continue in their current positions. They are Greg Mirsky as Librarian and Michael Gutter as Treasurer. Remember that all of these positions are voluntary positions and are non-paying. Expenses for normal Rossica expenses are reimbursed but travel is not.

The final details and plans for ROSSICAPEX 2009 are in place. You will find a good article by the chairman, David Skipton, about ROSSICAPEX both in this Bulletin as well as on the Samovar at www.rossica.org. Just to give you a clue as to how well this has turned out, we have 208 frames in exhibits of Russian and Russian-related material. This is the largest exhibit out-

side of Russian to ever be assembled of this much exclusive material. We have APS National Status with a jury of 5 judges who have strong Russian judging knowledge.

For those of you who are still undecided, there is still time to make your reservations while the airline tickets are cheap. Use Priceline.com to bid on cheap hotel reservations. The Hilton is \$99.00 a night while the block rate is \$119.00 a night. There are still ways to get an airline ticket from coast to coast for \$192.00 round trip.

I have heard the comments about the lack of Russian dealers but we did address that issue. Please note that there are not many dealers who have Russian material who actually attend shows. However, there will be some there.

Of course, we will have other surprises for our members which will be introduced at the show. For those of you, who will not be attending, watch the website www.rossica.org on June 26th for the announcements.

And in case you may have forgotten, this is also the place for the Rossica Annual Meeting. Again look at the Special Insert to see the time for the meeting. Much needs to be discussed and your input is always appreciated.

I have also included an article that I extracted from the website. I did not receive any articles this time for this Bulletin. Therefore, I thought I would use a posting that caused some interest to make up a short article in this Bulletin. I will not give the posters name since I don't know them nor do I want to know them. That is for their privacy.

As for the Treasurer's Report, read it carefully. It also has good news.

Mike Gutter, Bulletin Editor. (michael.gutter@rossica.org)

New Members

Welcome to Rossica! We hope you will enjoy the benefits the society has to offer including the Journal, the Bulletin, the Li-

brary, 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.

1950 Guido Craveri, Lugano Switzerland
 1951 Harold Ford, Stone Mountain, GA, USA
 1952 Richard Weinberg, Indianapolis, IN, USA
 1953 Stefan Berger, Jena, Germany
 1954 Melvin Malenski, Baltimore, MD, USA
 1955 Nick Kurlick, Havre De Grace, MD, USA
 1956 Victor McHenry, Alexandria, VA, USA
 1957 Andreas Bliersbach, Reichshof, Germany
 1959 Michael Rogers, Winter Park, FL
 1960 Peter Gutter, Carson City, NV, USA
 1961 Raymond Kargl, Los Angeles, CA

The following are our tentative members who will become full members within 90 days unless our regular members provide Rossica reasonable cause why they should not become full members.

1962 Richard Miggins, Los Angeles, CA
 1963 Mike Hert, Bankstown, NSW, Australia
 1964 Erich von Hungen, Menlo Park, CA
 1965 Ian Sellick, Brooklyn, NY

Election Time

Remember that every three years it is time for a new election for your Rossica officers. Please send your nomination for the office of President, Vice President, Board of Directors, Treasurer, Secretary, Librarian, and Auditor to your Secretary Dr. Ed Laveroni, P.O. Box 320997, Los Gatos, CA 95032-0116, or e-mail me at ed.laveroni@rossica.org with your nominations. Please include your name, the name of the person you have nominated and the office to which the candidate has been nominated.

All Rossica members in good standing can nominate any Rossica member that they choose for the offices mentioned. All nominations must be in by June 30, 2009 at 12 PM (PDT).

The process:

1. Nominations by June 30th.
2. Written letter to nominees for acceptance or decline of nomination.
3. If acceptance, a written letter of their platform on which they intend to run by Aug. 1 to be included with the ballot to all members in good standing.

If you have any questions, please contact me at the above address.

Thank you,

Dr. Ed Laveroni
 Rossica Secretary

Call for Journal 153 Articles

This is a call for articles for the Fall edition of the Rossica Journal, Journal 153. I will need your FINAL documents with all supporting graphics no later than 15 August 2009.

Please let me know as soon as possible if you are planning to submit an article for the Fall journal so I can plan for it.

Thanks!

Jeff Radcliffe
 Journal Editor

A Russian Mystery - Request for Information

(Note: From time to time, I will find an interesting post on the Samovar that causes a number of answers by different people. The following article is an extract of such a post. The original post was from a non-Rossica member who was trying to find information about a stamp that he had found. I do not include the nicknames of the posters nor do I include all the replies when they do not pertain directly to the original post. I also am not making any correction to the post because it would change the character of the replies. – Mike Gutter)

(Original Post)

Hi Mr. Radcliffe-- I'm a member of the APS and they suggested you may be able to solve this Russia issue (mystery) for me. This un gummed imperf came out of a worldwide album from the 1930s? and I just can't figure out what it may be. I just collect for fun but I know enough to question if it was a possible local, Ukraine issue. My identifier states that the top word PYCCKAR was overprinted on Russian stamps used in the Ukraine. The paper appears to be a stamp issue and not from stationary or a possible postal card. I've been over my standard Russia catalog many times and I know how to investigate the back of the book possibilities but I'm all worn out here. My best guess is it may have been a local Ukraine issue or perhaps it was produced but never issued. I'm hoping you'll be kind enough to help me here. Thanks-Chris Masters --Member APS



Picture provided by
Chris Masters

(Reply 1)

Latvia under Russian occupation. Issued in 1919 but never put into use.

From Stanley Gibbons:

Stamps in the above type, 5, 10, 15, 20, 30, 50, 60 and 75 k. were prepared for use by the force raised by Col. Avalov-Bermond, in Latvia, but were never issued. Forgeries also exist."

He commanded the Western Russia Volunteer Army. The Post Office was back under Latvian control by the time the stamps were ready.

(Reply 2)

Bermond-Avalov 4th issue (see Scott Latvia). The stamp looks like forgery. By the way the common mistake is to spell "Bermond" as "Bermond". His second name (Avalov) is also under big doubt because he was "adopted" by prince Avalov at the age of 32 that looks very strange of course.

(Reply 3)

I think the "Bermond" comes from the German spelling

Pawel Rafalowitsch Bermond-Awalow

Павел Рафалович Бермонт-Авалов

(Reply 4)

German spelling is wrong. There is no D in your Russian spelling. I am going to write article about him because he was a very interesting person.

(Reply 5)

It's not "wrong", Germany has other transliteration rules for the Russian language than the English speaking world.

(Reply 6)

A little more precise definition: these stamps were printed in Berlin by order of Bermond administration but never delivered to the place, i.e. never issued.

(Reply 7)

Paper thickness and wove of this issue

This is a very interesting issue from a technical aspect. The paper can be white, light brown or tannish. Wove paper pattern can be vertical or horizontal. Other white paper does not appear to be wove. Thickness of ungummed issues can vary from 0.63 to 0.118 mm. Colors are myriad. Perforated or unperforated. Gummed or non gummed. Am preparing a publication on the classification of this issue.

(Reply 8)

Counterfeits of this issue

Does anyone have references or articles (in English) on differentiation of counterfeits from regular issues? Thank you.

(Reply 9)

Try these:

1) Stamps of the Western Army of Col. Bermond-Avalov, by A. Nuxa and A.M. Rosselevich. Russian Philatelist No. 4, Nov. 1963, pp. 22-28.

2) The Eagle Stamps of the Western Army, by R.J. Benns. British Journal of Russian Philately No. 37, Oct. 1965, pp. 5-16 and 2 illustration pages. (Also his brief comments in the "Correspondence" section of BJRP No. 35, Oct. 1964, p. 38.)

3) I do not have this item at hand, so it may turn out to be something other than what you're looking for, but try Forgeries of the Unissued West Russian Army Stamps of Latvia, by Varro E. Tyler. The American Philatelist, May 1983, pp. 416-418.

4) These issues must have been covered in one or more of Ray Ceresa's "The Postage Stamps of Russia, 1917-1923" monographs, 3rd series - "The Armies," but my set went to the Rossica Library, so I don't know exactly which of the issues covered them.

5) Even though you're looking for articles in English, I don't think you can afford to overlook "Die Awaloff-Bermond-Marken oder Dichtung und Wahrheit, by Harry von Hofmann. Philatelia Baltica Nos. 45-47, Dec. 1966, pp. 2-32.

There are undoubtedly more sources out there. Those above were gleaned from "The Rossica Society Library Subject Index," 1993. Whenever you're digging for information, the best place to start is the Rossica Society Library, which has one of the two largest concentrations of philatelic literature on Russia and related areas in the Western Hemisphere. Contact Greg Mirsky; he should be able to provide more than this short list.

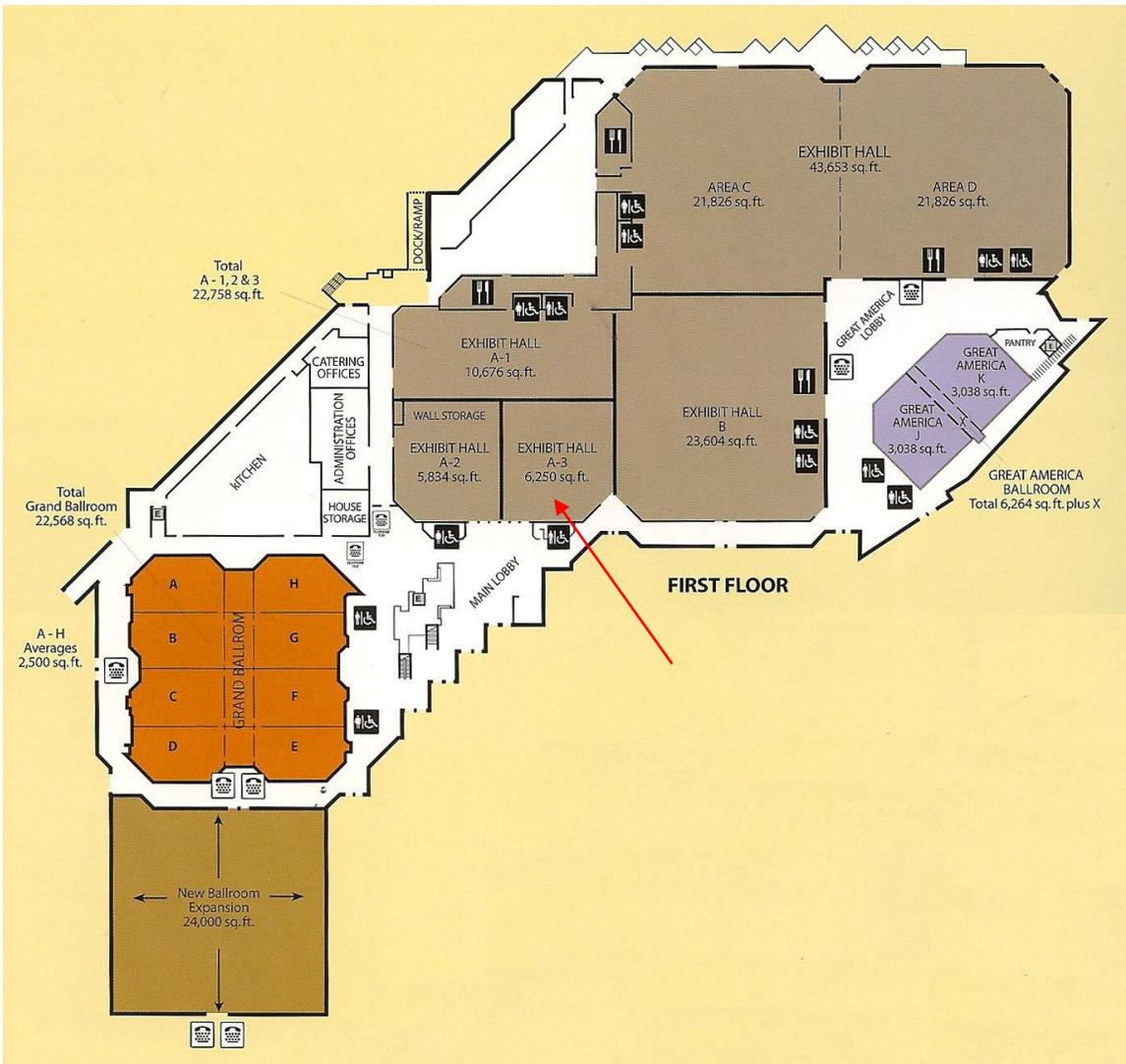


ROSSICAPEX 2009

We are pleased to announce that on 10 April 2009 the APS Board granted ROSSICAPEX “national status with APS recognition.” While we did not receive World Series of Philately status, this is still a tremendous honor. As a national show, the Society will receive the support of the APS, its awards and many of the special awards granted by other societies, e.g. the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors, American Topical Association, American Philatelic Congress, and numerous others. Lack of WSP status means only that our Grand Award winner will not be able to compete in the APS Champion of Champion events, but anyone winning a vermeil or better in the Open Competition will be eligible for FIP shows.

We have the brand-new Prigara vignette sheets in hand, and will offer those plus the previous Arkhangelsky and Salisbury vignettes for sale at the Rossica booth, along with the usual array of literature, coffee cups, *znachki* and whatnot.

The ASDA Summer Postage Stamp Show (ROSSICAPEX) will be held in Halls A-2 and A-3 of the Santa Clara Convention Center (see red arrow). We believe that our meeting room will be upstairs, although we have not yet received a room number. The Awards Banquet on Saturday night will take place at 7 p.m. in the Santa Clara Hilton right across the street from the Convention Center.



Floor layout schematic courtesy of the Santa Clara Convention Center.

Schedule of Events

Thursday, 25 June 2009

- 7:00 Rossica booth and frame set-up.
- 2:00 Exhibitors' set-up of their displays.

Friday, 26 June 2009

- 8:00 Judges' breakfast.
- 10:00 Show opening, welcoming remarks.
- 10:15 Official unveiling of the S.V. Prigara vignette.
- 12:30 Judges' working lunch.
- 12:30 Rossica Officers' Meeting
- 2:00 Exhibitors' docent tours of their displays.

After the show: BBQ at Ed Laveroni's.

Saturday, 27 June 2009

- 10:00 Show opens.
 12:00 Rossica Annual General Meeting
 1:00 Greg Mirsky, Rossica Librarian and co-author of the long-running series
 “*Flyspecker*,” speaking on “Russian Stamps: Look Beyond Filling Spaces...”
 2:00 V. Denis Vandervelde, the editor of “*Pratique*” and an authority on disinfection
 of mail around the world, presents *The Disinfection of Mail in Russia,
 Historically, with Special Reference to the Period after 1896.*
 3:15 Exhibitors’ group photograph.
 3:30 Judges’ Critique.
 6:00 Show closes.
 7:00 Rossica/ASDA Awards Banquet at the Santa Clara Hilton.

Sunday, 28 June 2009

- 10:00 Show opens.
 10:30 Panel discussion on the problems facing exhibitors of Russian and related-areas
 material in the U.S. and abroad, possible solutions, advice on exhibiting for
 novices and veterans.
 2:00 Exhibitors’ docent tours of their displays.
 4:00 Show closes.

Exhibits

Now that the deadline for exhibits has passed and the displays are set in stone we can at last give you the final list, a tremendous array of material that will be shown at ROSSICAPEX. At 208 frames (that comes to 3,328 pages...) of Armenia, Carpatho-Ukraine, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Mongolia, Poland, Russia and Ukraine, with strong sprinklings of Germany and Persia, we believe this will be the largest exhibition of the area ever held in North America. Have a look!

(in alphabetical order)

- Armenian Revenues - Their Use on Receipts 1918-1924** (4 frames, Revenue) – Ray Ceresa.
“Blue Pencil:” Imperial Russian Censorship of Prison, Exile and Interned Civilian Mail (9 frames, Postal History) – David Skipton.
Carpatho-Ukraine, 1944-1945 (7, Traditional) – Jay Carrigan.
Feldmoching DP Camp’s Russian Post (1, Cinderella) – Nikolai Sorokin.
Finnish Railway to St. Petersburg (8, Postal History) – Roger Quinby.
From Russia with Love: Foreign Visitors Send Home Picture Postcards, 1896-1947 (8, Post Cards) – Alexander Kolchinsky.
Imperial Postmarks of the Trans-Siberian Railroad, Chelyabinsk to Manchzhuriya (8, Postal History) – Edward Laveroni.
Keeping the Faith: Vignettes of the Old Russian Diaspora (7, Cinderella) – Nikolai Sorokin.
Grand Duchy of Finland 1856-1874 (8 Court of Honor) – „Classicus.“
Latvian Traveling Post Offices: Rates, Routes and Cancellations (8, Postal History) – Vesma Grinfelds.
Lithuanian Air Post Issue: A Traditional Study (8, Traditional) – Vesma Grinfelds.
Military Censorship in Imperial Russia, 1904-1917 (10, Postal History) – David Skipton.
Mongolia 1886-1932 (6, Traditional) – Richard Clever.
Odessa: Clandestine Censorship of Mail, 1920-1940 (1, Postal History) – Steve Volis.
On the Roads of Russia (6, Thematic) – Anatoly Osatinski.
Ostarbeiter Mail in WWII (10, Postal History) – George Werbizky.
Postal Evidence of the Russification of The Kingdom of Poland 1815-1876 (1, Postal History) – Chris Kulpinski.
Rossica's Vignettes, 1938-2008 (1, non-competitive Society display)
Russia and Persia till 1930 (10, Postal History) – Bjorn Sohrne.
Russian Imperial Air Units in World War I (1, Postal History) – Adolph Ackerman.
Russian Mute Cancels and Registration in WWI (10, Postal History) – Arnold Levin.
Russian Revolutionary Overprints (2, Traditional) – George Shalimoff.
Russian Rural Post (Zemstvo) Use of Bisected Stamps (1, Postal History) – George Werbizky.
Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic, November 1917 - June 1923 (6, Traditional) – Ray Pietruszka.
Soviet Antarctica 1955-1959 (8, Court of Honor) – Ross Marshall.

Soviet Occupation of Poland 1939-1941 (5, Postal History) – Chris Kulpinski.
Soviet Union Postage Stamp Advertising Labels 1923-1927 (1, Thematic) – Paul Ortega.
Stalin on Stamps, Covers, Postcards: Philately at the Service of Dictatorship (6, Thematic) – Alexander Kolchinsky.
The 1857-1866 Issues of the 10 Kopecks Stamps of Russia (1, Traditional) – George Shalimoff.
The “3-Star” Coat of Arms Issues of Latvia: 1921-1933 (5, Traditional, Youth Exhibit) – Dzintars Grinfelds.
The First Stamp of Latvia: Printed on Maps (1, Traditional) – Vesma Grinfelds.
The Poezd and Pochta Postmarks of the “Little Railroads of St. Petersburg” (1, Postal History) – Edward Laveroni.
The Rossica Society (1, non-competitive Society display)
The Small Heads of the First Definitive Set of the USSR 1923-1927 (8, Traditional) – Richard Weinberg.
The Trident Revenues of Podolia, Ukraine 1919 (1, Revenue) – Ray Ceresa.
Unrecognized and Overlooked Zemstvo Mail (7, Postal History) – George Werbizky.
Usage of the Romanov Tercentenary Issue of Russia 1913-1917 (6, Traditional) – George Shalimoff.
World War I. Prisoners-of-War in Russia (8, Social Philately) – Rein Vasara.
World War I. Prisoners-of-War in Russia. Postal Stationery (8, Postal Stationery) – Rein Vasara.

Total: 208 frames, 39 exhibits, 25 exhibitors (counting the Rossica Society as an exhibitor).

Court of Honor: 2
 Society (non-competitive): 2
 Traditional exhibits: 10
 Postal History: 15
 Thematic: 3
 Revenue: 2
 Postal Stationery: 1
 Post Cards: 1
 Social Philately: 1
 Cinderella: 2

If you can't find something in that list to interest you, we offer two speakers - Greg Mirsky and V. Denis Vandervelde - who will give talks on “Russian Stamps: Look Beyond Filling Spaces...” and "The Disinfection of Mail in Russia, Historically, with Special Reference to the Period after 1896.” If that STILL doesn't float your boat, we have nothing left in our arsenal of guilty pleasures other than a first-class Awards Banquet (buffet) that is almost sold out and the opportunity to schmooze with a lot of philatelists, many of whom you've probably never met before. They're coming from Russia, Sweden, Great Britain, Canada, and New Zealand and all over the U.S. Just the chance to meet some of these folks ought to be enticement enough.

We are indebted to the Council of Northern California Philatelic Societies and the Reno Stamp Club for the use of their frames. Thank you, folks!

Hope to see the Rossica crew gather with great strength in number!

David Skipton

Rossica Society of Russian Philately

2008 Financial Statement

These reports were created and reviewed by the Rossica Treasurer. This statement covers the financial year of January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008. The financial records for Rossica are maintained in a double entry accounting system as required by the Rossica Constitution. The software used is QuickBooks 2007.

The reports are:

- Balance Sheet
- Income and Expense Report
- Income and Expense Detail Report (This report is available upon request only due to its 16 page length)
- Balance Sheet Previous Year Comparison

A comparison report of 2007 to 2008 is included with this report for the first time which shows a 32.9% growth in the financial funds of the Society in 2008. Although this may appear to be an outstanding growth rate for the Society, I must caution you to remember that we only started tracking our financial status with QuickBooks in 2007. One area that would be affected by this is the early payment of membership dues. Many of our members started to pay their membership dues prior to the beginning of 2009 and will pay their dues a year or more in advance. Thus, since we are on a cash basis system, it immediately posts the money into the year it is received. Approximately \$4300 of Rossica's 2009 and future dues posted into 2008.

PayPal continues to be a good avenue for payment for our members and other non members.

Both the Maryland Tax Statement and the Internal Revenue Service 990N Tax Forms were filed on time as required. Both were accepted. Additionally, the 2007 financial books were audited and approved.

In conclusion, Rossica is in an excellent financial position to move forward into new endeavors.

The financial statement and report is now open for public view as required by the United States Internal Revenue Service for a 501(c) organization.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Ann Gutter
Rossica Treasurer

Rossica Society of Russian Philately
Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2008

	<u>Dec 31, 08</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
M&T Bank	17,424.27
PayPal (PayPal Internet Account)	124.40
Total Checking/Savings	<u>17,548.67</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>17,548.67</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>17,548.67</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
30000 - Opening Bal Equity	9,362.45
32000 - Unrestricted Net Assets (Other Income)	3,244.42
Net Income	4,941.80
Total Equity	<u>17,548.67</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>17,548.67</u>

Rossica Society of Russian Philately
Income and Expense
 January through December 2008

	Jan - Dec 08
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
43400 - Direct Public Support (Contributions (Including the amount of dues ...	
43450 - Donations (Contributions from individuals, businesses, direct mail...)	1,453.83
Total 43400 - Direct Public Support (Contributions (Including the amount of ...	1,453.83
47200 - Program Income (Program service fees, member dues and assessm...	
47230 - Membership Dues (Member dues that compare reasonably with m...	9,239.41
47250 - Book Sales	2,155.75
47260 - Other Sales Items (Vignettes, Cups, Etc)	1,022.00
Total 47200 - Program Income (Program service fees, member dues and ass...	12,417.16
Total Income	13,870.99
Expense	
62100 - Contract Services (Fees for outside services)	
62120 - PayPal Fees	195.51
62130 - eBay Fee	4.40
62100 - Contract Services (Fees for outside services) - Other	24.96
Total 62100 - Contract Services (Fees for outside services)	224.87
65000 - Operations (Expenses related to providing program services and m...	
65020 - Postage, Mailing Service (Postage, parcel delivery, local courier, t...	268.67
65030 - Printing and Copying (Printing, copying, duplicating, recording)	117.43
65040 - Supplies (Supplies, materials, food and beverages, plaques, medl...	6.05
Total 65000 - Operations (Expenses related to providing program services a...	392.15
65100 - Journal Operations and Expenses (Expenses relating to the publihl...	
65110 - Printer Supply Costs (Expenses for ink cartridge, drum cartridge...	2,849.50
65120 - Journal Paper Supply Expenses (Expenses related to paper suppl...	160.06
65130 - Journal Mailing Supplies (Mailing supply expenses related to the ...	37.96
65140 - Journal Postage Expenses (Expenses related to the mailing of the...	2,101.10
65160 - Journal Printer Maintenance (Expense and Cost to Maintain the ...	93.06
65190 - Journal Miscellaneous Expenses (Other supply and miscellaneou...	41.97
Total 65100 - Journal Operations and Expenses (Expenses relating to the pu...	5,283.65
65200 - Library Operations and Expenses (Expenses related to the Rossica ...	
65210 - Library Publication Purchases (Cost of publication purchases for ...	376.00
65220 - Rossica Library Postage Costs	92.74
65230 - Library Supply Costs (Expenses for paper, envelopes, etc.)	181.27
65250 - Library Conversion Expenses (Expenses related to the scanning ...	1,516.97
Total 65200 - Library Operations and Expenses (Expenses related to the Ro...	2,166.98
66000 - Other Types of Expenses (Expenses listed on line 43 of Form 990)	
66120 - Insurance - Liability, D and O (Non-employee or property insuran...	100.00
66160 - Other Costs (Miscellaneous, small, or non-recurring expenses)	400.00
Total 66000 - Other Types of Expenses (Expenses listed on line 43 of Form ...	500.00

Rossica Society of Russian Philately
Balance Sheet Prev Year Comparison
 As of December 31, 2008

	Dec 31, 08	Dec 31, 07	\$ Change	% Change
ASSETS				
Current Assets				
Checking/Savings				
M&T Bank	17,424.27	11,923.60	5,500.67	46.1%
PayPal (PayPal Internet Account)	124.40	683.27	-558.87	-81.8%
Total Checking/Savings	<u>17,548.67</u>	<u>12,606.87</u>	<u>4,941.80</u>	<u>39.2%</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>17,548.67</u>	<u>12,606.87</u>	<u>4,941.80</u>	<u>39.2%</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>17,548.67</u>	<u>12,606.87</u>	<u>4,941.80</u>	<u>39.2%</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY				
Equity				
30000 - Opening Bal Equity	9,362.45	9,362.45	0.00	0.0%
32000 - Unrestricted Net Assets (Other Income)	3,244.42	1,504.61	1,739.81	115.6%
Net Income	<u>4,941.80</u>	<u>1,739.81</u>	<u>3,201.99</u>	<u>184.0%</u>
Total Equity	<u>17,548.67</u>	<u>12,606.87</u>	<u>4,941.80</u>	<u>39.2%</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>17,548.67</u>	<u>12,606.87</u>	<u>4,941.80</u>	<u>39.2%</u>