



THE SOCIETY OF RUSSIAN PHILATELY

Bulletin 61, Summer 2018

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President's Message

Greetings fellow Rossica members! Like most of the country, Alabama has been HOT-90s plus 50-60% humidity and this was just June. The hot part of the summer is yet to come. So while we are sitting in our air conditioning, it is a great time to plan to attend the annual Rossica meeting at BALPEX in Baltimore, MD over the Labor Day weekend. It may have cooled down a bit by then, so get your exhibit application in, make your travel plans, reserve your hotel room -recommend you call, the last time I checked the web site was not up to date. We'll be holding our annual membership meeting and in addition to an update on the state of the Society, I'll be talking about my plans for the next three years. We also will be announcing the Best Journal Article of 2017 and the volunteer of the year. So let's get together and have some fun with Stamps!

I've been talking about the upcoming elections for a while now and have not heard from anyone who wants to run for office. We need a new vice president and there are going to be additional non-elected positions next year. I'll talk about those at the National meeting. Honestly if we do not get anyone else to put their hat in, I just might have a good old communist election at the general meeting and save to Society the expense of mailing ballots. This is your Society, please get involved!

At our Officer's meeting in May we discussed several items and put a couple in motion. First off, the officers authorized the treasurer to explore options for a new Bank. This decision arose out of the difficulty in updating the current bank accounts with Wells Fargo as officers have changed. Each branch seems to have a different policy and being spread over five different states we can't seem to get this done. The latest recommendation was to close the accounts and open up new ones! If we are going to do that we might as well shop around.

We also got an update on our trademark application. It's been submitted and accepted. We are now waiting for approval or a request for more information.

The Social at WESTPEX was a success. We had 12 people attend the gathering and presentation and even sold a few publications. We will work on have these in the future. For sure at WESTPEX and hopeful other major shows. We'll need volunteers for this.

The final item I wish to talk about is the new book the Society has just released: "PERFINS of Imperial Russia and The Russian Post Offices abroad", second edition by Dick Scheper, edited by Nikolai Sorokin. If you collect Imperial Stamps this is a useful addition to your library. It explains and as well identifies why some imperial stamps have holes in them. There were two different reasons! This is a poorly understood part of our field, and this book begins to bring information to the English speaking collector. And at \$18.00 plus postage it's a steal! You can order it from our web

site. Once again Nik has done an outstanding job of putting out a great book.

Well, that's about it. I hope to see many of you at BALPEX in Baltimore and I'll try to talk with as many of you as I can when I'm not judging exhibits.

Raymond J. Pietruszka
Rossica President

All New Applications to the Rossica Society Appeared in the Last Journal

Minutes of Board Meeting

Minutes of the 19 May 2018 Officers' Teleconference

Proposed Agenda:

1. Updating the Well Fargo bank accounts. We need to make a formal decision by the board to remove unnecessary people from the accounts. We will also have to update the list of executives as Dave Skipton is the only one left. Another option is to wait until after elections later this year.

2. We need to get nominations for the best article of 2017 and the volunteer of the year.

3. We will discuss the membership meeting in September. Most important will be a program.

4. After-action report on WESTPEX and where do we go from here. Maybe we should have a presence at APS Show in Mesa (February 2019, Ameristamp Expo).

5. Elections for at least one new officer – vice-president. I need help here-I don't know enough people.

Additions proposed by Hyman Lovitz at the last moment:

6. Report on our trademark registration

7. Maintaining a formal corporate minutes and record book

Meeting notes:

In attendance: Mike, Ray, Hyman, Dave, Nik, Dave, Greg, Jeff, Alexander.

Agenda Item No 1. Mike updated the removal of herself and Clever's from Wells Fargo bank account. She visited a branch and was told that they will need the minutes of this meeting. There is a difference between the executive and a signer. It turned out that Steve is a signer, but is not an executive, and this is the problem.

Steve was not able to attend. He said there is only one way to get rid of unnecessary people: open a business account at another bank. Currently Chase offers \$300 just for opening a new business account. Closing the existing account will require the decision of the board.

Nik: \$300 is better than nothing, let's take a vote and move further.

Mike: we need a bank that covers all states, and we do not have Chase in Nevada (AK- this is incorrect: Chase is everywhere in Nevada, including Las Vegas and Reno).

Dave: I support closing Wells Fargo and moving to Chase.

Ray: motion: 1. Find out if we have the same conveniences and protection from an alternative bank. 2. If yes, we move account as discussed.

Vote: everyone for, one abstained (Mike).

Agenda No. 2. We need to elect "Article of distinction." Please send it personally to Alexander. "Volunteer of the year" – send nominations to Ray.

Agenda No. 3. Discussion who will attend BALPEX. Decided to make an email blast to members within about 100 miles from the show. Dave probably knows more people there, he mentioned several names. Discussion followed of the current location of banners. Potential exhibits discussed. Nik reminded about the new format of 2-3 frames.

Agenda No. 4. Greg reported about informal get-together of Rossica at Westpex. There were lots of “show and tell,” 12 people in attendance (6 members, 6 non-members), projector, and hospitality room. Short presentation was delivered by Ivo Steijn. Greg was able to sell some books. The meeting lasted 1.5 h. We received an invitation from WESTPEX for next year [supporting voices]. I propose organizing similar events at alternating locations, maybe two per year in addition to Rossica meetings.

Agenda No. 5. Election.

Our major concern is election of vice-president. Dave proposed John Myke with the condition that he should not attend formal meeting. AK: he is Canadian, will he be able to carry out financial duties? The answer is yes. The board can nominate the candidate.

Additional question submitted by Hyman: we need to keep a formal corporate book of meetings. Hyman insists. Greg proposes to convert the sound to text. An altercation ensued. Dave: Since I was in Rossica, we never had nor needed a corporate ledger as long as minutes of meetings were published in either journal or bulletin. Hyman: the decision to register trademark was voted on, but not published. Ray: it is not true. Alexander refused to take over any additional responsibility. No vote took place.

Trademark update. Hyman: The application was submitted 26 March to Trademark office, No. 87850046. Hyman was not aware of the abuse of the “Rossica” name. An explanation and a discussion followed. The discussion went in circles.

Ray: with the trademark, we can at least warn violators and spread information.

Meeting adjourned.

Alexander Kolchinsky

Rossica Secretary

Rossica Exhibit Awards

Jerusalem -2018, FIP-sponsored

International class (Non-competitive)

Katsman, Vitaly, Ukraine
Zemstvo Post of Kharkov Province 1868-1918.
Collectors Guidebook in 2 Volumes

Obukhov, Yuri, Russia
Zemstvo Stamps of Perm Governorate (1871-1919)

International class (Competitive)

Ośródka, Leszek S., Poland
The History of Post in Lodz, 1824-1918.

The Album of Postal Stamps Used in Lodz Post Offices Until 1918 Large Vermeil. 88 points

Ryss, Igor, Russia
Postal Emissions of Georgia 1919-1923
Large Vermeil, 88 points

Lyubinin, Joseph, Ukraine
Provisory Issues of Kyiv and Chernihiv Regions 1992-1994 Vermeil, 83 points

Dymshits, Mikhail, Belarus
Standardization of Addressing and Indexing of Postal Items of the Soviet Post (1917-1991)
Silver, 70 points

LITERATURE

JOURNALS

Sorokin, Nikolai, USA
Rossica: The Journal of the Rossica Society of Philately 2017, spring issue
Large Vermeil, 88 points

CATALOGS

Kramarenko, Michael, Ukraine
Big Russia - Specialized Catalog of Postal Stamps and Stationery. 1845-1923
Large Vermeil

Obukhov, Yuri Russia
Large Catalog of Zemstvo Posts in Russia Part 1,
2 Large Vermeil

Zagorsky, Valery Russia
*Russian Empire Zemstvo Postage Stamps 1866-
1919* Vermeil, 83 points

NATIONAL

St. Louis Stamp Expo 2018

Ray Pietruszka
*The 25th Anniversary of the Polish Legion Postal
Cards*
Silver Bronze
plus
Polonus Philatelic Society Silver

SANDICAL 2018 (San Diego, CA)

Sam Melamed
Unissued and Amended Stamps of the USSR
Large Gold – single frame

ARIPEX 2018, Mesa, Arizona

Jerry Miller
Japan's Wars 1894-1911 Myron Palay
Large Vermeil
Plus
Military Postal History Society Award

INDYPEX 2017, Indianapolis, IN

Jerry H. Miller
*Evolution of the German Post Office at Shanghai:
1886-1917*
Reserve Grand and Large Gold
plus
German Philatelic Society Gold, Single frame
plus
Postal History Society Medal

Hindenburg Memorial Series of Germany
Gold

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.

Money Letters to Mont Athos

By Raymond J. Pietruszka

There are many facets of collecting Russian Philately that still can be explored. Here is one in need to serious study and a possible exhibit.

There was a large Russian orthodox community at the Religious community of Mont Athos for centuries leading up to the Revolution. To help comfort the pious and sustain the monks located there, donations were sent to the monasteries from all over Russia. This appears to have been a well-organized operation. Most likely the Russian Orthodox Church provided the information needed to insure that the money made it to the Monks. The letters I have seen give detailed instructions on who to send it to and how to send it.

Per Trevel Pateman's article, all such mail was sent first to Odessa and from there to Constantinople, capital of the Ottoman Empire at that time. From there it was sent via the Turkish Post to Mont Athos which until 1913 was part of the Ottoman Empire. Starting in the 1890's, most of this mail was directed to the steamship Companies that were operating in the Black Sea. I have seen evidence of both the Austrian Lloyd Shipping Company and the Russian Company for Steam shipping and Trade (ROPiT). In 1891, the ROPiT opened a post office at Mont Athos.

Based on the covers I have seen, I believe that the ROPiT promoted their route and put out instructions to follow to insure that the letter traveled on their ships. There are even printed labels attached to envelopes to make it easier, most likely

added by the bank. See figure 1, which says in Russian and French:

The money letter was to be delivered by the Russian Post Office to Odessa and brought to the agent of the Russian Company (i.e. ROPIT). To be delivered to the hieromonk Kirill at Mt Athos.

I've also seen covers to Mt Athos hand stamped by the Austrian Lloyds line. There may be other shipping lines or routes that handled the mail as there were several competing shipping lines in the Black Sea at this time.

One can build a very interesting collection of money letters to Mt Athos showing the different

routes used. Lucky for us, the Monks sold the old envelopes to raise funds. One could even build an impressive one frame exhibit just of Russian Money Mail to Mount Athos.

References:

1. "Imperial Russian Mail to Mont Athos"; Trevor Pateman's Philately Blog, November 2016.
2. "Stamps of the Russian Empire Used Abroad" by Tchilinghirin and Stephen, Part two, 1958, The British Society of Russian Philately.



Randy Woodward
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