



THE SOCIETY OF RUSSIAN PHILATELY

Bulletin 62, Winter 2019

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President's Message

Greetings from the South-where it can be 22°F one night and 70°F a few days later. Today we have warm weather – tomorrow it will be in the 40's/20s. So, I hope the rest of Rossica's members are keeping warm inside and spending time with their collections. There is a lot to cover today so please read all the way through.

First of all please join me in welcoming our newly elected officers: Semyon Brayman is now Vice President and Vesma Grinfeld is now Secretary. Please thank Alexander Kolchinsky, outgoing secretary, and Charles Rehwinkel, outgoing Vice President, for their service when you see them.

We are working on bringing on board a new Journal editor and a new webmaster. We have volunteers considering these positions and hopeful I

will be able to announce the new people soon. Please note we still need a journal layout editor to help the editor.

We will also be working on the digital library portal with a link through the website. I've discussed this with both the Librarian and the webmaster, and this is doable. I will let you know when it's available.

We also have a new digital index being developed for the Journal. The index will aid in finding information located in our Journals.

Now I am going to start beating my drum for the National meeting this year. It is going to be at CHICAGOPEX in November and it's going to be part of a Pan Slavic. At this time four societies will be having their annual meetings. There will be the Lithuanian, the Polish and the Ukrainian Societies in addition to ours. This means lots of opportunities to meet likeminded collectors, see some great exhibits and bourse dealers that specialize in Eastern Europe/Russia. Which leads to the need for our members to exhibit. Last year at BALPEX there were no Russian exhibits. We must do better! The Jury will have a highly qualified Russian area judge: Doctor Ross Marshall of New Zealand. So Please get your exhibits together and enter!

Next, we need to put together a list of Volunteers for the meeting. We need a local individual to coordinate with the Show committee for a Society Table and a hospitality suite and to help plan a dinner and other Social events. In addition, we need people who can man our table for a few hours a day. This will be a major recruiting event and we must be ready to bring in new members.

Some of the other Societies are striving to bring our organizations together. I will discuss these proposals with our Board of Officers and will also seek your feedback as we move forward. I'll keep beating this drum as the year goes along.

Until then, keep warm, enjoy our hobby and don't forget to share it with your friends.

Raymond J. Pietruszka
President, Rossica

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:

2166 Mathew Langois	NY, USA
2167 George Soldatow	MN, USA
2168 Dr. Sean Phillips	NJ, USA
2169 Paul Eagle	ME, USA
2170 Col. Dr. K.J. Radley	Canada
2171 John Merrill	United Kingdom
2172 Dmitry Dubovik	Russia

Minutes of Board Meeting

In attendance: Ray Pietruszka, Nik Sorokin, Greg Mirsky, Hyman Lovitz, Mike Gutter, Steve Volis, David Skipton, Alexander Kolchinsky.

1. AK: Report of the results of election. Total members queried - 220 by email and 19 by letters. Of those, I received 51 votes by email, and 6 in writing. All candidates were elected almost unanimously, so I will list only votes against candidates: for president 2, for vice-president, treasurer, editor, and members at large Randy Woodward and Dave Skipton – one each. One member did not vote for Dave.

The results of election were approved unanimously.

2. AK: Is it worth maintaining the “Information sharing list,” or are we going to change the constitution so it will become unnecessary? I have no idea how often members use it, I suspect that they don't.

RP: We intend to update our Constitution and bylaws in order to get rid of the position of auditor and maybe stop maintaining the “Sharing list.”

GM: In the past, the journal regularly published a complete list of members. I think we could return to this practice instead of the time-consuming sharing list. We can start this discussion.

DS: the list appeared historically because sometimes the published list ended up in the wrong hands, and members began receiving unsolicited emails even unrelated to philately. I think times have changed, and I will support any decision – either keeping a confidential list, or publish the full list of members in the journal.

GM: I propose to simplify the procedure. If a member wishes to display his or her interests and email, he can do so on the last couple of pages of the journal; if not – we just include his name and number.

A discussion followed. I has been decided to poll the members and with their approval make the list of members available in the journal, on the web site, and may be in the bulletin.

3. DS and MG insist on preserving the position of the auditor, while some members of the board consider it unnecessary.

GM: I suggest to create a friendly agreement with a similar society and make ad hoc appointments of auditor among their members on an exchange basis. We rarely need an auditor, it is a relatively small job, and we will all benefit from such an arrangement.

MG: It does not take more than an hour.

HL: Please explain what is meant to be an auditor? We must have an independent auditor from outside the society.

SV: IRS does not require an auditor of non-profit organization handling less than \$50 K.

No proposal to preserve the position of auditor in the new constitution was offered.

4. RP: we need to fill several positions and are looking for editor, web master, secretary, and membership chairman. As of today, we only have a volunteer for the last position.

A discussion of technical details of journal layout followed.

5. Treasurer's report. SV: In PayPal we have \$2,395; in saving account \$15,267; in checking \$9,097, for a total of \$26,759. We still have to pay for the journal about \$4,000. We only collected dues from 15 members. We decided to drop the library insurance – it is about \$500 per year, but its content is irreplaceable anyway.

GM: First, I want reliable cloud storage instead. Second, I would like to have some help with scanning material.

RP: Let's come up with final decisions in this regard by the next meeting.

6. We need to increase the dues since the printing and shipping goes up. RP suggests to increase the dues by \$3 for all members for printed journal and to \$25 for downloads. After discussion, it has been unanimously voted beginning from 2020 to increase the dues to \$35 for domestic subscribers and to \$50 for other countries.

7. It has been decided to share full run with Post-Rider in digital form with Czecho-Slovak society.

8. HL: Update on the trademark application: we received the answer from Trademark office with

comments, and McMahon answered. So, from this point we may consider our name fully protected in the USA, and to some extent in Europe.

Alexander Kolchinsky
(Former) Rossica Secretary

Rossica Exhibit Awards

The purpose of this topic is to publish, in a timely manner, information concerning exhibits by Rossica members and any awards they may have received. In order to facilitate obtaining as complete a list as is possible, I am requesting members send the following information to Randy Woodward at randyw1909@gmail.com

Please send the following information for any exhibits shown between June 1, 2018 and June 1 2019:

- Your name (last, first),
- Exhibit title and number of frames,
- Exhibit award, if any
- Name and date (month, year) of Philatelic Show

Request

If you have a short philatelic note you would like to publish in the Bulletin, please send a copy to Randy Woodward at randyw1909@gmail.com.

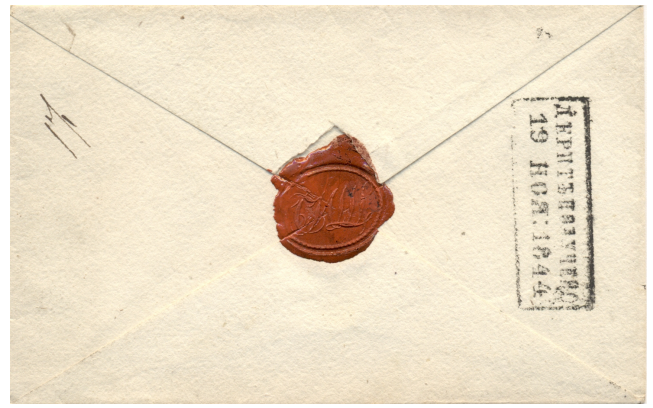
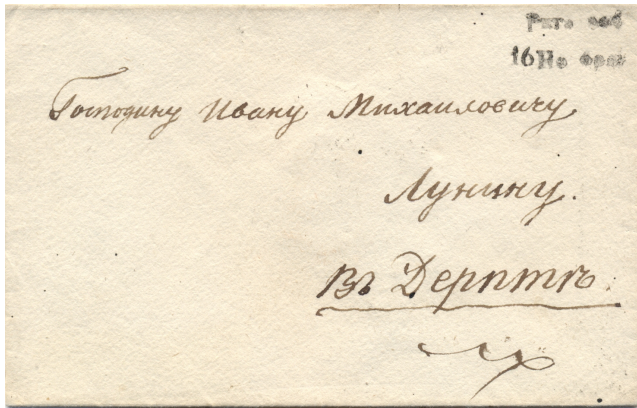
Riga Pre-Stamp Era Posting to Dorpat, Livonia.

From Vesma Grinfeld

Two line marking with Riga and (1)844 on first line and day/month on second line.

Posted on November 16, 1844; Dorpat receiving marking on reverse.

This marking is known to have been used for only one day.



Randy Woodward
Editor, Rossica Bulletin