

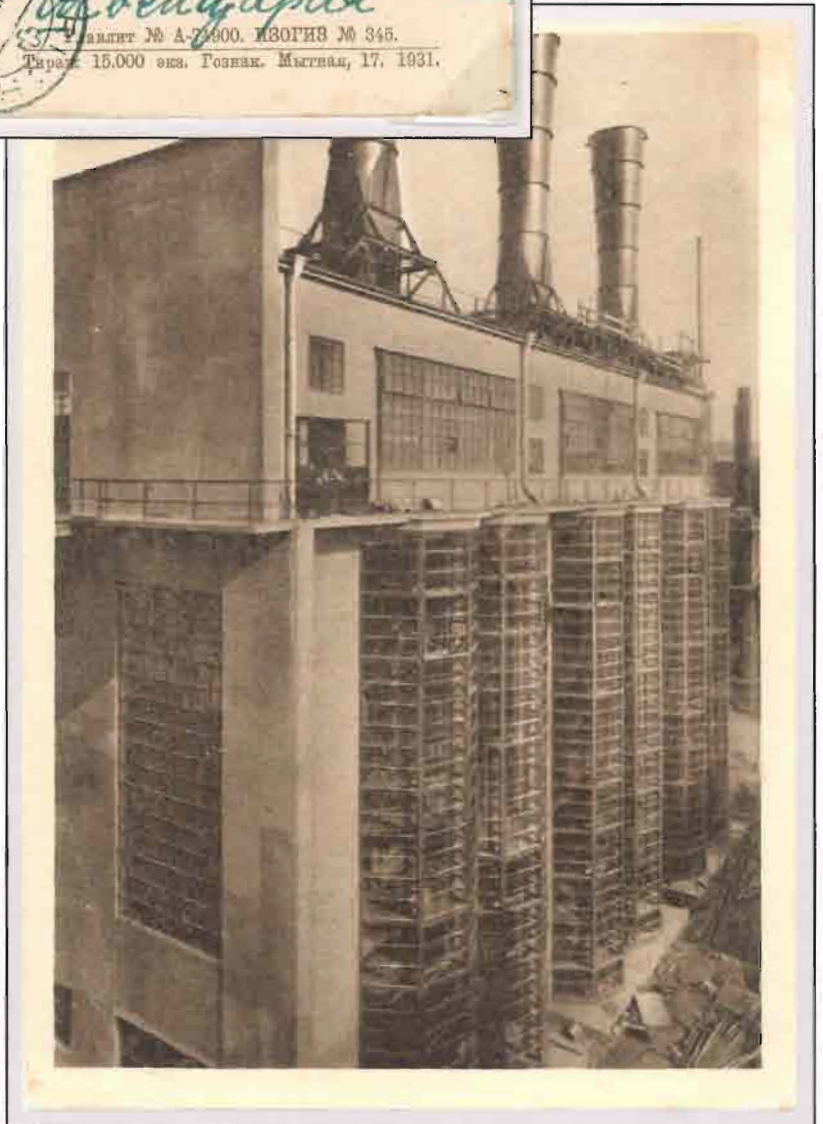
Moscow to Zurich, forwarded to Aarau, Switzerland, 1932



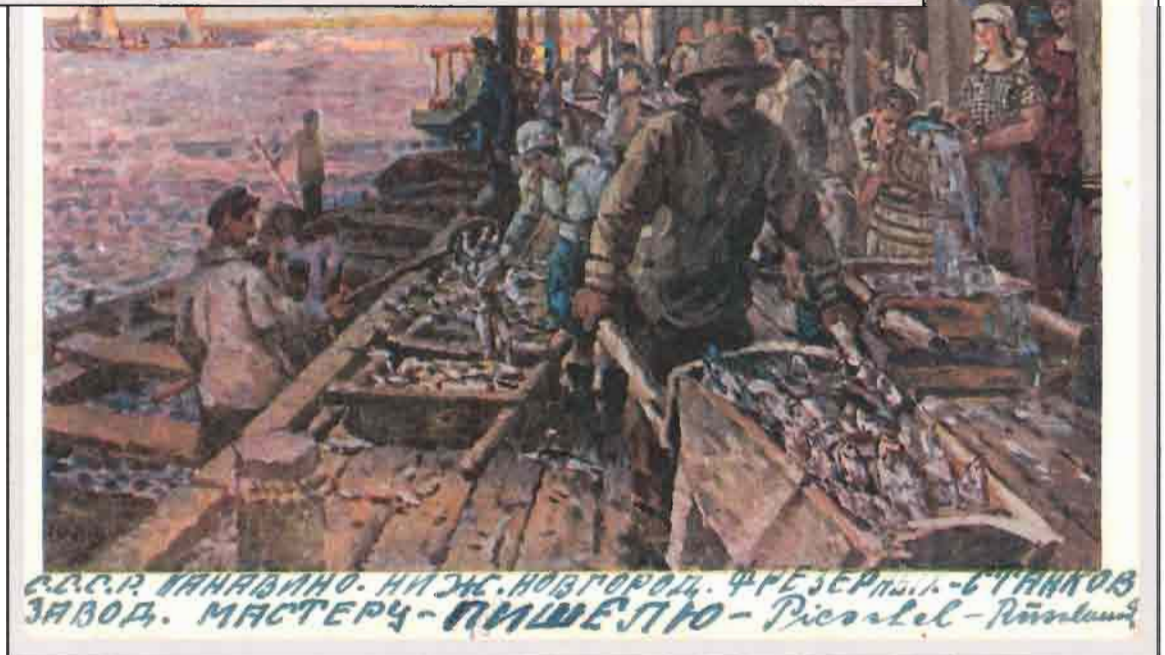
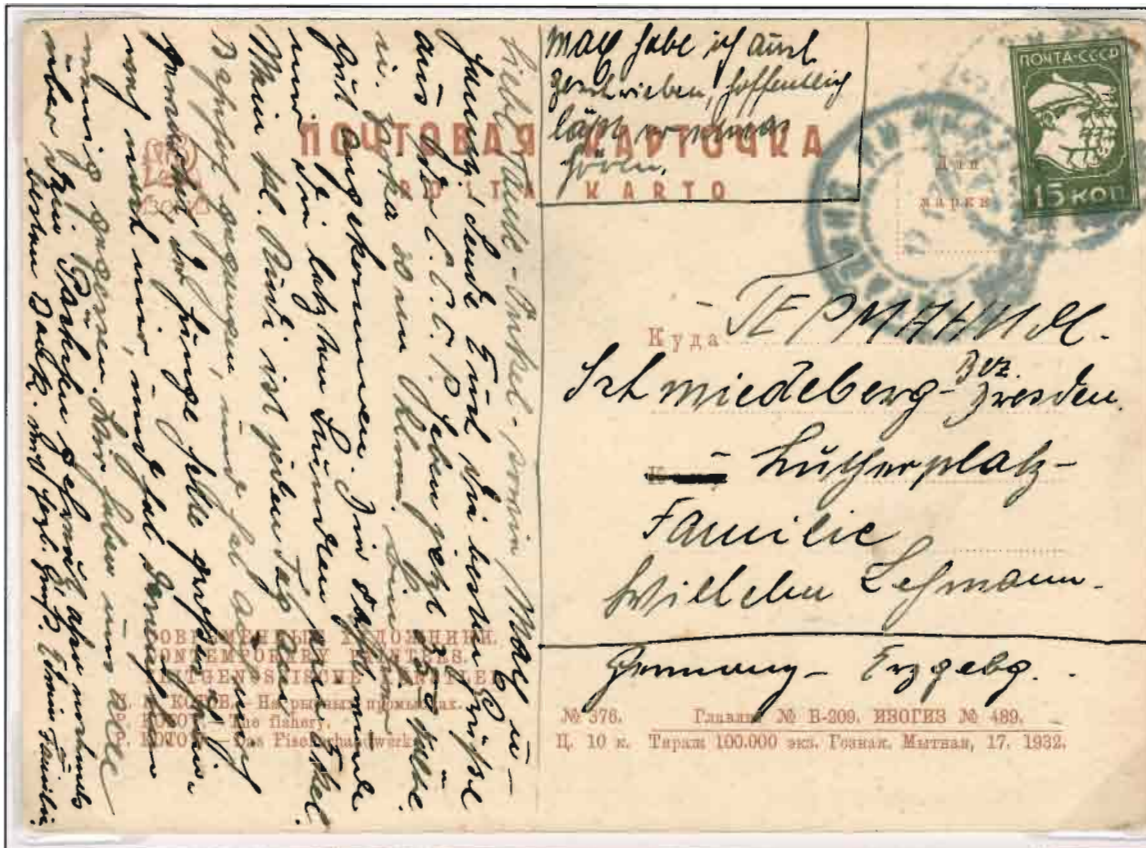
Franking – 2x30 kop. definitives (1929), registered airmail, correct rate. Postmarks Moscow 19.8.1932, transit Berlin 20.8, Zurich 21.8, arrival at Aarau 22.8. “Luftpost” postmarks in Berlin and Frankfurt. 3 days in transit.

Message in German dated 19.8.1932: “Cordial greetings to you and the girls from this strange world, where so much is being done for the future at the expense of great sacrifices.”

Picture—Power station “Electroperedacha” (“Electrotransmission,” 1914) in Moscow region, the first in the world that burned peat. It was designed by Russian engineer Robert Classon and named after him. Ironically, the legend says “From the magazine ‘USSR in Construction’,” although the station had been built before the Revolution.



Kanavino to Schmiedeberg, Germany, 1935

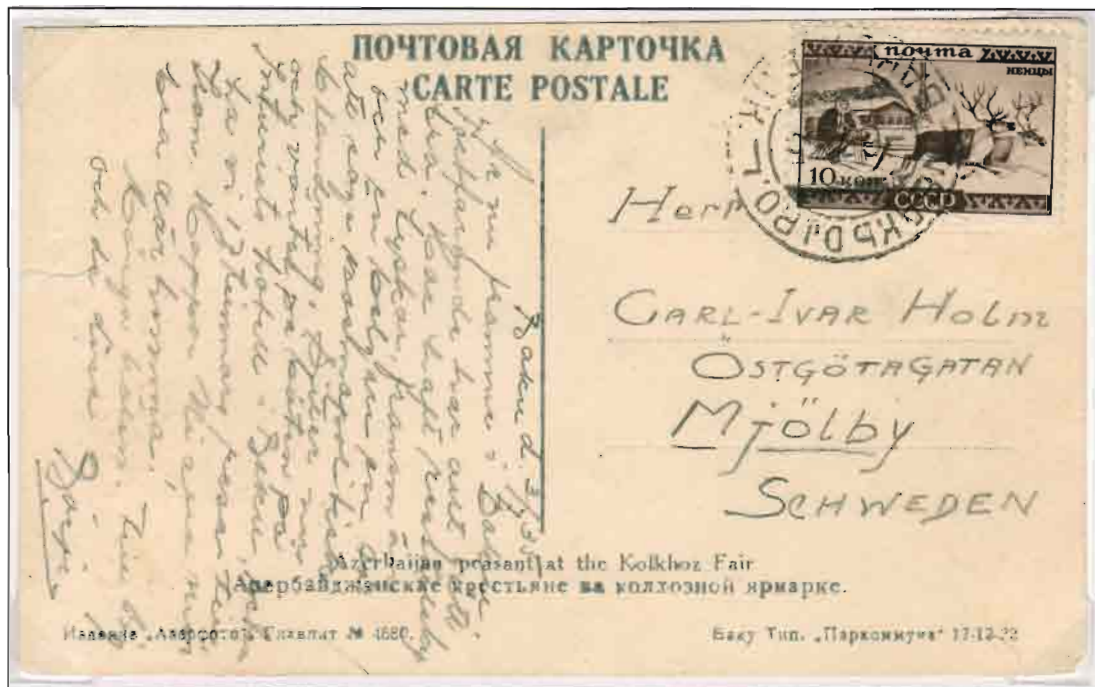


Franking – 15 kop. definitive (1929), the rate of 10 kop. overpaid. Postmark Kanavino 17.1.1935. Kanavino was an industrial suburb of Nizhnii Novgorod, and in 1928 it became a subdivision of the city. Schmiederberg is a small town 15 km NW from Dresden.

Message in German and Russian: “Dear aunt, uncle... greetings from the CCCP [sic!]. The sender added that he was a foreman at the factory of milling machines. It was the largest factory of its kind in Soviet Union equipped primarily by American and German firms.

Picture – “The Fishery,” painting by P. Kotov.

Baku to Mjölby, Sweden, 1935

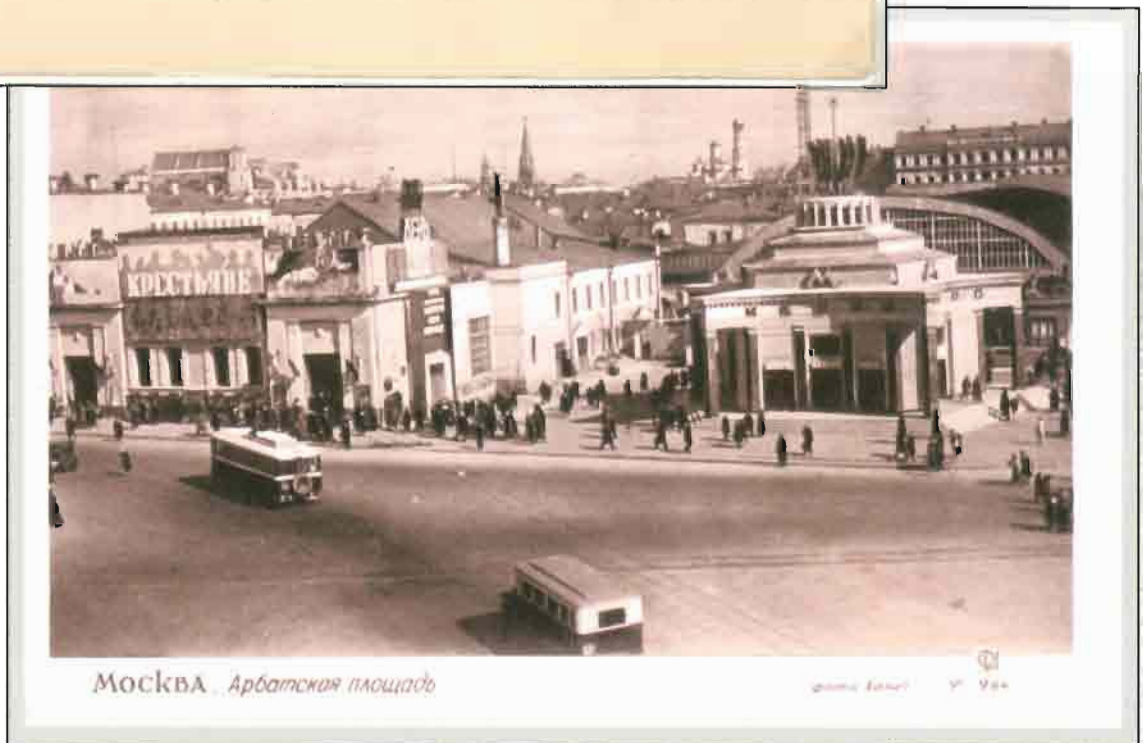


Franking – 10 kop. stamp from the “Peoples of Soviet Union” set (1933), Nenets people. Baku postmark 6.7.1935. Mjölby is a small town 170 km E of Stockholm.

Message in Swedish dated 3.7.1935: “Have now arrived at Baku.... Have travelled with Frenchmen, Germans, and a Belgian; so to speak, a cosmopolitan mixture. At the moment I am sitting waiting at the Inturist hotel at Baku for the ship. Then it’s a 17-hour trip to Iran.”

Picture – The legend says: “Azerbaijan peasants at Kolkhoz Fair.”

Moscow to New York, 1935



Franking – 10 kop. stamp from the Chelyuskin set (1935), showing polar aviator Sigizmund Levanevskii. Postmark Moscow 8.7.1935.

Levanevskii participated in rescue operation of Soviet steamer Cheliuskin in 1934. During Cheliuskin expedition, he flew an American plane Consolidated 20-A Fleetster shown on the stamp. Levanevskii disappeared in 1937 during an attempted transpolar flight.

Message in English dated 3.7.1935: “We arrived here today on sleeper from Leningrad. I find Russia very interesting...”

Picture – Arbatskaia Square in downtown Moscow. On the left – the oldest surviving movie theater in Moscow; on the right – one of the first subway stations built in the shape of a star.

Moscow to Stockholm, 1937



Franking – 5 and 20 kop. definitives (1929) and 5 kop. “Moscow House of Books,” unrealized project from “Soviet architecture” set (June 1937). Postmarks Moscow 17.8.1937.

Message in Swedish, dated 16.8.1937. The sender informs that he has arrived to Moscow.

Picture – Hotel “Moskva,” the most exclusive in Soviet Union at that time. Located within 100 m from Kremlin, it was designed in constructivist style, and then finished in 1935 with neo-classical details added by A.V.Shchusev. The hotel was dismantled in 2004. It will look the same outside when it reopens as “Four Seasons” in September 2009.

Moscow to Prague, 1937



Franking – 10 kop. From Pushkin set (1937) and 20 kop. from Dzerzhinskii set (1937). Moscow postmark 16.9.1937.

Message in Czech: “...I am sending you some stamps... P.S. I will bring you more stamps when I come back.”

Picture – Zubovskaia Square, a busy intersection near downtown Moscow.



Moscow to Lugano-Paradiso, Switzerland, 1938

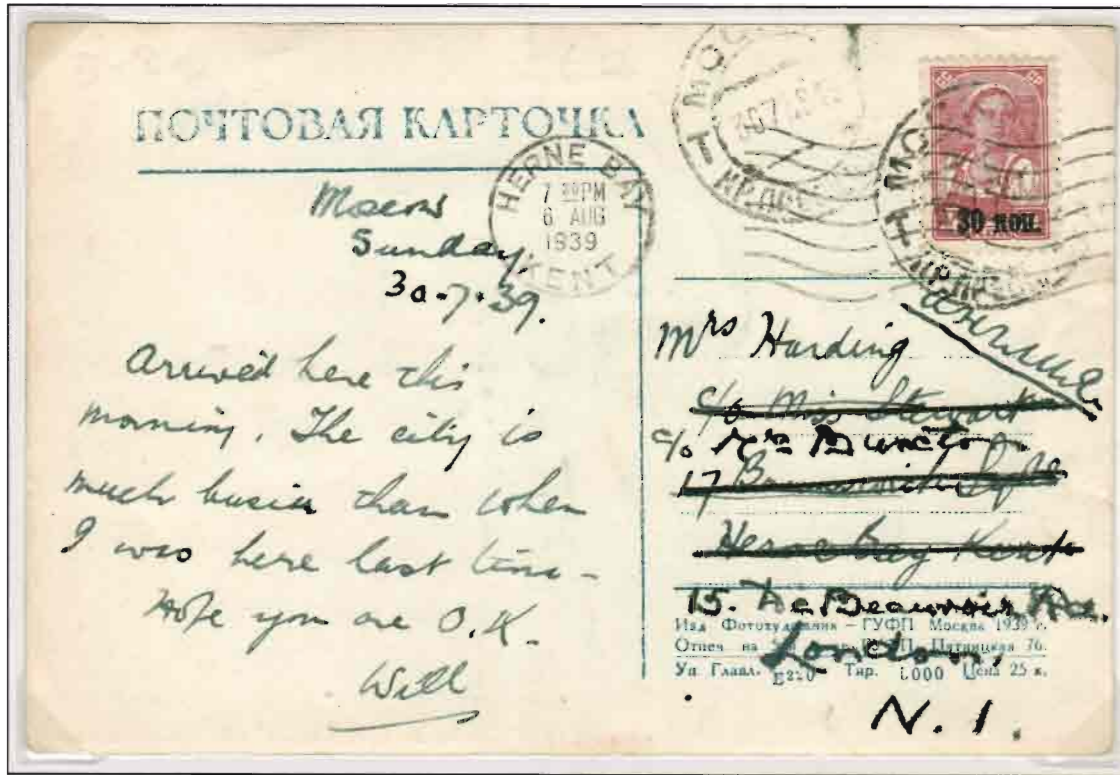


Franking – stamps from the “Peoples of Soviet Union” set (1933): 1 kop. (Kazakhs); 2 kop. (Lezgins); 3 kop. (Crimean Tartars); 4 kop. (Jews); total of 10 kop., correct rate. Postmarks Moscow 22.9.1938.

Message in German dated 22.9.1935: “Not everyone here looks quite that chubby, but almost! I am leaving tomorrow because I could not achieve anything and the money is running out. Saw an opera, wonderful.”

Picture – Celebration of International Workers day May 1, 1935 in Moscow.

Moscow to Herne Bay, forwarded to London, 1939



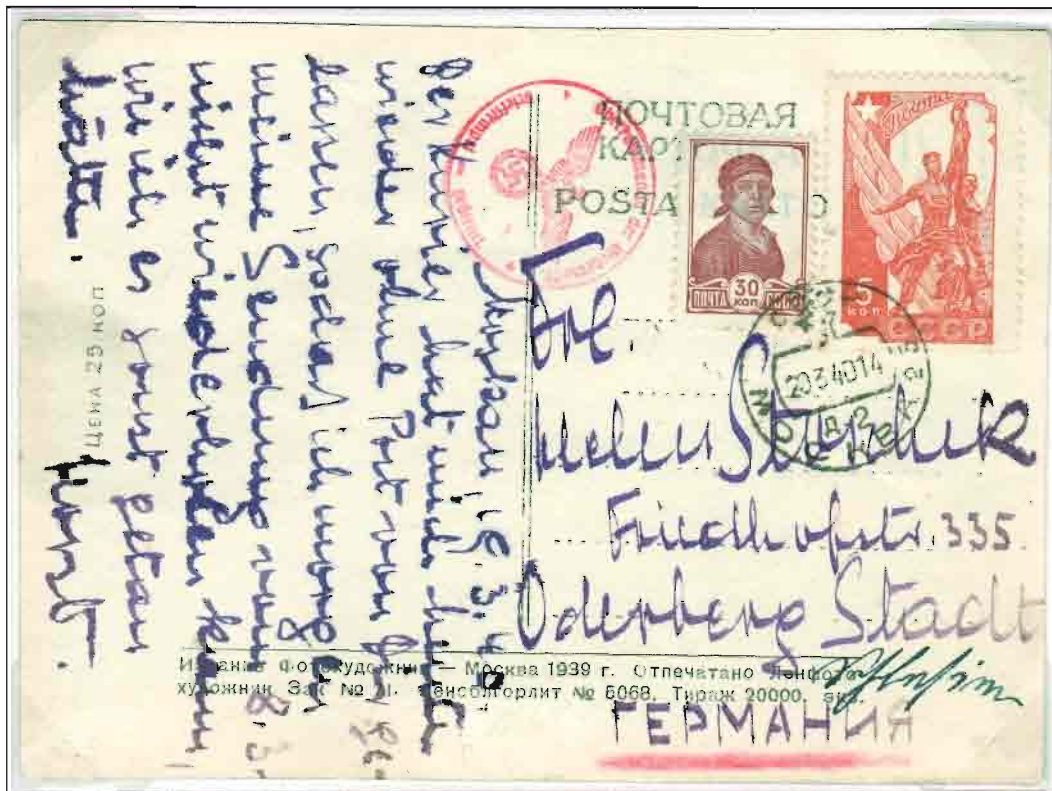
Franking – 30 kop. overprint on 4 kop. definitive (4 kop. stamp with watermark, 1929; overprint July 1939). Arrival machine cancel Herne Bay 6.8.1939. Forwarded to London.

Message in English dated 30.7.1939: “Arrived here this morning. The city is much busier than when I was here last time.”

Picture – Okhotnyi Riad street in downtown Moscow.



Moscow to Oderberg, Germany, 1940



Franking – 30 kop. definitive (1939) and 5 kop. USSR pavilion at World Exposition in Paris (1938). Moscow postmark 20.3.1940, German military censorship. Oderburg Stadt is a small town in Eastern land of Brandenburg.

Message in German dated 19.3.1940: “The courier left without any mail from you again, so I cannot repeat my transmission as I would have done normally. Horst.”

Picture – The legend says: “First children’s movie theater in Moscow.” It was located in the large apartment building near Kremlin. This building, the so-called “House on Embankment,” was occupied by state, party, and military leaders of the highest ranks. It was designed by architect Boris Iofan and completed in 1931.

★ Moscow to London, forwarded to FPO, 1944 ★

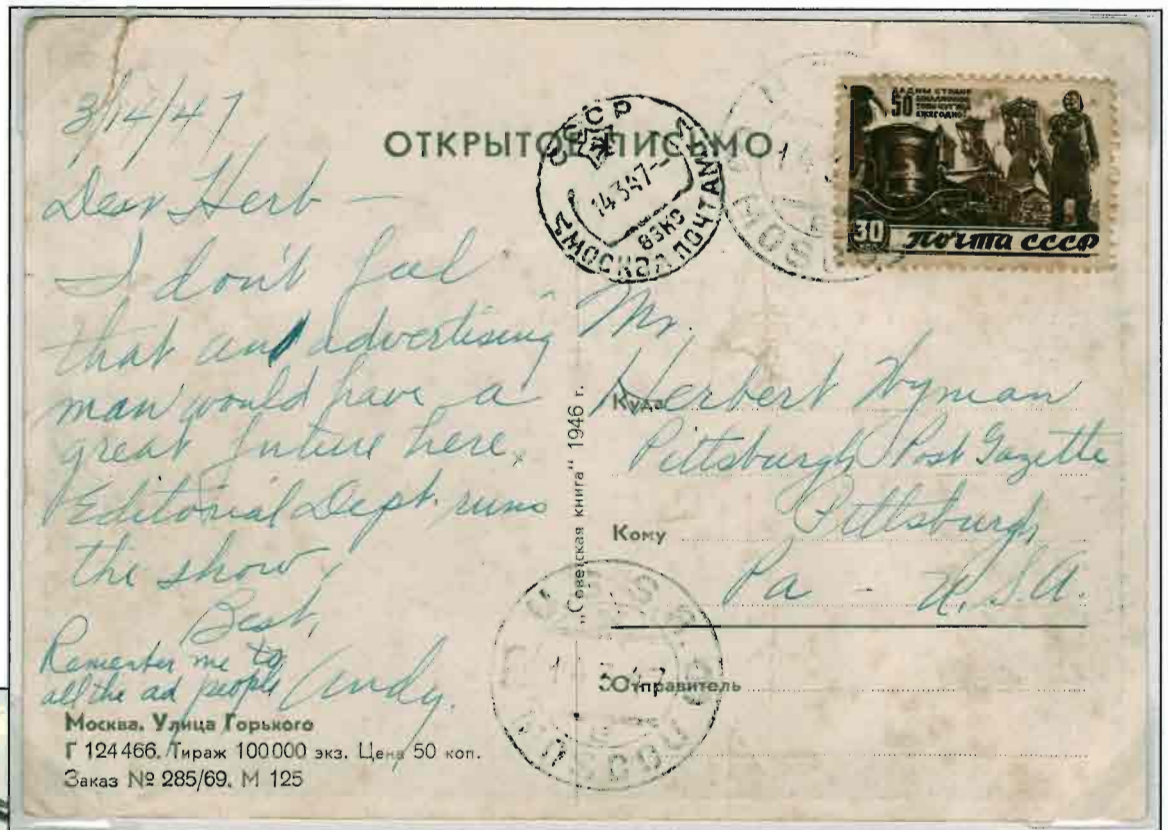


Franking – Diplomatic mail bag, British GVI definitive (1941). Undated postmark of British Embassy in Moscow; London arrival postmark 17.1.1944; stamp of “War Office Establishment Branch”; forwarded to FPO, Commander of 140th Infantry Brigade, Home Forces; arrival postmark 22.1.1944.

Message in English. The sender writes about weather, his health, and describes the Bolshoi Theater. The postcard is addressed to Arnold Cazenove, Brigadier General and later a judge in one of the first trials of Nazi war criminals.

Picture – Bolshoi Theater in Moscow, one of the largest and most famous Opera and Ballet Houses in the world.

Moscow to New York City, 1947

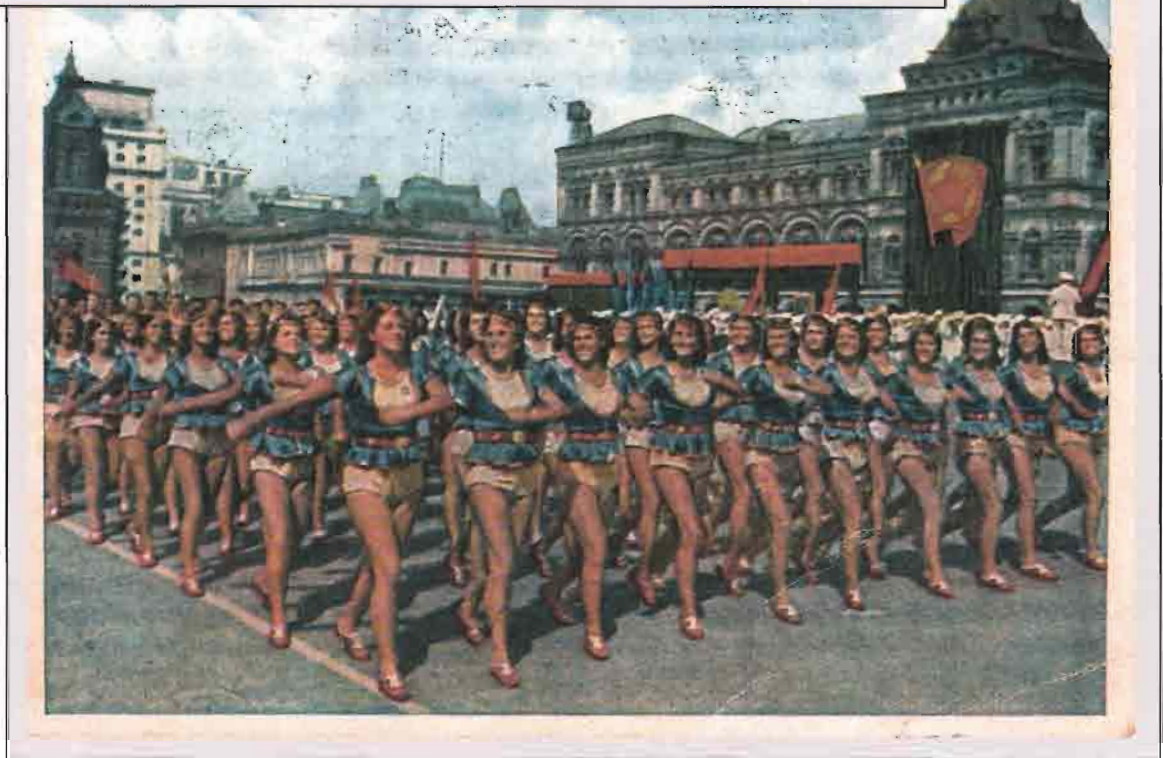


Franking – 30 kop., the slogan on the stamp: “Let us give the country 50 mln. tons of pig iron per year!” (1946), Moscow postmark 14.3.1947.

Message in English dated 14.3.1947 and addressed to a salesman in Pittsburgh newspaper: “I don’t feel that an advertising man would have a great future here.”

Picture – Gorkii street in downtown Moscow. Kremlin towers are seen in the background

Moscow to San Juan, Argentina, 1947

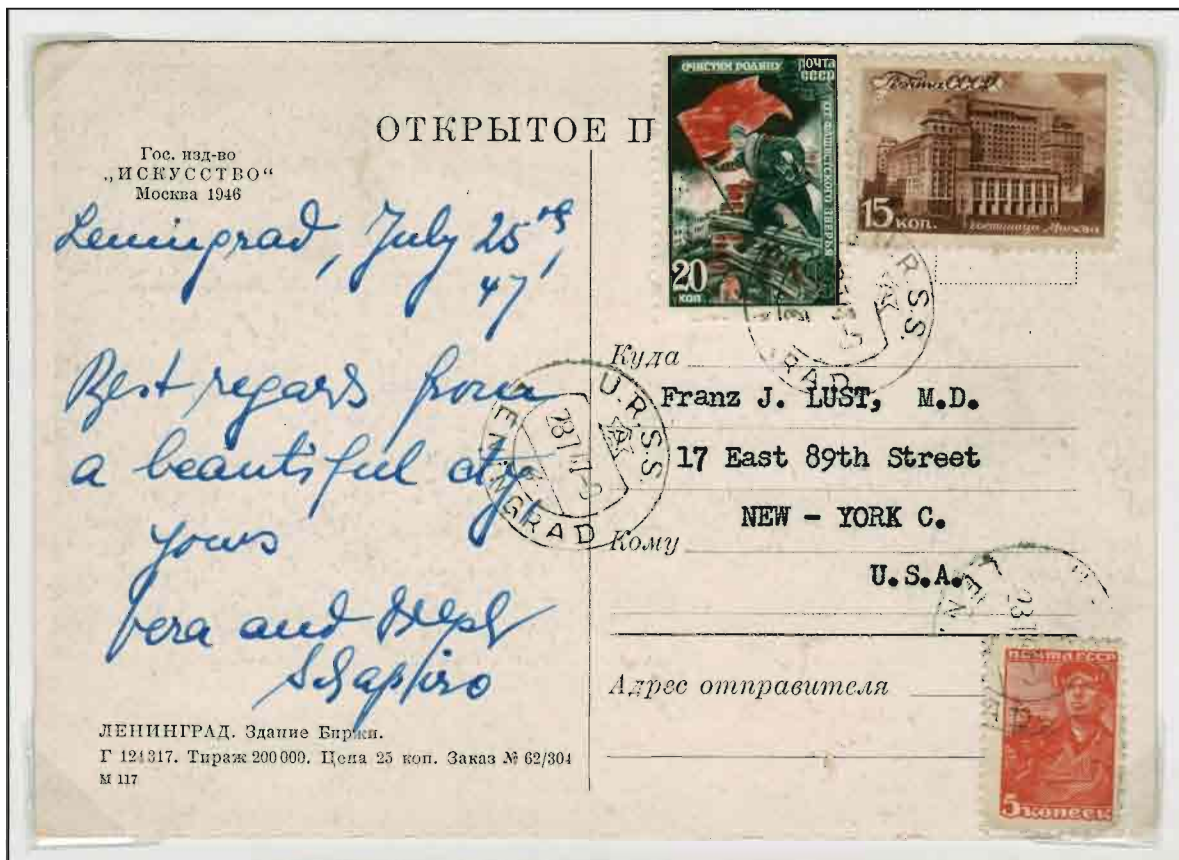


Franking – 2x60 kop. coat of arms of the USSR and 10 kop. “Let’s produce 60 mln. tons of oil for our country!” (both – 1946), correct rate for airmail. Moscow postmarks 28 and 29.5.1947. Addressed to San Juan, a provincial capital in western Argentina.

Message in Spanish with affectionate greetings from a friend.

Picture – Parade of sports enthusiasts on the Red Square.

Leningrad to New York City, 1947



Franking – 20 kop., the slogan on the stamp: “Let us cleanse our Fatherland from Fascist beasts!” (1945); 15 kop., hotel “Moscow” (1946); 5 kop. definitive (1939); the rate of 30 kop. is slightly overpaid. Leningrad postmark 28.7.1947.

Message in English dated July 25, 1947: “Best regards from a beautiful city...”

Recipient – Dr. Franz J. Lust, gastroenterologist, author of medical textbooks.

Picture – Building of the Bourse in Leningrad (1816, architect Thomas de Tomon).

★ Moscow to Columbus, OH, 1948 ★



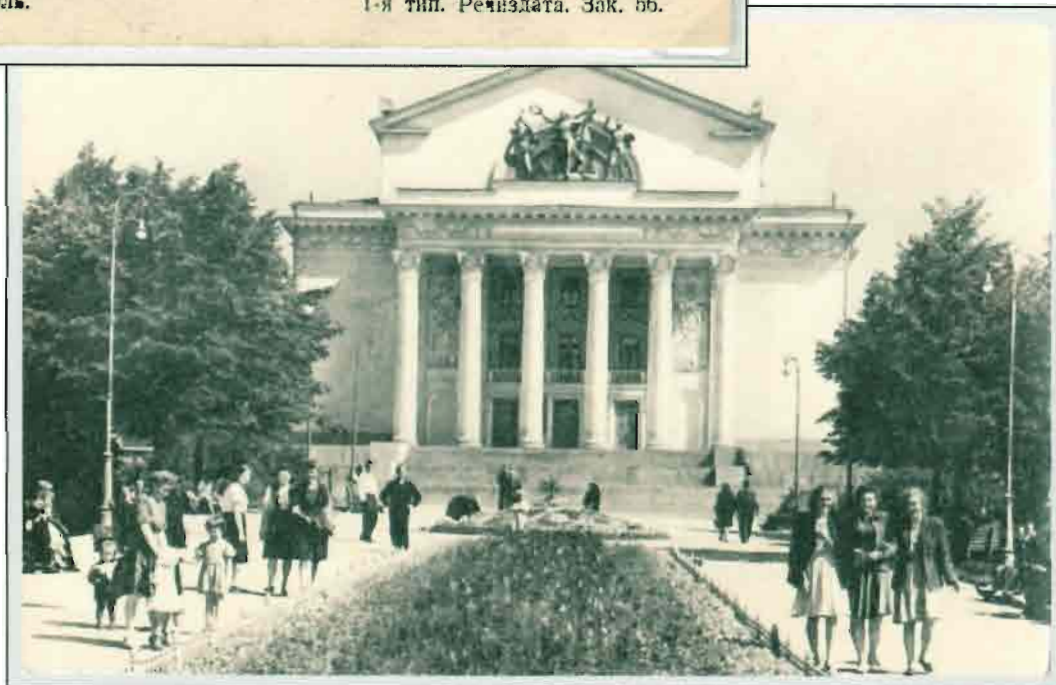
Franking – Diplomatic bag mail from American Embassy in Moscow. The rate of 30 kop. was overpaid by a 45 kop. stamp “Be ready to fight for the cause of Lenin and Stalin!” from the “Young Pioneers” set (1948). Washington postmarks 6.12.1948.

Message in English: “Here’s a picture of a street in Moscow just around the corner from the Embassy where we live.”

Sender – Mr. Scott Lyon was born in Columbus and graduated from Ohio State University. In 1948, Mr. Lyon was appointed the only American Consul outside Moscow in Vladivostok, but two days after his arrival to the USSR Soviet authorities rescinded their permission to open the Vladivostok Consulate.

Picture – Gorkii street, the main street in downtown Moscow.

Moscow to Boechout, Belgium, 1949



Franking – 1 rub. definitive dedicated to Soviet Air Force “To fly the highest, the fastest, the farthest!” (1948) Linear perforation 12.5. Also 30 kop. definitive “Scientist” (1949). Correct rate for airmail. Postmarks Moscow 2 and 5.10.1949. Transit postmarks Amsterdam Oude-Sod 8.10 and Brussels 9.10.1949; arrival postmark Boechout 8.10.1949. Forwarded to Borsbeek. The discrepancy between the transit and arrival postmarks unclear. Both Boechout and Borsbeek are small Flemish towns, suburbs of Antwerp.

Message includes return address “Hotel National, Room 210.”

Picture – The legend says: “Moscow. Theater of Stalin’s district.” Originally, this was Moscow People’s House built in 1903. In 1947, it was re-designed in the Stalin’s neo-classical style. Because of its location in blue-collar outskirts of Moscow, the attendance was poor, and it had to be converted into a local factory club.