

Bulletin
of the Rossica Society
of Russian Philately

No. 13 Paul B. Spiwak, editor August, 1991

Editorial

Well, here it is August already and time for the summer issue of the Rossica Bulletin. Since the last Bulletin we've had a great deal of Soviet philatelic news, letters, stampshow news, many Rossica puzzler winners, a new puzzler, and another outstanding issue of the Rossica Journal (No. 116) with lots of interesting and informative material. Keep sending in information for future newsletters.

News from the President

There will be a Rossica meeting at the A.P.S. annual convention "Stampshow" in Philadelphia. "Stampshow" takes place from August 22 - 25 at the Philadelphia Civic Center. The Rossica meeting will be on Sunday, August 25 between noon till 2:50 P.M. There will also be a seminar titled "Russia No. 1. Hope to see you there.

Rossica membership as of June, 1991 is 325.

We are saddened to inform our membership that one of our board of directors and veteran member, Lester S. Glass, (#133), of Los Angeles, CA, has passed away. He had been quite ill for the past year. Lester was born in 1904 in Paneveyzh, Lithuania, and immigrated to the U.S. at the age of three. His education was completed at N.Y. University in 1925, and his philatelic studies began while he was a secretary to the late Admiral F.R. Harris, internationally famous philatelist. At one time his collection of Russia was almost complete, with all the major and minor varieties. He will be missed by the Rossica Society and all who knew him.

Did you know?

The most northerly permanent post office in the Soviet Union is at Khatanga, Siberia. This northerly village has a government observation post, airfield, and great hunting, fishing, and reindeer raising.

The Soviet Union comes in second place for countries having the most post offices. It has 93,076. India comes in first with 144,396, and the U.S.A. comes in fourth with 39,270. These are from U.P.U. statistics, 1986.

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As far as the country with the most full time postal staff the Soviet Union comes in third with 775,000 employees. China (People's Rep.) comes in first with 983,000, and the U.S.A. comes in second with 784,557.

The largest volume of mail according to the latest statistic (1986) was handled by:

| | | | |
|---------------|---|-----------------|-------|
| the U.S.A. | - | 146,827,627,000 | items |
| U.S.S.R. | - | 58,831,000,000 | items |
| Japan | - | 18,108,732,000 | items |
| France | - | 16,774,900,000 | items |
| West Germany | - | 15,291,212,000 | items |
| Great Britain | - | 13,035,400,000 | items |
| India | - | 12,193,669,000 | items |

Countries with the most postal vehicles are:

| | | |
|-----------------------|---|---------|
| U.S.A. | - | 137,446 |
| Japan | - | 70,124 |
| U.S.S.R. | - | 52,400 |
| France | - | 49,600 |
| West Germany | - | 42,802 |
| U.K. | - | 34,000 |
| China (People's Rep.) | - | 27,115 |
| India | - | 1,450 |

Postal administrations with the largest total receipts:

| | | | |
|--------------|---|----------------|---------------------------|
| U.S.A. | - | 90,640,961,764 | international gold francs |
| France | - | 23,767,735,157 | |
| West Germany | - | 22,691,923,076 | |
| U.K. | - | 13,730,259,258 | |
| U.S.S.R. | - | 9,863,945,578 | |
| Canada | - | 5,400,101,817 | |
| Netherlands | - | 4,429,847,230 | |

The total number of stamps and souvenir sheets issued by the world in 1989 was 9,718. The number of stamps decreased by 14 from 1988. The number of souvenir sheets hit an all time record high of 1,064, 180 more than 1988. Face value for the total 1989 issues is US\$6,207 (catalog value US\$22,584). The 1988 total face value was US\$4,447. The Soviet Union issued 120 stamps and 6 souvenir sheets in 1989, (catalog value of US\$113) as compared with 126 stamps and 8 souvenir sheets in 1988. These statistics are from the recent Michel-Rundschau annual survey of worldwide issues.

New Issues

The Soviet Union has issued three stamps to commemorate the 500th anniversary of Christopher Columbus' discovery of America and honor the founders and leaders of the first Russian settlements on the western coast of America. The 20 kopeck stamp shows a settlement and G.I. Shelikhov. Shelikhov headed an expedition to the shores of Russian

America (Alaska) in 1783-86. The 30 kopeck stamp shows A.A. Baranov, chief ruler of the Russian properties in America. The 50 kopeck value shows I.A. Kuskov, who founded the Ross fortress in California in 1812. This was Russia's southernmost settlement in America.

Japan helps Soviet Union

The Philately Center Foundation in Tokyo has launched a campaign which it calls "For Russia With Love." It is raising money by selling a souvenir card with the 1990 Soviet-Japanese Joint Space Flight stamp attached. The card shows a hand holding potatoes, corn, and wheat, superimposed on a map of half of the world. The stamp is the 20 kopeck Russian-Japanese Joint Space Flight commemorative of Dec. 3, 1990. The stamp depicts the flags of both nations floating in outer space. The souvenir card sells for about US\$3.70. The entire amount raised is donated to the people of the Soviet Union. See top of page one (left).

Newsletter Puzzler

There were lots of responses to the last puzzler. The 80 hryven stamp depicts Zaporozhian Cossacks in boats (chaiky) on the Black Sea. Some large Cossack chaiky could hold 50 to 70 men and carry up to four small cannons. Three million copies were printed. The 200 hryven stamp depicts a rural scene with grain fields and a windmill. This particular windmill is of a style found in the Poltava region of Ukraine and is of a "post mill" type where the entire mill structure revolves upon one great central vertical post. One million copies were printed. These 1920 Ukrainian stamps were designed by one of Ukraine's foremost realist painters, Mykola Ivasiuk. He was born April 28, 1865, and disappeared after being arrested by Soviet secret police in 1930. He left behind some 500 works. All our members who had the right answers were sent packets of cinderella stamps. Congratulations to all puzzler winners.

The new puzzler is not so easy. It shows a stamp at the top of page one (right) with the double headed eagle. What's the story behind the stamp? The stamps are quite scarce. Only a few mint stamps and three covers bearing various denominations exist. Good luck on this one. A prize will be awarded to everyone who sends in a correct response.

Librarian David Skipton's Report

Usage: The Rossica Library enjoyed another record year (Sept. 6, 1989-Sept. 6, 1990), with 29 members requesting 111 titles on loan or for duplicate purchase. The Library has supported research to perform quality control on articles submitted to the Journal, provided the basis for several articles already published, and is currently supplying material for 5 translations and two monographs.

Exchange Programs: The number of journals being taken in by the Library has increased substantially in 1990. At present, it receives the following:

1. Rossica Journal - twice a year
2. BJRP - twice a year
3. Post Rider - twice a year
4. ANZSRP Pochta - twice a year
5. German Pochta - three times a year
6. Ukrainian Philatelic Journal - three time a year
7. Lithuanian Philatelic Journal - twice a year
8. Lovetskii Kollektioner - one a year
9. Filateliya SSSR - monthly

In addition to these societies, we exchange with two individuals, and we expect to institute regular exchanges with Het Baltische Gebiet and the USSR Union of Philatelists.

Acquisitions: Major acquisitions for the Library have centered primarily on photocopies of members' exhibits, although there have been a few outstanding titles added. The number of member exhibits stands at 11, with 2-3 more expected in the next few months. Far and away the most important of the non-exhibit items obtained are the 1924 Soviet Postal List, the 1869 Compendium of Postal Laws and Regulations, vol. 5-6 of the 1852 Collection of Laws on the Postal Administration, and an 1849 Postal Handbook of Postal Regulations.

Projects: The tremendous influx of exchange journals has made it impossible to keep up with card file entries by hand. Work on the author index file ceased this spring, and the subject index is now slowed to a crawl. Were it not for the efforts of J.D. Myke on "The Post Rider", progress would be almost non-existent at this point. Duties as co-editor of the Rossica Journal and increased member use of the Library have taken up almost all of the time I normally devote to this. The only hope now is to put everything onto a computer file, and to that end I have asked Norman Epstein and Gary Combs for their help in obtaining an IBM program that would work for the Library. Once this is set up, we'll have to start all over again, but lost ground should be made up rather quickly.

Donations: Thanks to the generosity of several members, the Library now boasts some very fine additions to its shelves. Most of these donations have been noted in #'s 113/114 and #115, and my thanks again to all who have given material to the Library. Assuming that all of these items could have been purchased, they would certainly have added up to several hundred dollars.

Current And Future Difficulties Facing The Library: In essence, there are two major areas where something is going to have to give. The first is space. Even if the Librarian does not aggressively pursue new titles, mere passive acquisition from exchange programs and donations are causing the Library to balloon in size. Already, I am having to box up material and move it to the attic, and on rather frequent occasion it has happened that just as soon as the box gets into the attic, a loan

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request comes in that requires the box to come back down. The second problem is time. Where before the Librarian position entailed no great effort, now it has become a full time job for one individual. If that individual has other duties in the Society, some or all of those duties must suffer. I am therefore proposing that we CONSIDER other options, ranging from having two librarians, through one librarian with no other duties, to storage of Library materials at two or more locations. Logistics and coordination under any "spread the effort" scheme will be difficult, and amendments to the Constitution may be necessary. While the situation is not yet critical, it is approaching that, and we need to start thinking about it now. Any ideas? Let us know.

Literature Sales:

1. Bazilevich's "The Russian Posts in the XIX Century". Total expenditures to date (including printing, shipping, mailing, advertisements, etc.) come to \$8,206.50. Total income from sales of the book now stand at \$7,782.40. 229 books have been sold, exchanged or donated for reviews. The inserted advertisement in #113/114 resulted in 4 sales.
2. Prigara's "The Russian Post in the Empire, Turkey, China and the Post in the Kingdom of Poland". Long since having been in the black, this continues to be a steady earner for the Society. The insert in #113/114 produced 5 sales.
3. Skipton's "Imperial Russian Placename List, Reverse Sort, 1858-1915". Nine have been sold since the insert's appearance.

Literature

The 1990 Second Edition of "Siberia: Postmarks and Postal History Of The Russian Empire Period" which includes 50% more than the first 1986 edition, is available from Philip Robinson, 2 Rydalhurst Avenue, Sheffield, England S6 4EG. The price is US\$28 by surface mail, or US\$34 airmail.

Ukrainian Auction

The Ukrainian Philatelic and Numismatic Society announces its 55th mail auction of about 800 lots of Ukrainian philately and numismatics. The auction closes on September 15th, 1991. To obtain an illustrated and well-described auction catalog along with the society's newsletter TRIDENT, send US\$1 for postage and handling to: UPNS - Auction, P.O. Box 3711, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

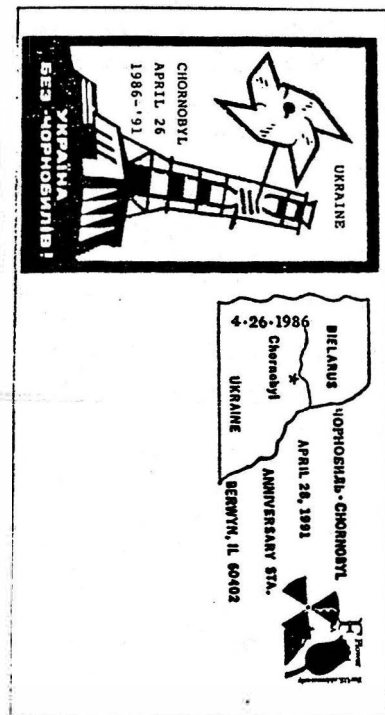
Ukrainian Show Items

On April 28, 1991, the Chicago Chapter of the Ukrainian Philatelic and Numismatic Society held a small non-competitive exhibition. The show had a commemorative cover and a show card both with a Chernobyl Nuclear Disaster theme. They can be ordered (with profits going to a Chernobyl Relief Fund) from Bohdan Pauk, P.O. Box 11184,

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Chicago, IL 60611-0184. The cards are available for US\$2.00, and the covers for US\$1.50. Please add \$.50 postage for each order.

REMEMBERING THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NUCLEAR DISASTER AT CHORNOBYL



**THE CHICAGO CHAPTER
Of The
UKRAINIAN PHILATELIC AND NUMISMATIC SOCIETY**

Chicago UPNS Show Card

Chicago UPNS Show Cover

B5 - B13

Paul Blake and George Shalimoff of California are gathering information about Russia B5 - B13. If any member has any part-perf varieties that are not listed by V.V. Lobachevski in his publication, they are asked to list them on a post card and mail it to: Paul Blake, 1466 Hamilton Way, San Jose, CA 95128.

Awards to Rossica Exhibitors

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| Paul Blake | "Russia Charity Issues 1914-15" |
| | Gold SUNPEX 1990 |
| | Gold FILATELIC FIESTA 91 |
| M.R. Renfro | "Russia Used Abroad: The Far East" |
| | Vermeil WESTPEX 91 |
| | Gold FILATELIC FIESTA 91 |
| James Mazepa | "Kingdom of Poland, 1858-75" |
| | Grand Award SANDICAL 91 |
| | "Mexico First Issue of 1856" |
| | Gold TEXPEX 91 |
| Thomas Chastang | "The 3rd Standard Postage Issue of the USSR" |
| | Gold MILCOPEX 91 |
| George V. Keller | "Postal Service in Siberia, 1917-24" |
| | Silver RUMPEX 91 |

Congradulations to all exhibitors. Please let me know if I've accidentally overlooked anyone.

ROSSICA SOCIETY OF RUSSIAN PHILATELY
ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Please vote for one of the following for each office except for the Board of Directors where three members are to be chosen.

President:

Adolph Ackerman _____
Howard Weinert _____
Other _____

Vice President:

Peter Michaelove _____
Other _____

Secretary:

Bruce Bain _____
Other _____

Treasurer:

Gary Combs _____
Other _____

Librarian:

Dave Skipton _____
Other _____

Auditing:

Leon Finik _____
Other _____

Membership:

Michael Carson _____
George Shaw _____
Other _____

Board of Directors (vote for three):

Raymond Casey _____
Richard Ceresa _____
Jim Mazepa _____
Mike Renfro _____
Alex Sadovnikov _____
Paul Spiwak _____
Gordon Torrey _____
Other _____

Please mail nominations by **October 15, 1991** to:
Scott Allen
7326-C Kelley Loop
Ft. Meade MD 20755
USA

