



ROSSICA SOCIETY
OF
RUSSIAN PHILATELY

BULLETIN OF THE ROSSICA SOCIETY OF RUSSIAN PHILATELY

NUMBER 31

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Society News **Rossica National Meeting**

This year's National Meeting will be held in conjunction with the Philadelphia National Stamp Exhibition October 6-8 2000. The show is being held at the Fort Washington Expo Center which is off of exit 26 of the PA turnpike. The show hotel is the Holiday Inn Fort Washington, a short distance from the Expo Center. The hotel is located at 432 Pennsylvania Ave. Fort Washington and their number is 215.643.3000. Rates should be \$89 a night. A shuttle service to and from the Expo Center will be provided. This year's meeting will include introduction of new officers and a program to be announced.

The Great Logo Controversy

This issue of the Bulletin sports a new logo; the official seal of the Rossica Society. This new logo is the result of a serious debate that took place on the Rossica Web site earlier this year.

After the last issue, a few members objected to the use of the Dragon Slayer stamp logo. The reasons varied from not liking the use of a Soviet stamp, or not liking the fact that we were killing dragons, to wanting to see the same logo as used on the cover of the Journal.

The Bulletin never had a logo. The Journal has always had the "old man" but since the Bulletin was either a hand-typed mimeograph or photocopy, it didn't have any graphics, let alone a logo. So, I had

considerable freedom to pick anything I wanted. The Dragon Slayer stamp was the idea I took from the

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Last Call for Nominations for the 2000 Rossica Elections

Elections for new Officers of the Society and a new Board of Directors this year. [Participate in the Society and cast your vote! Contact Gary Combs if you need more information.] Nominations for Officers of the Society will accepted till June 30th.

Nominating petitions for officers may be circulated through Local Chapters or communities where Local Chapters are not established. Petitions indicating names of candidates and offices for which nominated shall be mailed to the Secretary not later than **30 June 2000**.

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A Bulletin for the 21st Century An Editorial

As we enter the 21st century, it is a good opportunity to reaffirm the direction we are heading. As the Bulletin editor, I've taken the time to stop and look at the Bulletin and see if I'm still meeting the expectations of the Rossica membership. While the feedback I've received has been positive, I've had to evaluate the place of the Bulletin has in the Society for the future.

The Rossica Society has caught up with the Internet. We maintain a web-site, the Bulletin is sent out via e-mail, and most official business is handled via e-mail. This has placed it in the leading group of philatelic organizations that have entered the e-world and made it its own.

The business side of the hobby has embraced the web with gusto. It's cheaper to operate from, and dealers have access to more collectors than either a mailing list or show could ever provided. Individual collectors have been entering the web in ever increasing numbers where they can see more stamps and contact more dealers or fellow collectors without ever leaving their homes. However, they are still a minority of the total collector population. In our Society, about a third of the members have access to e-mail. Maybe about half have internet access. But what does all this have to do with the average stamp collector, let alone a Russian stamp collector?

First off, this is changing the hobby radically. Does this mean you either get a computer and internet access or give-up the hobby? Of course not! We collect Russian philately, not computers or web sites. These are just tools to help us. But the internet is where the latest information is, where the new research is being published, and where the stamps and covers are being advertised. What's to be done?

It is the purpose of societies to bring like-minded collectors together, help them share information, and educate the rest of the collecting community about the society's specialty. It is therefore the responsibility of the Rossica Society to serve as a bridge between the internet sub group and the rest of the membership. As editor of the Bulletin, I will strive to insure that the bulletin performs this role.

Why the Bulletin? The Bulletin is the membership's publication. The Journal is for research and the recording of new information. The Journal may start to publish more internet-derived articles. Its publication schedule gives it the opportunity to select the best from all sources. The Bulletin's focus is more immediate and short term.

Where did this ranting come from? As Bulletin editor, I am actively involved with the Society's business and I'm on-line and use the net daily. As a result, I've noticed that there is a lot of original material appearing on the net that is not being recorded on paper. The Rossica Web page is the place to go to discuss things; that's where the news appears first. In the last 4 months, I've seen at least three articles published that were based on member's information exchanges on the Society's bulletin board. If you have a question, ask Jeff Radcliff to post it on the web or put it there yourself. Odds are, that in a week, you'll learn more about the item than you could have gotten in a year of letters and shows. But as I said earlier, only about 1/6th of the Society can even access the page that has information that everyone needs to know. I intend to get it out there.

I don't intend to duplicate the web site, I only intend to capture the most important Society information and share it with the general membership. Else where in this Bulletin, you will read about the debate on the new masthead for the Bulletin, the pending publication of an updated version of the Lobachevski catalog of Imperial Russian Stamps, and information about nominations for officers. These are Society items that the general membership has the right to know about and give their opinion.

What does this means to the members of Rossica? Your bulletin is changing. You will be seeing more Society information than in the past and you'll be asked more often to contribute to the discussions. This also means that a growing part of the information will have been published before, so for those members who are wired please understand that this is for the others in the Society that couldn't read it on the web page. Some things will not change. The new issues of Russia will continue.

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New Members

Let's all welcome the new members of our Society.

Vladimir Antropov
Physics Department ISU
Ames, IA 50010

Ian John Billings
13 Robert Key Drive
Mattishall, Dereham
Norfolk NR20 3RW
Great Britain

Joseph L. Brem III
11718 Bullis Road
Marilla, NY 14102

Dennis Budz
561 Kilkenny Ct.
Gilberts, IL 60136

Daniel L. Gorton
25 B Union St.
Concord, NH 03301-4251

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B. Cherkizovskaya 12-1-103
Moscow 10761
Russia

Rune Kristiansen
Gladstad
N-8980 Vega
Norway

Vadim Lobovikov
14719 NE 37th Place #A12
Bellevue, WA 98007-7718

John M. Lyons
305 E. 86th Street Apt. 17H
New York NY 10028-4702

Barry Pisick
12 Tiffany Lane
Andover, MA 01810

Vadim Rozmanov
P.O. Box 2924
El Granada, CA 94018

George Rugg
1093 Riverside Drive
South Bend, IN 46616

Mark N. Sadoff
8153 Paseo Taxco
Carlsbad, CA 92009

Richard E. Small
14502 Oak Cluster Drive
Centreville, VA 20120

Mark A. Stevens
1209 E. 10th Street
Newberg, OR 97132-3644

Michael M. Sullivan
29 Annanias Ave.
Patchogue, NY 11772

Armen Tashchian
P.O. Box 191466
Atlanta, GA 31119-1466

Call to all Exhibitors!

The Rossica National Meeting is at the Philadelphia National Stamps Exhibit this year. The show is taking entries until 19 August or until all frames are filled. So apply now! The frame fee is \$10.00. You can get an entry from Stephen S. Washburne at PO Box 43146 Philadelphia, PA 19129-3146 or phone/fax 215.843.2106.

This is a good an opportunity to show our beautiful material. So apply now and let's make this year's meeting a great one for exhibits.

Publications

New Section of the RSFSR catalog is now available.

Ged Seiflow has added another section to his on-going study of the stamp issues of the RSFSR. Section 10, 2d Standard Issue of 1921 is now available. At 134 pages, this should prove to be an excellent study of this complex and interesting issue. Section 10 is available at US \$14 for members and US \$28 for nonmembers.

The series will consist of 29 sections. It will be produced unbound so the member can store the catalog as he/she sees fit. In order to keep costs down, updates will be available either as a complete section or as individual pages (initially only the complete sections will be sold). This format is truly what we collectors have been waiting for!

An sample of this effort can be seen at: http://www.rossica.org/pdf/seiflow_cat.pdf. This is a PDF file approximately 434kb.

Each section is divided into three parts:

- Introduction
- Detailed illustrations of varieties
- Detailed catalog entries with prices

The sections released are:

- Section 0, Introduction - 10 pages (Free with first section ordered)
- Section 3, 1st Issue of the RSFSR, The Chainbreakers (35 and 70 kop.) of 1918-82 pages (US \$10 for members, US \$20 for non-members)
- Section 7, 1st Standard Issue of 1921 (1, 2, 5, 20, and 40 rub.) -58 pages (US \$9 for members, US \$18 for non-members)
- Section 10, 2d Standard Issue of 1921 - 134 pages (US \$14 for members, US \$28 for nonmembers)

Pricing includes surface mailing costs. Dealers interested should inquire about lots of 10 or more.

Availability date is now! For more information about the catalog itself, please write or e-mail the Treasurer

(information listed below). For sales, please send a check (drawn on a US bank and made payable to Rossica), money order, etc. to the Rossica Treasurer, whose address is listed below. Sorry, no VISA/MC or stamps for payment.

Gary A. Combs
8241 Chalet Ct.
Millersville, MD 21108
USA
gcombs@cablespeed.com

New Imperial Catalog in the Works.

As a result of discussions on the web page, a group of members have been working on an update of the "Imperial Postage Stamps of Russia" by V.V. Lobachevski. This catalog was presented in serial form in the late 1970's-early 1980's in the Rossica Journal and is one of the best catalogs written. The group felt that this excellent catalog should be made available to the community in a single up-to-date version. This effort headed by our Librarian Jed Seiflow and the group has already completed the text portion of the catalog and is now working on the pictures. Part of this effort is to provide new pictures of as many of the stamps as possible. If you have mint Imperial stamps, especially #s 1-12 and errors, your help is needed. Contact Ged at 1249 St. Claire Place, Schamburg IL 60173, and he'll let you know what he needs.

The 2000 BSRP Auction

The 2000 British Society of Russian Philately Auction will take place on September 9th 2000 at the BSRP Millennium Meeting in Birmingham England. Members of Rossica are invited to participate as Honorary BSRP Auction Members. To receive a copy of the Auction catalog, send \$5 in cash which includes the prices realized and airmail handling. Send your \$5 in cash to Dr. W. Stoten, 2A Birkbeck Road, Enfield EN2 0DX, England by July 14th 2000.

This is a great Russian Auction! In the past years, I have seen some really wonderful material pass through this auction. ED.

New Issues

Russia has issued the following stamps during 1999. Pictures and text are from MARKA, the official printers of the stamps of Russia

On the bicentennial of birth of A.S.Pushkin. Portraits of A.S.PUSHKIN



The set of three postage stamps and a souvenir sheet continue issues dedicated to the bicentennial of birth of A.S.Pushkin. The stamps and a souvenir sheet reproduce the poet's portraits made by the painters of the first half of the XIX century.

- 1.00 - S.G. Chirikov, ca. 1815
- 3.00 - I.-E. Vivien, 1826
- 5.00 - K.P. Bryullov, 1836
- 7.00 - V.A. Tropinin, 1827

The art design: Yu. Artsimenev

Printing: offset + metallography

Perforation: comb 12

Souvenir sheet - frame 12 : 12 1/2

Face value: 1.00, 3.00, 5.00 rbl.,

Souvenir sheet - 7.00 rbl.

Size: 37 x 50 mm (along perforation),

Souvenir sheet - 110 x 70 mm

Issue: 350 000 copies of each stamp,

Souvenir sheet - 250 000 copies

A sheet contains 25 and 6 stamps

Russia. Regions.



The set of five postage stamps continues the theme of Russian regions and dedicated to various administrative territories of Russia. The stamps feature the most typical landscapes of regions, provinces and republics of Russia, representations of architectural and sculptural monuments located on their territories and folk art wares.

2.00 - Republic of North Ossetiya - Alaniya

2.00 - Republic of Bashkortostan

2.00 - Province of Kirov

2.00 - Autonomic region of Evenkiya

2.00 - Region of Stavropol

Designer: V. Beilin

Printing: offset

Perforation: comb 12 : 12 1/2 , 12 1/2 : 12

Face value: 2.00 rbl. each stamp

Size: 40 x 28 mm, 28 x 40 mm (along perforation)

Issue: 350 000 copies; 300 000 copies;

250 000 copies each

A sheet contains 36 stamps

Roses.



The set of five postage stamps dedicated to tea-hybrid sorts of roses widely used in decorative gardening. The stamps of this issue are not quite ordinary. Each stamp contains a congratulation or a wish.

- 1.20 - The rose "Carina" and the text "Happy Birthday!"

- 1.20 - The rose "Gloria Dei" and the text "From the Bottom of My Heart!"
 2.00 - The rose "Candia" and the text "Congratulations!"
 3.00 - The rose "Confidence" and the text "Be Happy!"
 4.00 - The rose "Ave Maria" and the text "With Love!"

Designer: N. Kasak

Printing: offset

Perforation: comb 12 1/2 : 12

Face value: 1.20, 1.20, 2.00, 3.00, 4.00 rbl.

Size: 26 x 37 mm (along perforation)

Issue: 650 000 copies

A sheet contains 50 stamps; 5 stamps and 1 coupon; 10 setenants

The surcharge of the new face value "1.20" on the stamp "The State Academic Bolshoy Theatre"



The surcharge of the new face value "1.20" on the postage stamp of the first definitive issue of the postage stamps of the Russian Federation. issued in 1995

Surcharge - black, typography.

Surcharged value - "1.20".

1.20 (5000 rbl.) - Moscow. The State Academic Bolshoy Theatre.

Designer: A. Shmidshtein

Printing: typography

Perforation: comb 12 1/2 : 12

Face value: 1.20 rbl.

Size: 26 x 18,5 mm (along perforation)

Issue: not limited

A sheet contains 100 stamps

250th anniversary of Rostov-on-Don.



The postage stamp is being issued to mark the 250th anniversary of Rostov-on-Don, the center of the province of Rostov of the Russian Federation. The customs and the port were founded at the place of the modern city in 1749. Rostov-on-Don became a city in 1796. Nowadays, Rostov-on-Don is the major industrial and cultural center of the south of Russia.

In the center of the composition, the stamp features Rostov-on-Don's Coat of Arms against the background of the river station building (on the left), the City Duma and the Cathedral of the Nativity of the Virgin (XVIII century). The stamp bears the inscription "Rostov-on-Don. 250 years".

Designer: A. Pletnev

Printing: offset

Perforation: comb 12 : 12 1/2

Face value: 1.20 rbl.

Size: 37 x 26 mm (along perforation)

Issue: 250 000 copies

A sheet contains 50 stamps

125th anniversary of Universal Postal Union.



The postage stamp is being issued on the 125th anniversary of Universal Postal Union, international intergovernmental organization, specialized institution of United Nations Organization (since 1947). Universal Postal Union was founded in 1874 to provide organization and improvement of international postal service.

The stamp features a machine processing of an envelope where there is abbreviation of Universal Postal Union (UPU), emblem of UPU and inscription: "125th anniversary of Universal Postal Union".

Designer: Yu. Artsimenev

Printing: offset

Perforation: comb 12

Face value: 3.00 rbl.

Size: 32,5 X 32,5 mm (along perforation)

Issue: 250 000 copies

A sheet contains 30 stamps

While conquering the Ionian Islands, which remained under Russian control until the 1807 Treaty of Tilsit with Napoleon, Ushakov opened communications with the Prince/Bishop of Cherna Gora (Montenegro). He then sailed to Ancona to bombard the citadel, while Austrian Troops occupied the city. After the surrender of the city, the Austrians did not allow Ushakov to raise the Imperial standard over the fort. Angered, Ushakov sailed for Valetta, Malta, where he joined the British under Nelson in liberating the Islands. Again, the Russian standard was not permitted to be raised. This was particularly upsetting to Tzar Paul, who, being elected Grand Master of the Knights of St. John (there was quite a bit of hanky-panky in that election since the Order was Catholic and the Tzar was Orthodox), and therefor Sovereign of Malta. The insults to the Russian flag added to the letters of Suvorov (who was fighting in Italy) and the Tzar's second son, Grand Duke Constantine, who was with the aged general, convinced Paul to seek a separate peace with Napoleon.

[The souvenir Sheet was issued on 19 February 1999.

Many thanks to Dr. Shneidman for providing the rest of the story. Ed]

The Cruise of Admiral Ushakov

by

Dr. J. Lee Shneidman



Rossica Medalists

Peach State Stamp Show 99, Athens, GA, 15-17 Oct. 1999

Alfred Kugel, "The New Order in the Baltic", Gold and APS 1900-1940 Medal.

Alberich von Fafnen, "How to Win a Gold Medal: "Craftiness in Competitive Philately," Display Class Vermeil.

SACAPEX 99, Sacramento, CA, 6-7 Nov. 1999

George V. Shalimoff, "The Romanov Tercentenary Issue of Russia," Grand Award and Gold.

VAPEX 99, Virginia Beach, VA, 12-14 Nov 1999

Adolph Ackerman, "The Russian Arctic," Vermeil and Rossica Award

Alfred Kugel, "German WWI Military and Occupation Mail from Enemy and Allied Territory." Vermeil and GPS Silver.

NOVAPEX 2000, Redding, CA, 4-5 March 2000

George Shalimoff, "Peter the Great," Vermeil

ROPEX 2000, Rochester, NY 17-19 March 2000

Alfred Kugel, "American Intervention in the Caribbean," Gold

[Congratulations one and all! My apologies to anyone I've missed. I'm dependent on Linn's for my listings. Linn's is slow in listing shows and does not list a lot of the overseas exhibitors. So PLEASE send me palmares of any show you attend or exhibit, or where a Rossica member exhibited. Thanks! ED.]

New Logo Continued from Page 1

first Rossica web site; nothing more. I thought that, given the challenges of Russian Philately, we were "dragon slayers." I also didn't want to use the "old man" because of its time-honored association with the Journal. I started looking for something that represented the society as a whole, that had some heritage to it.

Looking through old publications, I noticed that through a good period of time and into the present day, the Romanov Coat of Arms has been associated with the Rossica name. I don't know if it was ever officially adopted but it is still used today on the Society's letterhead. I also like the Tie-in with today's Russia in that they are using a modified version for their official seal.

There you have it. A new logo that is as old as the Society yet still represents the new Russia. What do you think? Do you like the logo or would you, the membership, want something else. If I get enough

feedback I'll put it up to a vote. Drop me a line and let me know. Ray Pietruszka, 211 Evalyn Street, Madison, AL 35758 or e-mail me at pietrj@mindspring.com.

New Bulletin
Continued from Page 2

The Bulletin will serve as a bridge to bring the internet information on new issues to the membership. It will continue to report on exhibits and the results of society meetings. By doing this the bulletin will continue the mission of the Society which is to promote Russian Philately to the world.

Ray Pietruszka, Editor

2000 Elections
Continued from Page 1

The candidates will be requested to reply by mail to the Secretary's written notification of their nomination. A short philatelic bio and a paragraph on their qualifications will be provided for inclusion with the ballot.

The Balloting Committee will send out ballots in July 2000. The deadline for receipt of the completed ballots back to the Committee will be 31 August. The results will be published in the October journal.

Internet News

The Rossica web Site continues to have interesting articles. The latest is a wonderful article by Alexander Epstein entitled "Don't Believe Your Eyes!" The story of the Russian Traveling Post Offices and Railway Station Post Offices that moved with the front line during WWI. He shows examples of postmarks used after a city fell to the Central Alliance and others of Russian Post Offices in former Austrian territory. Well worth the look! Rainer's zemstvos Web Site continues to grow. If you collect zemstvos, this is the site for you. He started a identification guide and outlines for album pages! But as these are works in progress, he needs your help. Check it out at www.fuchs-online.com.

Found a new site a couple of months ago called "Premier Russian Philatelic Site." It is maintained by Vadim Lapin of Moscow. He has pages on stamp errors, the RSFSR Charity Stamps, a vocabulary listing, Russian submarines and much more. You can find his site at www.aha.ru/~roger7/