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of the
ROSSICA SOCIETY
of
RUSSIAN PHILATELY

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At the present time the Membership Dues are $5.00, due January 1, for all mem-
bers. Application forms, which must be filled out, are available upon request.
Membership lists, codes, bulletins and supplements to the membership lists will be
sent out annually. Kindly make all checks payable to A. N. Lavrov, Treasurer
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We welcome advertisements from members, non-members and dealers. The rates are
as follows: Full Page Add is $30.00. Half Page is $15.00. Quarter Page is $7.50.
Five lines is $2.50. Members of the Rossica Society pay one half or 50\% of the
above rates for the ADDS. Therefore the net cost of advertisements to members is
only 25 cents per line. We have a very limited number of back issues of the Journal
for sale, both in Russian and in English at $2.00 each: Russian Editions No. 44 to
69; English Editions (10 various only). Others are sold out.
EDITORIAL

Our Journal is now printed by offset, instead of mimeograph. Our new publisher Martin L. Harow worked very hard to produce this issue, and he deserves our praise for his efforts. We sincerely hope that our readers will welcome the clearer print, and the professional results. We have many other plans for the future, all of which depend upon the growth of our membership and the cooperation of our authors. Our aim is progress.

We wish to thank our previous publishers, R. A. Sklarevski, of the English language edition, and A. N. Lavrov, of the Russian language edition for typing the stencils of the Journals No. 44 to No. 69, an arduous task, which consumed much of their spare time. The former can now devote more time to assisting the editor, while the latter can carry on as the business editor of the Journal.

The Russian language edition is being discontinued. Those who have been responsible for its production, could not continue because of age and state of health, others could not be found to do the tremendous job of translating, stenciling, and editing. Other factors were likewise involved. Two editions cost double expenses, yet the reason for the Russian language edition became less imperative with time. The Russian emigres, in our society, mainly in the U.S.A., Canada, English speaking countries, headed by the United Kingdom, have been exposed to the English language, since World War I and II, most of them read English language publications, many belong to the BSRP, our sister society which publishes in English only, and most of our members who live in lands other than those employing English, correspond, trade and barter in English, belong to BSRP, and can easily read the Rossica Journal in English. The very, very few who do not belong to either one of the categories, do not warrant the double expenditure of time and money, even if we could find volunteers to continue the extremely hard task of two editions.

In conclusion we wish to stress again that we shall not consider for publication notes scribbled on airsheets, post cards, illegible letters, even if they do come from revered, renowned philatelists. Articles and notes must be typed, in duplicate, in English. Those who have no access to typewriters, or ability to use them, must obtain help from those who do. Ours is a labor of love, done late at night after long days of work of livelihood. Please cooperate, and help us to create the finest specialist Journal in the world!

SPECIAL NOTE: The Rossical Journal has just won its 17th medal, A Silver Medal for journalism at SIPEX.

LIFE OF THE SOCIETY

The Annual Joint Meeting of the Rossica Society of Russian Philately and the British Society of Russian Philately took place on November 20, 21, 1965 at the Manger Vanderbilt Hotel, producing another record breaking turnout for the two day series of events. Inasmuch as this old meeting place of ours was about to end as a hotel, being converted to an apartment house, our final meeting there marked a honored milestone in our history.

An open house was held on Saturday afternoon, filling Dr. Salisbury's suite, followed by a dinner. A lively meeting was held afterwards, during which it was decided to have a lounge at the Sipex. A lively buffet supper was held afterwards,
lasting until the early hours of the morning. Over a hundred members, their wives
and guests were counted during the celebration.

On Sunday, our annual bourse proved a success, and much valuable philatelic
material changed hands, from noon until 2 pm the starting time of the Joint meet-
ing. Dr. Salisbury presided as the head of Rossica, and of BSRP in the U.S., and
during the session, presented George Turner, our member, and head of the Sipex.
The latter invited both societies to attend the forthcoming international exhibi-
tion in Washington, and discussed the planned events there. After the meeting,
Kurt Adler, the Program Chairman presented a varied and a most interesting program.

Our representative in Belgium, Ing. I. Braunstein has been appointed as a
member of the jury at Aeropex, being held in June, in New York. He is exhibiting
his outstanding material in the Salon d'Honneur, a pair of frames of the Russian
Consular Post. He received recently the Richard S. Bohn Memorial Award, 1966.

During the recent elections of the New York Chapter, Joseph F. Chudoba was re-
elected as Chairman for three more years. Martin L. Harow was elected Secretary
and Abraham Cohen was elected Treasurer, all unanimously. Those members who would
like to attend the monthly meetings, held usually on the last Sunday of the month
at the Clinton Youth Center Y.M.C.A. at 314 W. 54th Street, N.Y.C. should contact
Mr. Chudoba, 426 Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11225. Meeting time is 1 pm to
5 pm.

Recent meetings of the Washington area Rossica group were held in a most tempt-
ing fashion. The January meeting, at Dr. C de Stackelberg's house, featured a
bourse, APS Circuit books, the outstanding collection of forgeries, shown by the
host, and Russian blini, with sour cream, beluga caviar, Zubrovka vodka, and Russian
tea! The February meeting held at the Chairman Boris Shishkin's house was high-
lighted by choice albums, stock books, and shoeboxes filled with philatelic
material...and it being Russian Maslennitsa, more of the Russian blini (I wonder
whose were better, Boris' or Baron S's) plus caviar sent by special and confidential
courier to the Shishkin household by the Imperial Majesty the Shah of Iran!
The March meeting was held at Dr. Gordon Torrey's house. This correspondent is
curious...were there any blini served by the Torreys?

At the end of 1963, our member R. Polchaninoff, of 411 Montauk Ave., Brooklyn,
New York 11208, inserted a note in the Russian newspaper, Novoe Russkoe Slovo,
about ex-libristudio Georgievitch, an Estonian, in the field of cataloguing Russian
ex-libris. His three volume major work "Description of Russian Book Marks" listed
2593 ex-libris during the period 1702-1918.

In 1905, U.G. Ivask established a "Moscow Society of Collectors of Book Marks"
however this society no longer exists. There is a large number of town societies
in U.S.S.R. interested in this field, with exhibitions, various activities, which
include publishing of catalogs. It is estimated that during the Soviet period
more than 30,000 ex-libris have been issued. B. Vilinbachov, considered the big-
gest collector of ex-libris in Russia has over 25,000 examples.

Collecting of ex-libris among the Russian emigres is very small, however our
member, Mr. Polchaninoff decided to catalog the Russian ex-libris produced abroad
after 1917, on territories not within U.S.S.R. at the moment of issue. At this
moment he has 18 ex-libris, and knows of the existence of 11 others. He would like
all those interested in the project to contact him, so as to aid in the formation
of a catalog, and in starting a section of ex-libris within the Rossica Society.
Designers of zemstvo stamps, like the gold and silversmiths of the 18th century, displayed an almost medievalistic penchant for coats of arms. Stripped of the rigid restrictions of conventional heraldry, their designs nevertheless owed their origins to events of long ago or to attributes of their localities.

No writings or records are known which tell the stories of the designers of zemstvo stamps save for fleeting references to the mass producers of the "key plate" varieties at the Government Printing Office in St. Petersburg. Even those designers who produced the first of the five "key plate" varieties in 1884 recognized the important role of the cities' coats of arms by making them (and the inscriptions) the distinguishing characteristics.

Nearly two centuries before that, however, the gold and silversmiths had adopted their respective cities' coats of arms into their inspection marks. In doing so they followed the custom of the princes of the city states. Their utilizations of these and the keys to their identifications may be found in a volume titled "Old Silver and Old Sheffield Plate" by Howard Pitcher Okie (Doubleday, Doran & Co., Inc., Garden City, N.Y., 1938). Another volume—which treats comprehensively of the flowering of this craftsmanship—is "Peter Carl Faberge" by Charles Bainbridge (B. T. Batsford Ltd., London, 1949).

In thumbing through Okie's volume recently I was intrigued by a section near its conclusion captioned "Marks on Other Continental Plate." Under the division headed "Russia" were marks attributed to 26 cities, including several in Poland and Finland.

My interest centered on the marks of those Russian cities which had issued zemstvo stamps. Noteworthy was the fact that the heraldic-like designs of the marks bore close resemblances to those in the coats of arms so frequently found on zemstvo stamps. The designers of both had obviously taken as their inspirations the armorial bearings of their respective cities, governments or districts.

Take, for example, the inspection mark of the gold and silversmiths of the city of Kazan. The mark dates back, according to Okie, at least to 1797. The mark (see illustration) is a streamlined version of the wyvern. Ninety-eight years later the same heraldic monster was displayed with much more detail in the brief-lived issue of Kazan's single zemstvo stamp. Because the coat of arms was that of the Government of Kazan rather than that of just its chief city the wyvern later cropped up in stamps of two other cities in that government. These were the cities of Chistopol and Tetyushi.

In both those instances, the wyvern is displayed in the upper half of the shield of the Ardatov type "key plate" varieties, first appearing in Chistopol in 1907 and in Tetyushi four years later. The St. Petersburg designers' passion for uniformity stopped short, however, of making the wyverns of the two cities identical. The wyverns of Tetyushi's three values in this design are identical.

Chistopol had three printings from its St. Petersburg plates, all in the 2 kopecks values, and the wyvern was, of course, unchanged. When, however, Chistopol undertook in 1911 to print its own version of the design the Kazan wyvern underwent some minor changes.
One unique aspect of the rather limited appearances of they wyvern on zemstvo stamps is that it also appears in slightly different form on the Ardatov-type "key plate" stamp of Kashira in Tula government separated from that of Kazan by those of Ryazan and Nisni Novgorod. Kashira's stamps were issued in the same year--1907--as were those of Chistopol's first "key plate" emission.

As is the case with the armorial bearings of most zemstvo coats of arms details of their origins are lost in antiquity. However, in the case of Pskov, once a "free city" dating back to 903, it appears clear that the basic design is derived from the arms of its princes in the mid-10th century. Subsequently guildsmen who worked with precious metals incorporated Pskov's basic design into their mint mark. The design--a hand pointing down from a cloud to the back of a lion-like animal walking to the left--is, of course, the basis for the official seal of the city and is related to the oblast as a whole. (An interesting discussion of those early centuries is contained in "The Towns of Ancient Rus" by M. Tikhomirov, Foreign Languages Publishing House, Moscow, 1959.)

The design, it might be noted, appears in all stamps issued by the city of Pskov. This, however, is not true in the case of other zemstvo-issuing cities within the government. With variations in details it appears on some stamps of the cities of Kholm, Opochka and Ostrov. (It does not appear on the stamps of Novorzhev nor on the handstamped envelopes of Toropetz.)

Ostrov's initial issue in 1875 of lozenge-shaped stamps is of particular interest because it is one of the few zemstvo issues the name of whose designer is known. He was M. Chane of St. Petersburg who followed closely the format of his design for Pskov's initial issue four years earlier. Ostrov's issue of 1884 (see illustration) also is of interest because it was the first of the five "key plate" varieties executed by the Government Printing Office in St. Petersburg.

Kostroma is another of the ancient cities (it dates back to 1152) whose government's coat of arms is incorporated into its silversmiths' inspection mark as well as into armorial bearings depicted on stamps of another city--Vetluga.

The basic design of the Kostroma coat of arms is a field quartered with a cross in the upper left, an inverted quarter moon in the lower right and in the other two quarters parallel horizontal rows of dots. The silversmiths' mark omits the dots, blunts the tips of the moon and simplifies the cross from its true Maltese form. The Vetluga design retains the Maltese form.

The inspection mark found on 18th century silverware originating in Tver (renamed Kalinin in 1931) poses a problem. Question is whether the mark (see illustration) is an approximation of the district's distinguishing crown seen in its coat of arms. In simple outline it somewhat resembles the crown surmounting the double-headed eagle in the upper half of Ostashkov's zemstvos.

Of interest, too, is the question of just what the silversmiths were attempting to depict as the resting place for the crown--if that's what it is. It appears to resemble most closely a pillow instead of the three-legged stool of Tver's stamps or the chair (or throne?) of those of Vesyegonsk. Byezhetsk, fourth of the cities of the Tver government to issue zemstvos showing a crown, simply "floated" it over the figure of value in early issues although in its issue of 1894 the three-legged stool is seen.
In the case of Korcheva, also in the government of Tver, no crown appears on its zemstvos although one may be seen in the city's official seal.

Vologda's 18th century silversmiths' mark is a simple and plain representation of the district's distinguishing feature of its coat of arms—an arm thrust to the left whose hand holds an orb and a short sword. The city of Vologda itself issued no zemstvos but six of the district's eight cities which did so incorporated the design in some of their stamps.

By cities, those which did are:

Griazovets--It occurs in one of the seven issues of 1894.

Kadnikov--The design appears in several issues as well as in its postal stationery envelopes.

Nicolsk--All of this city's stamps display the design.

Totma--It appears in all of this city's stamps as well as in its postal stationery envelopes.

Ust-Sysolsk--It appears in this city's "key plate" issue of 1902-15.

Velsk--The design appears on all of this city's stamps.

Yarensk--Both of this city's issues contain the design.

Six of the cities listed above issued "key plate" zemstvos of the Ardatov type and each contained the "arms, orb and sword" design. Only one--Totma--did not issue any "key plate" zemstvos. Another city--Velikiy Ustug--issued only "key plate" zemstvos of the Ardatov type and curiously these did not include the Vologda district design.

Some additional comments on inspection marks:

In his volume Okie attributes seven different marks to St. Petersburg (from 1736 to 1880) and four to Moscow (from 1734 to 1780). Most of these designs are reflected in some of the zemstvos issued in the regions dominated by those two cities.

Perm is another familiar zemstvo name which appears on the list of cities with silversmith marks. To it are attributed two marks, both in the form of keys. However, none of the zemstvos issued by Perm itself or the eleven other zemstvo-issuing cities in the government displayed a key.

The city of Vladimir, chief city of the government of that name, had an inspection mark showing a lion rampant and facing to the left. Pereyaslavl was the only city in that government to issue zemstvos and none of their designs includes a lion.

Kiev, where the Faberge family had a branch store from 1905 to 1910, had three inspection marks but the city issued no zemstvos. The marks were in the form of the upper part of an angel's body, a small angel-like figure and, lastly, the letters "KIOV." No mark was attributed by Okie to Odessa where the Faberges also had a branch.
The crown reappears, incidentally, in the final Ardatov-type "key plate" issues of Vesseygonsk for 1903-04 and 1912-13.

Rzhev, first city in the government to issue zemstvos (in 1867), utilized a crown in its design but it was more in the form of a coronet than of an imperial crown.

GOLDSMITHS' MARKS AND ZEMSTVO COATS OF ARMS by Fred W. Speers

Marks

KAZAN

Kazan Chistopol Tetyushi Kashira (Tula Gov.)

PSKOV

Pskov Kholm Opochka Ostrov Porkhov

KOSTROMA

Vetluga Tver Byezhetsk Ostashkov Vessigonsk

VOLOGDA

Griazovets Kadnikov Nicolsk Totma Velsk Yarensk
RUSSIAN MAIL TO THE MONASTIC CELL OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOMOS

By Aimosios D. Xanthopoulos

From the informative article by Dr. G. B. Salisbury in No. 65 of the Rossica Journal, pp. 38-42, I have noted the interest of Russian philatelists in the postal history of the unique monastic republic of Mount Athos, or "The Religious Community of the Holy Mount", as it is known to us Greeks. I am taking this opportunity of adding some details about this subject, so that your readers will be better able to classify their philatelic material from this area. All dates quoted are Old Style, unless otherwise stated.

First of all, there is and has been only one Russian monastery in the promontory, and it is referred to by my countrymen as "To Rossikon", or "The Russian One" of St. Panteleimon. Altogether, there are 20 monasteries in the district, and they all enclose a series of churches both within the walls (ESOCELESIAL) and without the walls (EXOCELESIAL). The other Slav monasteries in the area are Chilianatarion or Khilendar (Bulgarian and Serbian) and Zographou, literally meaning "of the Painter", which is Bulgarian. The other 17 are all predominantly Greek, although Iveron ("of the Tiberians") has had strong Georgian connections and was, in fact, founded by three Georgians about the year 980 A.D.

In addition, there were 12 "sketai" (monastic settlements or priories), which were dependent on the various monasteries. One of the most famous of these was the Russian "skete" of St. Andrew, to which I have seen addressed in Greek a highly interesting cover in the Kurt Adler collection, sent through the Russian P.O. at Cavalla on July 11, 1907. The "skete" was founded at a "kellion" (see below) of the Vatopedion monastery on October 27, 1849 by two Russian monks from Bryansk named Ilarion and Varsonofii. By 1886, it had already grown to house 230 monks with their 60 servants, so it was by then quite large.

We now proceed to the next subdivision, as denoted by the term "kellion". This word applied to a monastic cell or sanctuary of 5 or 6 monks, together with an adjoining church and some land, and they provided their own food. Similar sanctuaries which received their victuals from a monastery were known as "kathismata". Both types of monastic cells, together with the numerous "asketeria", numbered about 250 in all. In passing, please note the difference between "skete" (a priory) and "asketerion" (a hermitage).

Until the liberation of Aegean Macedonia by the Greek Armies in the Balkan Wars of 1912-13, the Mount Athos district was under Turkish rule, and there was a Turkish P.O. installed at the village of Karyai. Normally, the personnel of this office was Greek. By the end of the 19th century, the number of Russian monks had become considerable, as can be seen from the following statistics for the year 1902. At that time, there were 3615 Russian, 3207 Greek, 340 Bulgarian, 288 Rumanian, 53 Georgian and 18 Serbian monks on Athos. A Russian postal agency was obviously required and judging from the material in my possession, it appears that it did not have any markings until some time in the 1890s. Although the Russian post offices in the newly liberated Greek territories were supposed to close at the end of December 1914, this proviso apparently did not apply to the Mount Athos area, because of its special religious character, as instanced by the arrival marking of "Star. Afon", dated December 20, 1917 and struck on a censored cover from Petrograd, again in the Kurt Adler collection.
Before describing the series of covers from a Russian correspondence now in my possession, I would like to set out some introductory remarks. First of all, they are all addressed to the "kellion" or monastic cell of St. John Chrysostomos, or Svyatoi Ioann Zlatoustii, in the vicinity of Chilianitarion. St. John's last name means "The Golden-Mouthed", in both Greek and Russian and this refers to the famous preacher and theologian of the early Christian era, who was born about 347 A.D. in Antioch and died in exile in the Pityous district of Asia Minor in 407 A.D. for having dared to stand up to the vain Byzantine Empress Eudoxia. His eloquence was such that only "golden words" issued from his mouth and he is regarded by Eastern Orthodox Christians as one of the main proponents of orthodox dogma. His left hand is preserved at the Great Lavra Monastery (please see map herewith) his right hand is in the Philotheou monastery and one of the exocclesiai of the Zographou monastery is named after him.

The monastery of Chilianitarion, in whose vicinity the above-named monastic cell was situated, was founded in 1186 A.D. by the Serbian king Stevan Nemanja and it has been staffed mainly with Bulgarian and Serbian monks. Its most noteworthy occupant was the Bulgarian monk Paisii Khilendarski (1722-1798), who wrote a monumental work named "Istoriya Slavyanobolgarskaya" in the year 1762. He is regarded by his countrymen as the initiator of the Bulgarian Renaissance and he is commemorated on several stamps of Bulgaria. The origin of the name Chilianitarion is somewhat obscure, but it appears to have been derived from either of the Greek phrases "chilioi andres" (thousand men), or "chilia antra" (thousand caves), there being many of the latter in this locality. We know that this monastery had a total of 23 "kellia" or monastic cells near the village of Karyai and it is presumed that the one named aft St. John Chrysostomos was among them.

Now to the items in my possession:--

1. A registered letter with 20 kop. in Russian postage, mailed on April 19, 1891 from Simbirsk. The transit markings include Odessa 17, April 26, 1891 and Odessa 9, a day later, as well as ROPIT Constantinople April 30, 1891. On this last day it was handed over to the Turkish P.O. at Galata, whose cancel is dated May 11, 1891 (New Style). From here on, it passed overland through the Turkish postal system and received the bilingual Turkish marking of arrival reading "AYNOROS / MONT-ATHOS, May 18, 1891" (New Style).

However, the most interesting thing about the cover is the address. This is lithographed in manuscript style on the envelope in French and Russian in 10 lines as follows: "Turquie, via Constantinople / à Mont-Athos / Cellule de St. Jean Chrysostome / au Superieur Pere Kirille avec / Confreri. ("e" missing!) / Turtsiya, Chrez Konstantinopol' / na Afon / Nastoyatelyu Kellii Sv. Ioanna Zlatoust (v Khilendarskoi mestnosti) / Ieroskhimonakhu Kirillu s bratieyu". The Russian inscription translates as "Turkey, via Constantinople to Athos, To the Prior of the Monastic Cell of St. John Chrysostomos (in the Chilianitarion district). To the Father Superior Cyril and brethren".

Note the minor mistakes in the French text, while the genitive form for the saint's last name should have been "Zlatoustago" in Russian and not "Zlatousta". At bottom front, there is a handwritten French notation in typical Greek handwriting reading "M-Athos, Cyrille", and at back a further note, now in Greek and reading "Kyrillos".

2. A front from a registered cover, which had originally enclosed a remittance of 50 rubles sent from Lipetsk, Tambov governmentship, on June 25, 1901 and
The oval marking for the monastic cell shown in clear detail and dated Sept. 12, 09.

Below: Map of the Athos area.


Genuine

Forged

One ruble 1941 issue

Genuine

Forged

One ruble 1948 issue
received at the ROPiT P.O. at Mt. Athos on July 8. The bilingual address is now printed on the envelope and reads as follows in 8 lines: "CHREZ G. ODESSU NA AFON. TURTISIYA / Russkaya Pochta, v Russkuyu Obscheshitelnuyu Obitel' / SV. IOANNA ZLATOUSTAGO / (v Khilendaraskoi mestnosti) / Nastoyatellyu IEROSKHIMONAKHU KIRILLU s bratiedy / Ot.........../.........../ TURQUIE MONT-ATHOS POSTE RUSSE CELLUL S-T: ZLATOUSTE PERE KIRYLLE/.

The Russian address now translates as follows: "Via the city of Odessa to Athos, Turkey. The Russian post office, to the Russian communal cloister of St. John Chrysostomos in the Chilianatarius district, to the Prior, Father Superior Cyril and brethren, from .....".

3. Another registered front from the same peasant woman sender, originally enclosing 40 rubles and sent from Lipetsk on February 20, 1902. The double-circle ROPiT AFON arrival is dated March 9, 1902. The printed address is now arranged in 9 lines, as follows: "Chrez g. ODESSU NA SV. AFONSKUYU GORU / RUSSKAYA POCHTA. V RUSSKUYU OBSCHESHTEL'NYUYU OBITEL' / SV. IOANNA ZLATOUSTAGO / (v Khilendaraskoi mestnosti) / Nastoyatellyu Ieroskhimonakhu Kirillu s bratiedy / ot .........../.........../ Via Odessa / à Mont-Athos poste russe Au Pere Kyrille /". The Russian address reads: "Via the city of Odessa to holy Mount Athos. The Russian post office. To the Russian communal cloister of St. John Chrysostomos, in the Chilianatarius district. To the Prior, Father Superior Cyril and brethren, from....".

4. A registered letter from Kazachinskoye, Yenisei governmentship, mailed on March 12, 1908 and franked with a pair of 7 kop. stamps on the flap. There is a figure "6" also scrawled in crayon the back, apparently done on passing through Krasnoyarsk, since at the latter place an additional pair of 3 kop. stamps was affixed and cancelled two days later. It passed through the ROPiT P.O. at Constantinople on March 27 and was received at Mt. Athos on March 30, 1908. The more elaborate 15-line address is as follows: "Chrez gor. ODESSU / v gor. KONSTANTINOPOL' / RUSSKAYA POCHTA / Nastoyatellyu Podvor'ya Afonskoi / SVYATO-IOANNO-ZLATOUSTKOI OBITELI / Ieromonakhу VARSONOFIYU / Dlya PERESYLKI NA SV. AFONSOUYU GORU NASTOYATELYU / OBITELI SV. IOANNA ZLATOUSTAGO / (v Khilendaraskoi mestnosti) / Nastoyatellyu Ieroskhimonakhu Kirillu s bratiedy / ot .........../.........../ Via Odessa / à Mont-Athos poste russe Au Pere Kyrille /". All this translates as: "Via the city of Odessa to the city of Constantinople, Turkey. The Russian post office, to the Prior of the conventual church and house of Athos of the cloister of St. John Chrysostomos, to the Reverend Father Varsonofii, for transmission to holy Mount Athos to the Prior of the cloister of St. John Chrysostomos and abbot of the monastery of Visoki Dechani, to the Father Superior Cyril and brethren, from....".

5. By far the most important cover in the correspondence, this is the only one without a printed or lithographed address and it is directed somewhat incorrectly addressed by hand in Russian as follows: "Athos, Turkey, to the monastery of St. John Chrysostomos, to be received by the Father Superior Cyril and brethren". Insufficiently franked with a Russian 7 kop. stamp, it was sent from Chistopol' on August 26, 1909 and collected en route a circled "T" and oval "DOPLATIT' 6 " notations on the front. It reached the ROPIT P.O. at Mt. Athos on September 10, 1909 (faint strike at top right of cover), and it was then forwarded to the monastic cell, where it received a clear strike on the front of the cover on arrival two days later of a completely unrecorded oval marking measuring 32 x 24 mm., reading at top "R. K. s. I. Z." and at bottom "AFON", with date in center in American style, reading "SEN. 12. 09" (please see illus-
trations for details). Two indistinct strikes of the same oval marking are to be found on the back. From the preceding covers of the correspondence, we may deduce that the five initials at the top of this unusual marking stand for "RUSSKAYA KEL'YA SVYATAGO IOANNA ZLATOUSTAGO" or "Russian Monastic Cell of St. John Chrysostomos." It would be interesting to know if this marking was ever applied on covers going in the opposite direction, i.e. from the monastic cell to the faithful in Russia, especially in cancelling the franking, or even on loose stamps of the Russian Levant.

6. The last cover in the correspondence is a registered letter from Bolkhuny, Astrakhan governmentship, franked with 20 kop. in Russian postage, sent on April 18, 1914 and received at Athos on April 29. As Macedonia had been liberated 18 months previously from the Turks, there is now a significant change in address, which is now in 11 lines, as follows: "Chrez g. ODESSU i KONSTANTINOPOL' / NA AFON (Makedoniya) / Nastoyateliyu Obiteli SV. IOANNA ZLATOUSTAGO / (Khilendarskoi mestnosti) / i Igumenu VYSOKO-DECHANSKIYA LAVRY / Ieroskhimonakhu KIRILLU s bratieiyu / Ot........../........./ Via ODESSA a" MONT-AHOS (Macedoine) / poste russe / Au reverend pere KYRILLE et confrerie ". The Russian address reads: "Via the city of Odessa and Constantinople to Athos, Macedonia, to the Prior of the cloister of St. John Chrysostomos in the Chiliantarion district and abbot of the monastery of Visoki Dechani, to the Father Superior Cyril and brethren, from...."

From the foregoing details, it seems clear that there was a voluminous mail between this monastic cell and the faithful in Russia, going as far back as the year 1891 and continuing for at least 23 years. It was probably for this reason that the monastic cell had specially addressed envelopes prepared, which it forwarded to Russia for the convenience of its correspondents. It may well be that there were other settings of these printed or lithographed addresses and I trust that readers will advise us if such is the case. No doubt there is still a great deal to be learned about the postal history of the Mount Athos district in its heyday.

The monastery of VISOKI DECHANI, referred to in the addresses of envelopes Nos. 4 and 6, appears to be the illustrious fortified monastery founded by another Serbian king, Stevan, in the year 1335, at Dechani, 10 miles south of PEC, in Southern Serbia, Yugoslavia. Obviously, we need to know more about Father Cyril and his brethren, as well as their activities, since they may well have been Serbians, rather than Russians.

Readers who might be interested in the fascinating history of the Religious Community of the Holy Mount will find a great deal of literature on the subject. One of the best and most detailed studies is by the Greek author, G. Smyrnakes, and it is entitled "To Hagion Oros" ("The Holy Mount", Athens, 1903). Since this will be "Greek" to most of your members, they are advised to consult a perceptive and genial English work by Athelstan Riley, called "Athos, or the Mountain of the Monks" and published by Longmans, Green & Co., London, 1887.

Finally, may I say that it has been a pleasure for me to present the foregoing details to your readership, bearing in mind the many cultural and religious links between the Graeco-Byzantine world and the Russian Empire. The many names and words of Greek origin used by several of the Slav languages testify to these contacts. All of this stems from the pioneer work done by the great apostles to the Slavs, the Saints Kyrillos and Methodios, who adapted from the Greek alphabet the Cyrillic system which has become so precise and perfect a vehicle for rendering the various languages of the Eastern Orthodox nations in the Slav world.
THE ANDIZHAN POSTAL FORGERIES

By Ya. M. Vovin

During 1949, a local inhabitant of the town of Andizhan, Uzbek SSR, forged two postage stamps of the USSR, both of 1 ruble value and showing the Spasskii Tower in the Kremlin, as follows: Scott's Nos. 843, 1260; Gibbons' Nos. 970, 1329; Yvert Nos. 836, 1233; Zumstein Nos. 806, 1294; Michel Nos. 812, 1245. The forger managed to place in circulation a small quantity of these stamps.

The forged stamps may be distinguished from the genuine by the coarser execution of the designs and details. The cloud formations do not correspond to the originals. Moreover, the letters in the word "rubl'" on the first stamp, and "rub" on the second stamp, differ sharply from those on the genuine stamps (please see illustrations). The color of the ink used for the first forgery approximates that of the genuine stamp, but it has a fresher shade, while on the second forgery the color is not uniform. On some copies it is red, while on others it approaches pale pink. The dimensions of the forged stamps almost match those of the originals, but for the first stamp the forgery is ½ mm. too narrow.

With regard to the perforations, which are com 12 x 12½ on both the genuine stamps, here again their faker was not able to reach perfection in the majority of the forgeries. They are irregularly perforated and gage along each side of the stamps from 14 to 16. All the known forgeries are cancelled with genuine postal markings. The first forgery has a cancel with outside diameter of 30 mm., reading "ANDIZHAN FERG. UZ. SSR" but the date is lacking, while the second forgery shows a cancel with diameter 25 mm. and text "ANDIZHAN OBLASTNOI 1.9.49" or "3.9.49" (Sept. 1, 1949 or Sept. 3, 1949). EDITORIAL COMMENT: The above article is, as far as we know, the first recorded news of postal forgeries of USSR stamps, although we have also heard rumors that the Small Heads issues of the 1920s in the gold currency were forged in Odessa to defraud the mails. May we suggest that our specialists dig into this hitherto unexplored subject and let us know their findings on the 1949 forgeries and any previous attempts?

There is one final point we like to make. Why were these one ruble values forged? We know that in 1949, the tariff for an internal letter in the USSR was 40 kopeks, and this would have been an obvious value to forge. Does any reader know what common rate would have been covered at that time by a one ruble stamp, thus making it worthwhile to forge?

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THREE SOLID TRIANGLES

Lt. Col. A. Prado

Recently in the BSRP Journal several mentions had been made about cancellations with three solid triangles - either OVAL or CIRCULAR. To some people this kind of cancel has some relation with Railway Dispatch due to the shape of the TPO cancels, and others tentatively attach their significance to some kind of Censor's Control.
In the first instance I thought this was really a Railway mark but my concept was slightly altered to doubt when checking my covers and cards I saw the same solid triangles in a circular cancellation: Bound by uncertainty I began to check my covers and here I present to fellow collectors the result of the search with my comments.

COVERS and CARDS

1. Card sent from MOSCOU to VARNA, BULGARIA
   a) Stamps: 1x100R and 1x300 Soviet issue

2. Registered cover sent from MEJIROV to NEW YORK, U. S.
   a) Stamps: 2x100R Soviet issue

3. Registered card from ODESSA to BERLIN, GERMANY
   a) Stamps: 7x100R Soviet issue
   b) Cancellations: Black circular of ODESSA, 13.2.22. Black circular with triangles of ODESSkii EKSP., 14.2.22. Black circular of BERLIN, -5.3.22.

4. Registered cover sent from ODESSA to BERLIN, GERMANY
   a) Stamps: 7x2250R (red) Volga Famine issue, 3x220R Soviet issue
   b) Cancellations: Black circular of ODESSA, 23.2.22. Black circular with triangles of ODESSA, 21.3.22. No arrival marking in BERLIN.

5. Cover from MOSCOU to MUNCHEN, GERMANY
   a) Stamps: 2x5000/1R and 5000/20R Soviet issues
   b) Cancellations: Black circular, bridge type of MOSCOU, -7.3.22. Black oval with triangles, MOSCOU EKSPEDITIA, -7.3.22.
   Obs. This cover has two Moscou circular with - MOSCOU T. EKSPEDITIA, -3.3.22.

6. Cover sent from KIEV to WARSAW, POLAND
   a) Stamps: 3x5000/2R Soviet issue

7. Cover from PETROGRAD to REVEL, ESTONIA
   a) Stamps: 10x7R Arms issue, perforated with varnished lozanges and 2x10OR of the same issue
   b) Cancellations: Black circular of PETROGRAD, 3.7.22. Black circular, large bridge type of PETROGRAD, -5.7.22. Black circular with triangles of PETROGRAD, 15.7.22. Black circular of TALLIN, 22.7.22
8. Registered cover sent to REVEL, ESTONIA from PETROGRAD
   a) Stamps: 18x5k Arms issue, perforated with varnished lozenges

9. Registered cover sent from PETROGRAD to REVEL, ESTONIA
   a) Stamps: 9x1OR Arms issue, perforated with varnished lozenges

10. Registered cover sent from PETROGRAD to REVEL, ESTONIA
    a) Stamps: 6x45R 5th. Year of Revolution, 3x220R Soviet issue

11. Registered cover sent from PETROGRAD to REVEL, ESTONIA
    a) Stamps: 10x14k Arms issue, perforated with varnished lozenges and 2x5k of the same issue

COMMENTS: I have a lot of other covers of the same period with the same kind of stamps, cancels and so on EXCEPT the OVAL or CIRCULAR WITH THREE SOLID TRIANGLES and with this remark we can assume this type of cancel IS NOT:
   1. Always present in covers sent via Railway routes.
   2. Always on covers sent to Foreign countries and if we accept these marks as a kind of Censor's control the service was discriminating or imperfect.
   3. On covers sent via Airmail.

With the above comments I put not a full stop but an invitation to other collectors to check the postal material they have to clear the matter with complete accuracy.

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A NEW FIND IN SOVIET STAMPS

By Sam Robbins

In the Rossica Journal #64 of 1963 I reported a discovery of a variety on a stamp issued in 1948, Scott 1257, Soviet Cat. 1331, Yvert 1227. Now after further study and examination of many copies of this stamp I am able to report with more details some facts that make me believe that this stamp is a major variety deserving of special attention by our members and compilers of catalogs.
This stamp is part of a set dedicated to the subject of Sports, 15 Kp. Violet, 30 Kp. Brown, 45 Kp. Sepia and 50 Kp. Blue. The 30 Kp. Soviet Cat. 1329, Scott 1255, Yvert 1225 exists in two frame sizes. The regular 32x22 M.M. and the variety 32x21.5 M.M. They have a common design to hold the inscription (Postage USSR) NOYTA CCCP of similar size in photogravure. In all the stamps examined by the writer the variety was found in cancel to order stamps only. It may exist mint but all efforts to find a mint copy have not been successful so far. In an examination of the large holdings of Soviet stamps of our member dealer Lester S. Glass not a single mint stamp of variety was found.

Now to the basic differences in the stamps as you see in the illustration.

The regular stamp is placed left and the variety is on the right. On the regular these are the characteristics:

The inscription NOYTA CCCP is in thin letters.  
The holder or cartouche is 14 m.m. The number 5 is thin and separated from the 0 and the letter K is below the number 5.  
The cumulus clouds are of entirely different shapes in both stamps.

On the variety these are the differences:

The inscription NOYTA CCCP is in thick letters.  
The holder or cartouches is 16 m.m. (arrow #1)  
The number 5 is thick and connected to the 0 and the letter K is not below the number 5 (arrow #2).  
Arrow #3 shows the clouds are dissimilar.  
The Soviet Cat. of 1948 list the perf. as 12 1/2 but it is 12.  
Also the paper is of the same thickness.

In conclusion all these factors point to a distinct printing with clear and obvious differences which I consider of merit and should be listed as a major variety.

I welcome comments on these findings.
RUSSIAN OFFICES ABROAD

By Edith M. Faulstich
(Kurt Adler's Presentation Before Collectors Club, N.Y.)

Kurt Adler took the floor at the Collectors Club January 18th to show and discuss his collection of Russian Offices Abroad.

When program chairman, Herbert Bloch introduced the speaker, he gave a glowing account of Adler's life. Born in Austria, he studied in Vienna and soon played the piano and conducted orchestras all over Europe. When Hitler came into power in 1933 Adler went to Kiev and two years later he lived in Stalingrad. When all non-Russians were ordered out of that city he again returned to Vienna and Prague. In 1938 he came to the United States and entertained audiences here as a concert pianist and in 1943 joined the Metropolitan as a Conductor. Today he travels extensively here and in Europe and is the author of a fine book on music.

Philatelically he started to collect at an early age and found himself especially interested in Russia due to his life in Kiev. Strangely enough at that time he did not speak Russian.

When Mr. Adler took the floor, he modestly expressed grateful appreciation for being asked to address such an important philatelic group but stated he was not used to lecturing to such an audience and thought conducting a Metropolitan orchestra was far easier! Then he went on to deliver one of the finest lectures one might possibly hear. Authorative and interesting, with a spark of humor, Mr. Adler pointed to his covers and told us that he showed this particular phase of his collection because he thought it would be of more interest to collectors as it touched on so many different countries.

"There are nearly 300 offices abroad," he said and added that this competes only with Great Britain in quantity.

He explained that Russia wanted places in Europe where there were warm water ports, and in China so it could use the so called Silk Roads and Tea Road to carry her trade to Europe and Asia. Then there were TOP's and railroad markings which he discussed.

About 1781 the first trade routes of Russia were developed through Romania and Bulgaria then under Turkish rule. Others were located at ports on the Yellow Sea, in China, Korea and Japan, Mongolia and Sukiang.

In discussing offices, he explained that one had to distinguish between the more or less permanent ones and the often moving ones, in times of war.

However, as a lover of field post material, he treated us to an array of markings from various wars and told many interesting stories. After the Boxer Rebellion, the Russians were supposed to demobilize their occupation troops. Actually they had field post cancels and the speaker showed that these were still in use at the time of the Japanese-Russian War in 1904-1905.

When Romania, a neighbor of Bulgaria took part in the Russian-Turkish War, Bulgaria was liberated by the Russians as some of the covers pointed up. But the
The strangest part of the story is that a monument in that country, of the Russian Tsar, Alexander II, still remains in Sofia in these Communist times. He also told us most of the material from this area were field posts and that at least twenty were known in Bulgaria; one a post office marking and the rest postal department markings. Later Russia had civil postal services in Bulgaria and Adler had bilingual town names on some of the covers.

The Russian Company of Trade and Navigation also had offices on the coast of the Black Sea and other places and covers were shown from these points.

He told an interesting story about Alaska which used to belong to Russia. "Today," he said, "almost every American philatelist is eager for correspondence from early Alaska. But in 1867, when Russia dominated the scene almost nothing exists." He did mention script money printed on seal skin which is very desirable but there are only two or three copies known. They were printed for the employees of the Russian-American trading company.

The only correspondence known is one letter received by an American businessman. It had no postal markings.

Recently one of the members of the Rossica Society, of which Mr. Adler and this writer are both members, Mr. Rayhack, decided to make inquiries in Moscow. By some stroke of fate, he received an answer and the Moscow correspondent became cooperative. Then an American Librarian heard the story and began to delve, as a curator, into boxes and found a number from the time that the Russians held Alaska. Most of these were clerical accounts and business to and from the Mother Church in Russia and in California. There were no postmarks. It is believed that some were carried on Russian and American boats.

We saw Austrian Lloyd postmarks on Russian stamps. We learned that the first commercial Russian post offices in Turkey were established from 1781 and that the route from Russia was across the Danube through Romania to Constantinople. He showed one of the first covers from Bucharest dated 1826.

He proved that there were postal historians in 1906 by showing a cover from China and Sinkiang which were obviously "prepared."

Frame after frame included gems from Mr. Adler's collection. There were 1899 Crete covers with provisional stamps; Russian officers in Persia and post marked covers of Russian consulates.

He showed a Persian entire written by an American Red Cross Nurse in World War I which carried a Russian field post cancel.

Many covers were from hard to find little towns where only one or two specimens are known to exist.

With all his searching Adler yearned for early post office markings from Khiva, but could never find any early markings, nor was there any reason for this that he could find in philatelic books. Then one day was discovered a book written by an English lady journalist in which she told of the postal problems in Khiva and stated categorically that no actual post office existed in Khiva until 1916. So finally the collector found the answer.
Mongolia, now a Republic, first, from 1878, used Russian stamps with a brush mark through them. One cover dated 1923, when Mongolia became independent but had no stamps yet, had a post mark that had to be initialled by the postmaster.

Unusual covers from Black Sea ports, from field post offices in Turkey, and from Mount Athos were displayed. In this last named place, many nationalities have monastaries and millions and millions of rubles poured in from Russia. It seems that those that sinned felt a donation to Mount Athos would save their soul. Adler showed the first known cover from Kavalla and the first Gallipoli cancel of ROPit dated 1859 to Constantinople.

In 1872 there were no post marks but a post office seal and a Mount Athos arrival post mark proved this was a letter from Gallipoli.

"Holy Land covers" are very rare, he told us "as many Israel collectors now seek them for their collections." He showed ones from Acre with Russian post mark and one from Haifa.

In Peking, in his Far East China section, he featured a two line Boxer Revolution Emergency Legation post mark when it was under siege and the Russian post office was busy but could not get hold of a post mark so they fabricated one for this emergency use, in 1900, while under the siege. Three years later when things were normal again, the cancel was used as registry cachet.

Just as field post cancellations were of interest to the war collectors, ship letters were of interest to the ship collectors. Mr. Adler showed one which was sent from Shanghai to Vladivostok to a captain on a British ship. He had left there but received it a year later in London. Then there were the steamer post marks from Vladivostok to Odessa and to Shanghai, and one Russian ship letter with a Russian Paquebot #4 in French appeared used along with a Russian registry label.

Port Arthur which had been leased by the Russians to build a fortress existed until the Japs took over in 1905. We were shown post cards with Darien ship cancels and with transit marks.

The Chinese Eastern Railway with its main terminus at Harbin was the subject of more discussion and markings from some of the small places along the route are of indelible interest.

The speaker said that a collector could write a complete history of the Russo-Jap War by simply studying the covers and post marks.

Other items such as telegraph office mail, mixed frankings and so many other desirable items were there to see and hear about.

"These days," Adler told us, "I conduct opera in Romania not only because I want to perform in that country, but it affords me a chance to spend all my spare time searching, ever searching for elusive covers."

We certainly hope that Mr. Adler will have many more years to conduct opera, so that he may find more covers.
1. Registered Cover from Kuldzha, Sinkiang 9th May 1900 to Peking, arrived there 18th August 1900 (new style). This hitherto unrecorded provisional arrival postmark cut in wood by primitive means was used for a very short time by the Russian Post Office, situated at that time in the Legation district which was under siege by the Boxer Revolt Chinese troops. This particular postmark was the first provisional one used in 1900. It deteriorated so quickly that in November it already had lost its frame and a new one had to be cut which, instead of being rectangular is almost square. The day and month date, in all cases had to be written in by hand. The letter went from Kuldzha to Semipalatinsk 19th May 1900, Krasnoyarsk 27th and 29th May 1900 and via TPO Zabaikalskoi Zh. D. 1st June 1900 to Vladivostok 20th June 1900. There it must have been laid over until transportation to Peking became possible. The TPO postmark has never been registered so far. All postmarks not seen in the illustration are on the reverse side.

2. The first hitherto recorded postal marking of the R.O.P.i.T. Agency in Gallipoli. Although the existence of such an office had been surmised by Tchilinghirian in his Handbook of Russian P.0's abroad, it never had been seen before. The postmark is of an oily green color. The cover was mailed in Gallipoli on 20 July 1859 and went to Constantinople where it was received on 28 July 1859.
Foreword and Introduction from
"DIE POSTWERTZEICHEN DER RUSSISCHEN LANDSCHAFTSAEMTER"

By C. Schmidt

Valuable Postal Adhesives of Russian Zemstvos the Data for Studying of These Stamps as Compiled and Reworked by the Architect C. Schmidt.

Volume I. Akhtyrka - Luga. Translation from German Published by the Writer. Scharlottenburg

FOREWORD: With the present I am transferring to collectors my data for the study of the valuable postal adhesives of the Russian Zemstvos, whatever I was able to gather during over 40 years of investigation. The difficulties I had to overcome were exceedingly heavy; in the whole world there was not a single collection that could furnish the exhaustive material. Any study of the old archives was out - there were none. So with difficulty I had to collect the material from all existing sources and collections; this demanded numerous trips and many years, enormous amount of correspondence in all directions. In this way I was able to correct the many errors of the previous catalogs and to introduce many new stamps to date unknown or unnoticed.

Still, I realize fully that even this work has many omissions and gaps. Chances are they may be filled in sometime, or maybe will remain so forever. Probably many collectors will be able to make corrections and additions for which I will be always thankful.

My special gratitude for the help given to me in this work of mine to my colleagues of the old section "St. Petersburg" of the International Dresden Philatelic Society, who always and willingly placed their collections at my disposal, as did numerous collectors in Germany and abroad. In the first place I have to mention Mr. A. Fabergé who used any means possible to collect the material for this work and furnish it to me for study, especially the stamps in complete sheets which made possible the detailed study. I remember gratefully two of the collectors who are no more with us: Ferrari de la Renotier (Paris) who permitted me to see his treasures and to photograph the rarities, and Mr. Herman Holstein (Moscow) who was a most diligent collaborator, to whom I owe thanks for much data and who without stint furnished me the material from some collections unknown to me. Also I must remember thankfully Mr. F. Kosak who had willingly presented to me for the study his large stock from the Moens collection in whole sheets.

This work was started in 1909 and was published by the above mentioned section of "St. Petersburg". Since all of the written and organization work of the issue rested on me only, having been overloaded with my business affairs, this work progressed very slowly. Until 1916, 20 sections were issued in two completed volumes of 884 pages of the text with 102 tables of photographs which developed the study of the zemstvo postage stamps as far as the letter "L" inclusive. The work was suspended due to the war. All of unmailed sections, especially the two last ones became victims of the revolution. And only in 1930 I decided to complete the work. Due to my completely changed circumstances, it became impossible for me to edit the work as it was done before due to the financial difficulties.

No. 70
So, I sat myself at the typewriter to put on paper all that I have collected during the long years.

I am asking all friends-collectors to be lenient in their judgement of the presentation and contents.

October 1932

The Author.

ZEMSTVO: The Activities of Zemstvos and their Growth from 1864 to their Abolishment in 1917.

Everything that was achieved in cultural work within the enormous Russian Empire during the last fifty years prior to the world war is directly tied to the activities of the zemstvos. They were attracting the industrious, progressive elements of the people, they were supporting the hopes of the people in the better future during the oppressive years of the autocratic reaction, finally they have awakened the creative forces of the people, have shown the road to the gifted ones and strengthened the forces of the fighters in their hard struggle with the reaction. Each zemstvo had men whose activities the people remembered with touching and fanatical love, whose names they preserved in thankful memory.

Here, in the zemstvo institutions, have met for the first time other wise entirely divided classes of the society: the peasant, noble, gentry, and merchant, as men of equal rights. Here they felt their common interests, felt that the welfare of the people was equally dear to all of them, that it depended to a large extent on their behavior. Participation in self-government resulted in the appearance of the sense of duty and of love of his fatherland. Until then the population had to stand aside and take everything in silence. The elected representatives were not acquainted with the letter of the law but tried to really solve the vital demands and felt themselves not to be responsible to any authorities but to their electors.

The government decided to give such self-government to the people very reluctantly. Only the complete collapse of local authority, only the loud complaints of the nobility against the intolerable management of the officials and the demands of introduction of government by the elected representatives of the people extorted from the government the introduction of zemstvos or a guarantee of self-government: But, the government's attitude towards the zemstvos was hostile and distrustful until the last days. The rather limited rights that were granted to zemstvos with time were not widened but there was a tendency to limit them. Everywhere, nearly in every branch of zemstvo's activities there were always difficulties and obstacles placed by the government. Many times the main work consisted not in satisfying the needs of the population but in fighting the resistance of the government in the simple and harmless matters. The government felt political suspicions everywhere, was afraid of the political consequences of the simplest decisions and with such contradictions even the existence of the zemstvos was imperiled. But, notwithstanding all this, life itself carried the zemstvos far past the frames of their original destiny. It was not possible to deaden their activities, their importance as an indispensable and irreplaceable organ of government was growing each day and their activities as the auxiliary organs of the state government, became the pride of Russian people.

1. The Origin of Zemstvos - During the time of serfdom all responsibility for the good or evil of peasants was the duty of the landowners. The government did
not care about the peasants; it knew only the landlord who was responsible for the taxes being paid on time. In his turn, according to the law, the landlord was obliged to take care of his peasant serfs and to help them in case of bad crops, fire and epidemics. Some of the landowners even opened schools for their peasants and engaged medical help for them. But the peasants had to pay their taxes and to work for the landlord on certain days of the week.

The freedom of serfs accomplished February 18, 1861 changed the above relations with a single blow. About 23 million peasants became free; it was necessary to create the new life, and direct on the new road, numerous local management problems which were interesting both to the peasants and to the landowners.

Prior to the freedom of serfs the state also had its own peasants on various state lands. If the management of these lands had been satisfactory, then the government should have extended it to free such peasants. But the management of these state lands was in Petersburg and it officially knew very little, if anything about local conditions and necessities. Being strangers to the population, absolutely uninterested in satisfactory and just solution of local matters, the officials only complied with the letter of the laws that came from Petersburg, and in most cases were spending money unwisely received from peasant taxes that were entrusted to them. The central government tried many times to solve these problems so far removed but they were not solved, and among them especially the question of collecting taxes.

It is true that prior to 1864 there was no zemstvo activity in the sense of the later meaning of this word. Still there were numerous management problems which could have been classified as the "zemstvo" ones, to satisfy which there were collected the "zemstvo" taxes. These taxes were very heavy; during 45 years from 1814 to 1860 they were increased six times and were paid mostly by peasants since the land and the commerce were taxed very little. Besides the above taxes the peasants had to take care of the roads, furnish the postal horses and take care of the quarters for the military and officials. The tax money was mostly used to maintain postal stations and relay horses, to maintain the jails and moving of the criminals, for the maintenance of the roads and for quartering and victualling of the passing troops. The distribution of this money in the provinces was in the hands of a committee which consisted of government employees and the representatives of the nobility and the cities, which met once each three years to check the disbursements of the past three years and to prepare the budget for the next three years.

This meeting was named "zemstvo taxes committee". The suggestions of the members of such committee were only a formality, no consideration being given to local interests since, later, they were completely changed by the government. That is to say: they had to be studied in Petersburg by 7 secretaries of state (ministers), by ten different offices in each province seat, by 4 in each county, and by 3 in each city, each one of them introducing their changes. Thus was the budget made of the expenses which did not answer real needs, which never satisfied the real needs and which frequently permitted the dishonest elements to fill their pockets. Very soon such management was declared as incapable and the idea of selfgovernment was on a firmer road.

The interrogation of the gentry that for a long time had been managing its affairs finally convinced the government that the local needs may be studied only
by the representatives of the local population and that the elections of such persons must be done by the same population. Numerous gentry meetings asked the government to create in each province and in each county self-government that would consist of the representatives of all classes. The idea was supported by the society and the press and the whole country was so eagerly expecting the beginning of this new life, so intensely, that the government did not have anything left but decided basically on the idea of self-government.

But the preparation of the corresponding law took an entire five years from 1859 to 1864, due to numerous disagreements about the rights of this new self-government. Some were afraid of too wide independence of zemstvos and were afraid that the authority would be taken out of hands of the officials. Others were of the opinion that the population was sufficiently mature to be able to decide their own needs for themselves without anybody's tutoring. Finally, under the pressure from Emperor Alexander II, both sides had to agree, since he ordered that the law would be ready by January 1, 1864. It was signed by the Emperor on that date.

From 1865 to 1875 self-government was instituted in 34 provinces: in 1865 in Samara, Kostroma, Penza, Novgorod, Kherson, Pskov, Kursk, Yaroslav, Poltava, Tchernigov, Moskva, Kharkov, Kazan, Petersburg, Nizhni-Novgorod, Riazan, Voronezh, Kaluga and Tambov; in 1866 in Smolensk, Tver, Tula, Simbirsk, Orel, Saratov, Vladimir, Ekaterinoslav, and Tavrida; in 1867 in Viatka, Olonetz; in 1870 in Vologda, Perm and Bessarabia; and in 1875 in Ufa province and in the Territory of Don Cossacks. The last one existed only until 1882 since all of the population of the Territory without exceptions was militarized and thus was exempt from taxes.

During the last decades there were numerous demands that the government introduce self-government in other provinces, but without success. During these years the autocratic reaction came in; the new liberties were not only not given, but even the existing ones were limited. Only on March 1911 self-government was granted to Vitebsk, Volyn, Kiev, Minsk, Mogilev and Podol provinces and on January 1, 1913 to Astrakhan, Orenburg, and Stavropol provinces.

Due to the considerable difference between the points of view in government circles during the preparation of the law, it resulted to being insufficient, not very clear and full of controversial points. Thus, immediately after the law was in force there started the struggle between the representatives of the government and the elected representatives of the people, the struggle that did not weaken until 1917 when the revolution destroyed the zemstvos. The officials did not want to lose the old power from their hands and were afraid that the people would encroach on their actions; on the contrary. The peoples representatives based on the spirit of the law, on its unclear and imperfect form, fought more and more to get away from the control and guidance of the government officials. Finally, 15 years after it was decided to revise the zemstvo laws and the appointed commission worked four years on this revision when, by the 1885, the government policy had changed completely. The representatives of the old conservatives were predominant and as a result on July 12, 1890 there was issued a new law that took away part of liberties that were given to the zemstvos and which gave again an increased influence to the gentry as the politically more trustworthy element.

This law was in force until the last days of the zemstvos. Still, the self-government had very beneficial influence on all the country. During these fifty years the representatives of the population performed a gigantic task and actually
culturally elevated all of the large interior of Russia. The population learned to defend its interests and to think politically; at the zemstvo assemblies the representatives of the people have learned the first steps of the self-government.

2. The Interior Structure of Zemstvos - According to the 1864 law there should have been elected 13,329 members who would be defending the interests of their electors in the zemstvo meetings. These interests varied with the different classes of people: peasants, city dwellers, gentry. A unit of land was taken as the basis for determining the number of representatives. Both the gentry and landowners chose one voter per 3,000 parcels of land. The peasants also elected one voter per 3,000 parcels of land according to the latest population census. The above considerations were used to determine the number of voters and the parcel of land ranged from 200 to 800 "diesiatina's" (one "desiatina" = 1.09 hectares), depending on the value of land.

Other immovable interests, such as industries, etc., gave full unit values. The following persons had the right to be voters in the towns: all merchants with the legal documents; factory owners and business owners with a yearly balance of over 6,000 rubles and finally the real estate owners in towns which varied in value in different towns from 500 to 3,000 rubles.

The small landowners who did not have a full unit of land but not less than 1/20 of it could participate in the elections through their representatives. They could elect as many representatives as many full units of land were summed up. Such chosen voters acted on the general elections as fully qualified voters. All peasants had the right to vote. First they would choose their electors within the county assembly and these later were having a meeting of several districts and chose their representatives either a peasant, or a priest, or a landowner.

The following proportions existed in 1883-1886: gentry and officials 5,595, peasants 5075, priests 305, and from other classes 2,223. After the law was modified in 1895 the proportions were changed considerably in favor of the gentry. The law was modified in such a way that the number of representatives was diminished from 13,329 to 10,229. More than half were gentry, while the peasants instead of 3357 representatives of their interests received only 3,167. City dwellers, such as merchants, industrialists and priests were completely excluded, while the amount of land required for the small landowners was nearly doubled. The peasants chose their candidate in each district; from the number of the elected representatives the governor of the province chose the ones he wanted, guided by the political loyalty of the representative. This last ruling was abolished in 1905.

As is customary at any election the lists of the voters were made public in advance so that it would be possible to correct any erroneous entries. The representatives were elected for three years. They were usually elected in the autumn, after the harvest, and very soon after it, mostly in the beginning of September the elected representatives met in the county zemstvo assembly under the presidency of the head of the gentry. According to the law the assembly could not last over 10 days. After the representatives were sworn in, the general assembly began to discuss all management affairs that had accumulated during the year. Prior to the discussion the representatives received printed reports with detailed explanations of every subject. The subject was discussed the next days of assembly. Different propositions were made which were either accepted or rejected by the majority. If the subject was so complicated that
the matter could not be resolved in the general meeting then a commission was
chosen. Such a commission studied the subject and presented its decision to the
assembly for voting. During such zemstvo assemblies many matters were resolved,
sometimes there were accumulated as much as 200 subjects. The most important
subjects, i.e. the election of the president, of the numerous commissions, ap-
proval of the financial budget of the zemstvo offices for the past year as well
as of the next year's budget were done on the last day. The assembly meetings
were held in the building of the zemstvo office and admission was free. These
assemblies brought fresh life into the quiet county towns and all of the interest
of the society was directed to these meetings. Not only were there different
subjects of interest, the discussions enabled the people to take sides in many
matters and to spread the ideas of the zemstvo government among very wide circles
of population. Therefore, the meetings of the zemstvo assemblies were very im-
portant.

After the decisions on the submitted matters were made, the zemstvo represen-
tatives left for their homes. To be able to see that all the decisions made were
carried out during the year until the next assembly, the representatives chose
the heads of the zemstvo office, for the three years period which consisted of the
president and 2 to 3 members who were paid the salary as established by the
assembly.

The different classes of work were divided between the members or done by all
of them. To help them were the commissions chosen from the group of representa-
tives, experts on the matters, which met periodically during the year and took care
of the pending matters, made the decisions and sent them to the zemstvo office to
be carried out. The appointment of other persons, medical doctors, veterinarians,
school teachers, engineers, and agricultural experts, secretaries, bookkeepers and
other office employees was done by the president and the members of the zemstvo
offices. The zemstvo office was responsible for carrying out all decisions of the
zemstvo assembly and had to present accounts of the disbursements of all the
moneys spent. The members chose among themselves the control commission that
checked all the work done during the year, as well as after it, and in its turn,
submitted to the members its decision and at times its suggestions as to some changes
or additions.

During the last days of the elections, apart from the election of the president
and other officials of the county zemstvo office, there were elected the deputies
(2 to 7) for the province zemstvo. In this last one were discussed the matters
touching all of the province. It was much larger than the county one and consisted
of, apart from the above mentioned county deputies, all presidents, all headmen of
nobility and gentry of the province and of the officials of the state lands. Thus
such a meeting could have as many as 90 members and it was carried out once a year,
mostly in November or December. More important matters were discussed here, in a
similar way as was done by the county meetings. However, here it was imperative
to have wider knowledge and education as not only the local management matters
were discussed but other ones of national importance. In the case of an accumu-
lation of matters that could not be postponed, extraordinary meetings were called.
The decisions on the most important matters mostly of national importance, had to
be approved by the governor, or even by the state minister. Both of them had the
right of veto, which however was used very rarely. Doubtful matters about com-
petence were solved by the Senate.
According to the modified reactionary 1890 law, the governors were given the power to control all decisions of the zemstvo members and cancel the ones which according to the governor's judgement were contrary not only to the interests of the government but also contrary to the interests of the local inhabitants. Of course all these were very doubtful matters since the decision depended fully on the arbitrary rule of this high official. Due to this, the zemstvo assemblies lost much of their past independence since they always had to give in. Still, they continued their work without getting weary in all branches of their activities mostly with very miserable funds since they found nearly everywhere large areas untouched by culture. The activities of the zemstvos grew yearly and very soon stepped out of the limits established in the beginning. Finally, they have reached national significance by their presenting to the government the problems of the land. Until the creation of the "Duma" (Parliament) the zemstvos were the only route which the population could use to advise the government of their needs and hopes. Their importance reached the summit with the direct petitions to the Emperor. It was becoming clearer that the aims of the zemstvo self-government were closely tied with the state interests and could not be separated from them; that with the joint peaceful work the population would be benefited best.

3. The Sphere of Zemstvo Activity - It is natural that the philatelists are interested first of all about the zemstvo being the organizer of the postal service. But inasmuch as the postal service was only a small part of the zemstvo activities it seems to be useful to describe their other activities so as to give the full picture of their activities. And the postal service will be described in detail in a special chapter.

The first problem that fell on the zemstvos, one may say the inheritance of the previous management, was the necessity to supply the postal horses, followed by taking care of the justices of peace, jails and transportation and feeding of the arrested persons. Actually, the above duties had nothing to do with the management of the life of the county but they had to be accepted by the zemstvos. Then the government gave to zemstvos such matters as would have been handled with difficulty by the distant Petersburg, i.e. fire insurance, aid to the population in case of the failure of crops, maintenance of bridges, roads, care of the hospitals and of the state sanitariums for the poor. In the first version of the law nothing was mentioned about the education: this was added at the last moment by the state Senate.

These duties were so heavy that only very modest means were left to satisfy the main needs of the population. And the members of zemstvos considered their aims to be not these state duties but the vital needs of the people and help in its needs. The government soon arrived at the same conclusion and freed the zemstvos from this load. But the zemstvos had such wide aims that their budget grew very fast; for example from 14½ million rubles in 1868 to 220 million in 1912.

a) Popular education - The main activity of the zemstvos was in public education. In 1868 education expenses were in sixth place - 738,858 rubles and in 1912 they were in first place - 66,403,300 rubles, reaching one third of all zemstvo disbursements.

Prior to the creation of zemstvos, the rural schools existed only on several landowners' properties. But the same government saw the necessity of
some education and tried to have the clergy become interested in this. The schools
were established in the villages and the parish priests were given their manage-
ment. But some priests were glad to pass the teaching jobs on to the other church
workmen, they themselves giving only the false reports to satisfy the bishops.
The pupils were treated badly, were punished corporally and were taught very little.
The bad conditions in schools resulted in parents not sending the children to
school. The schools were so empty that the parents were forced to send the child-
ren to these schools and only the richer people could buy off from this enforce-
ment. Such was the condition of the schools when the zemstvos took charge of them.

In the beginning, the peasants offered to open the schools and all aid was
given. The teachers' schools were organized and the peasants were given funds to
acquire books and school supplies. Five to six years later the zemstvos took the
next step and supplied the teachers. In the seventies the peasants of the 34
provinces gave for the schools about 3 million rubles while the zemstvos helped
them with 2 million. In 1890 the expenditures of both were 3,500,000 rubles. Ten
years later the peasants gave 2,000,000 and zemstvos 7,000,000. And in 1909 the
zemstvos gave 29,000,000 rubles (7,000,000 government subsidy included) while the
peasants contributed with less than 500,000 rubles. The zemstvos built and kept
up the schools and took care of education. After 50 years of wide experience and
love of this work, there was created in Russia the generally recognized "zemstvo
school".

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THE ANCIENT RUSSIAN POSTS
By Maria Nikolaevna Vitashevskaia

Chapter X: The Vinius Postal Service - Andrei Andreevich Vinius conducted the
postal service for a period of 26 years. For about a year (up to 1676), he was
the "Master over the Post" under Tsar Aleksei Mikhailovich, the next six years
(1676-1682) under Tsar Fedor Alekseevich, then seven years (1682-89) during the
reign of Tsarina Sofia, and finally about twelve years (1689-1701) under Peter I
(Peter the Great).

Vinius did not receive any salary at all for his work in running the postal
service, but he, like Marselius, charged fees on both the senders and receivers
and these takings went into his own pocket. There were occasions when the Govern-
ment had to force him to pay driving allowances to the mailmen. But in cases
where Vinius' expenses exceeded his income, the Government was obligated to com-
pensate him for his losses.

The postal service to Riga was handed over to Vinius in reasonable working
order, but the service to Vilna was hardly functioning at that time. As long as
the envoys were coming from Poland to Moscow, the mail service worked well, but
after the conclusion of diplomatic talks, the mails were hardly ever sent to Vilna.
Postal communications were finally suspended after reports of an outbreak of plague
abroad in the year 1679. Barriers were set up on the border with Poland and all
letters either returned or destroyed. A year later, the barriers were removed, but
in 1681, when there were fresh reports of a plague epidemic, they were set up again.
The postal service to Vilna was not officially terminated and so a few persons sent letters there as before. However, they rarely reached the addresses. In 1681, the Vilna postmaster, Reinhold Bissing, who was feeling the effect of the interruption of this service, complained to the Ambassadorial Office in Moscow that letters were only being sent once a month. In reply to Bissing's complaint, Andrei Andreevich Vinius presented "articles" in which he stated that the service to Vilna was unnecessary and disadvantageous. He sent the few letters requiring transmission to Vilna via Riga, while foreign business people had already become accustomed to patronizing regularly the postal service to the latter city.

It was important for the Muscovite Government to receive foreign newspapers in good time. Newspapers from Konigsberg were forwarded by the Vilna mail service to Moscow. Vinius, in his "articles" asserted that the newsheets from Riga had much better coverage than the Konigsberg ones and that the former had very interesting news for Moscow about affairs in Sweden and Poland. Moreover, the Konigsberg newspapers could also be obtained via Riga. The Ambassadorial Office agreed with Vinius' contentions and a ukase was issued by the Government on June 16, 1681, stating that the mails were to be sent by the Vilna route only in cases of extreme necessity.

In 1683, the new director of the Ambassadorial Office, Prince V. V. Golitsyn, one of the most learned men of his time, was very put out to learn of its decline when he was enquiring about the mail service to Vilna. He proposed that Vinius revive it, but the latter repeated his arguments that it was unnecessary. Whereupon, Golitsyn issued a ukase on June 16, 1683 in the name of the Tsarina Sofia, in which the Relay Head Office was instructed to organize the transmission of mail from Moscow via Smolensk to the Lithuanian border and back. It was decreed that the receipt and dispatch of mails be conducted in Moscow at the Ambassadorial Office in Moscow and by Cavalry Captain Faddei Kryzhevskii in Smolensk. In the edict to the army commander at Smolensky, it was directed that Faddei Kryzhevskii restore communications with the Postmaster of Lithuania.

However, the mail service to Vilna was only revived two years later. The Polish envoy, Zembocki, arrived in Moscow in 1685 to conclude a lasting peace between the Muscovite Government and Poland. He informed Golitsyn that the king of Poland (Jan III Sobieski) proposed restoring the service in accordance with the conditions which were in operation previously. Golitsyn agreed with this suggestion and Vinius was instructed to initiate talks with Reinhold Bissing, the postmaster at Vilna. In the treaty with Poland, article No. 29 was devoted to the question of the international mails. This article was practically in the same words as the article on the same subject in the armistice agreement concluded at Andrusovo in the Smolensk region, with the exception that the title "Master over the Post" was now changed to the word "Postmaster". To expedite things, the mail service to Vilna began working in accordance with the old agreement.

On December 10, 1685, Bissing sent the agreement to the signatories and it differed somewhat from the treaty of 1669. In the first article of this new agreement, it was stated that all previous accounts were cancelled and there were to be no settlements by either side. The articles which followed gave details of the postal route. Upon receiving the mails at the village of Lenken on the Prussian border on Wednesdays, Bissing was to deliver them in Vilna on Fridays. After a two-hour stopover, the mail was to be conveyed to Minsk where
it was due to arrive on Sundays and from there it had to go to Mogilev, arriving on Tuesdays, and finally at Kadin on Wednesdays. Thus, the mail was to be transmitted from the border within a space of 8 days. The couriers were not to be held liable for delay in delivering the mails in the spring and autumn seasons.

A tariff of 18 groszy per letter was levied for the transmission of letters from Moscow and Königsberg. This rate was to be received by Bissing every six months in accordance with the presented accounts. In addition, Bissing was given annually a pair of sables for running the service. The rate on boxes and parcels was set at 90 groszy per pound. Government correspondence was sent free of charge and for confirmation, it was only necessary to be satisfied that it was a "presentation of the Sovereigns". A charge was to be made for the transmission of mail of other notables, with the exception of that of the nobles of Muscovy and Poland. Diplomatic mail was to be paid for at the same rate as for letters of private persons.

In the final articles of the agreement, it was stated that if letters or parcels were lost in Lithuania, Bissing was obligated to trace them. Vinius was to be responsible for the same thing in Muscovy. The weight was to be clearly indicated upon parcels and packages of correspondence. According to the new agreement, the delivery of mail to the Polish-Russian border was to be slowed down (instead of taking four days, it was to be extended to five), there was to be a more exact reckoning of the tariff, and reduction in the amount of correspondence which was being conveyed either free of charge or under preferential conditions.

The mail from Riga was received by Vinius in a much better state than that from Vilna. In 1677, Vinius concluded a new agreement with Margarethe Giese, the widow of the Riga postmaster. This agreement remained in force until 1684.

Although the postal service was not very punctual, it functioned. In 1683, the postmaster of Novgorodok-Shvedskii advised that the Russian mail was very late, and it turned out that the Swedish couriers had to wait for it at the border not for one or two days, but as much as three. It was then decided in Moscow that the mail for Riga be sent not on Tuesdays, but on Mondays.

In the meantime, Margarethe Giese's handling of her responsibilities was going from bad to worse. She overcharged on the rates of transmission, packages were being sent out without being tied up and the mail was being delivered to the border on unscheduled days. In May, 1684, Vinius complained about the slow arrival of correspondence, and for good measure mentioned that the mail from abroad was much delayed. Finally, Vinius dissolved the agreement with Margarethe Giese and concluded a new one with Andreas Max, the postmaster of Yuryev-Livonskii (Tartu or Dorpat, in Estonia). Thereupon, Vinius addressed a request to the Government that arrangements be set up for the transmission of all letters addressed to Russia and Yuryev. The agreement between Vinius and Andreas Max has not come down to us, but from the latest documents it is known that Max was sending the mail to the business quarter at Pechory, where the mailman picked up the correspondence from Moscow from the Pskov courier. Max received the sum of 290 yefimki annually for the transmission of correspondence (a "yefimok" was foreign silver coinage and worth a little more than a ruble by weight). This amount was handed over to him in advance and he also received payment for mail from Riga to Memel, depending on the weight of the correspondence. Thus, the Government widely used the postal service to administer the country and it was required of provincial officials that all official correspondence be sent through the mails.
Редакий документъ—Подорожная, выданная 15 декабря 1825 года по указу Императора Константина Павловича.

COPY OF A RARE POSTAL DOCUMENT: AN ORDER FOR POST HORSES, DATED DEC. 15, 1825.
A LINK WITH THE VITASHEVSKAYA SERIES. PHOTOGRAPH LOANED BY OUR HON. MEMBER, KURT ADLER.
Issued by Edict of His Majesty, Lord Emperor CONSTANTINE PAVLOVICH, Ruler of All Russias, Etc., Etc., Etc. (reigned for only 15 days from Nov. 27)
From Moscow to Novgorod, For Procurement of Four (4) Horses and Guides From the Postal Service By a Captain in the Leyb Guard Regiment and Personal Adjutant to a Titled Major General.
At this time, there were not only a few foreigners who were writing, but also "Russians of all ranks, walks of life and business people". Starting from the first years of the reign of Peter the Great, complete lists of correspondents were maintained for two years. Unfortunately, such lists no longer survive for the period under review by us, i.e., up to the end of the 17th century. The official rates for the Vinius postal service are therefore unknown to us and there have only survived some notes by a person named Gordon, who entered into the service of Muscovy and often utilized the mails. According to his words, the rate for transmitting letters from the border to Moscow was 8 kopeks, from Novgorod to Moscow 4 kopeks, from Riga to Pskov 6 kopeks, all on a per zolotnik (1/7 oz.) basis, and a commission of 3% was charged for the conveyance of money. The postal rates were very high, and as much as the Marselius family charged. Gordon also noted that it took four weeks for letters to go from Hamburg to Moscow and three weeks from Moscow to Danzig.

In 1688, Vinius received news from Novgorod that there was agitation among the postillions who wanted to present a complaint that they were now being required to convey "apart from mailbags", heavy burdens such as barrels of fish, casks of vinegar and frozen fish. The majority of the postillions joined in the protest and the relay station clerk harassed in every way those who did not wish to support their comrades and refused to place their hands to the petition. He beat these innocent men and fined them. The clerk demanded of the postillions that they were to accept nothing apart from the mailbags and he saw to it that this regulation was strictly adhered to.

Upon receipt of this information, Vinius tried to assure the Ambassadorial Office that he never gave heavy burdens to the mailmen for conveyance. But from the Vinius correspondence, we know that he often asked his friends to send him through the mails a load of sandre (a kind of fish), or ten vedros of vinegar (34 gallons U.S. measure or 27 gallons English measure) and even some small casks of gang fish. Evidently such errands were known to the authorities and the Government issued a resolution to the effect that no loads were to be sent through the mails, while medicines and wine were to be sent by special designated messengers. Only light parcels of fruit, furs etc. were to be conveyed by mail.

Some notations written on an order for post horses have been found to specify the timetable, or times of transmission of the mails, there is an indication showing when the mail was received at the relay station and when and with whom it was dispatched. From this document, it has been ascertained that on a good winter route, the mail, which was conveyed day and night from Pskov on "January 17th, day, at 8 o'clock of the night", arrived in Moscow at "January on the 23rd, day and delivering in the night hours". The time in the olden days was not reckoned as it is now; the 24-hour day was divided into "day hours" and "night hours". The hour of sunrise was the first "day hour", and the hour of sunset was the first "night hour". At the beginning of January, the sun rises (in Moscow) at around 8 am and sets at around 5 pm. Using this as a basis, we can say that the mail was sent on January 17 at 1 am from Pskov and arrived in Moscow not on January 23, but on January 24 at around 7 am, so that it was 150 hours on the road. The distance between Moscow and Pskov was 690 versts (460 miles) so that the postillions carried the mails at an average speed of roughly 3 miles per hour. However, it should be borne in mind that they had to wait at the relay stations to hand over the mail, carefully examine it and make notes on the order for post horses, so that this speed was not exactly too slow, although less than that.
The driving distances between relay stations were great. Thus, from Moscow to Tver', the couriers drove without changing horses for 180 versts (120 miles). Mails sent from Moscow arrived in Tver' three or four days later. Leaving Tver', the mailman, picking up the mails, barely got to Moscow when it was time to start out again on schedule to carry the new correspondence.

In the same way as Marselius, Vinius had postal agents in various cities, chosen from among persons who "are conducting the acceptance and dispatch of the mails". But these officials now played a more modest role than those employed by Marselius. They tried, on their own initiative, to improve the mail service and turned not only to the local voevodes with this view in mind, but also the Ambassadorial Office. Under Vinius, all questions relating to the organization of postal communications came from Moscow. He energetically espoused the principle of centralizing the administration of the postal system.

Gavril Petrov, who was the Moscow agent of Vinius, had a very great role in things. He held no titles whatsoever, and he is referred to in all documents as "the man of the Secretary of State Andrei Andreevich Vinius, who writes down in the book the dispatches and acceptance of the mails". However Gavril Petrov not only made notes in the book but he actually conducted all of the practical business of the postal system. He sometimes signed for Vinius on "depositions", personally handed them over to the Ambassadorial Office, advised of the misdemeanors of the postillions, escorted them to the Ambassadorial Office and conducted a wide correspondence with all relay stations.

Under the new Postmaster, the performance of the relay establishments did not improve noticeably. As before, Vinius saw that the main reason for delays in the mails was the poor standard of work of the postillions. However, his complaints about the postillions only date from the year 1677, and it is clear that in the first years of his postmastership, he was successful in improving the service. But by 1677, he writes that the mail from Moscow did not get to Mignovichi until 8 or 9 days later, whereas it formerly arrived in 5 or 6 days. In April 1683, Vinius presented a petition, and in it, as well as complaining about the postillions, he referred to the poor state of the postal routes. Vinius wrote that bridges which had been set up in marshy and swampy localities had deteriorated, and in other places there were none at all. On such bridges, the horses of the mailmen fell down and broke their legs...Just as an example, there were 533 bridges in such a state between Moscow and Smolensk. As a result, the mailbags were soaked. The postillions, fearing punishment, did not accept them from the mailmen who had arrived, and the latter had to return with them to the relay station.

All of this forced Vinius to request in the royal ukase the repair of the roads and the strengthening of the bridges along them. The Government agreed with Vinius and a few days after his petition, instructions were sent out to all army commanders to put the roads in order and thus they were brought under control. Five years later in 1687, the Muscovite Government, quite without any prompting from Vinius, sent out ukases to the towns of Novgorod, Klin, Tver' and Torzhok. It was directed in these ukases that bridges be erected in marshy and swampy places. Indeed, in just a month later, several of the local voevodes were already reporting that the old bridges had been renovated and other bridges had been floored.
Finally, during the term Andrei Vinius held the postmastership, the question of regular payment to the postillions for conveying the mails was resolved. Vinius unwillingly entered into relations with the Relay Head Office and up to 1690, the money for the postillions was paid out from the Ambassadorial Office. In the provinces, the postillions received driving allowances at the local managerial offices.

Vinius devoted a lot of attention to the formal dress of the mailmen. In 1675, rough white "kaftans" (peasant coats) were ordered for them. The kaftans lasted for five years, and in 1681, it became necessary to order them again. The postillions greatly prized their form of attire, and when it wore out, they wrote to the Government with a petition to supply them with a new one. Each kaftan was made up from $\frac{4}{16}$ arshins (10$\frac{1}{2}$ feet) of Hamburg broadcloth and all the eagle insignia were made from two arshins (56 inches) of red Hamburg broadcloth, while a fee of 10 altyns (30 kopeks) was charged for all trimming and work.

Chapter XI: The Organization of the Internal Mails - The Muscovite Government wished, to examine the organization of the mails within the country, utilizing its own resources and without recourse to foreigners. However, these attempts were not very successful at first. The main reasons for the organization of the internal mails were, first of all, the necessity to link Moscow with the newly incorporated (in 1654) "Ukrainian towns", and secondly for military reasons. Often, the terminal point of a new postal route was also the site of a regiment of some local army commander. The first new postal route went from Moscow to Kiev. In the "Treaty Articles of Glukhov", concluded by the Muscovite Government on March 6, 1669 with Hetman Mnoshohresnii, there is a note "that the postal service be set up at towns".

In 1670, it was suggested to Kozlovskii, the voevode at Kiev, that a postal service be organized in the city for the quick dispatch of warning letters to Moscow. It was ordered that mailmen be hired on a volunteer basis. However, the attempt to restore the postal service was not successful at that time, and there was a new order again in 1673 to establish a mail service from Moscow via Kaluga, Sersk and Glukhov to Ukrainian cities. The Relay Head Office was charged with the organization of the mails and it had to furnish information as to how many horses there were available at each relay station, and "in which places to whom would the mails be entrusted". The hired postillions were instructed "to be always at the ready for his, the great sovereign's, urgent matters". It was ordered that the postal service be conducted by day and night "as were also the mail services to Riga and Vilna carried out".

It was proposed that on this service not only governmental correspondence but also private letters be transmitted, and it was also ordered that "all letters be delivered according to names and without any delay". A special official, the relay route clerk Cheshikhin, was assigned to the Relay Head Office to organize the mails sent from Moscow.

In 1674, the Government wrote to Trubetskoi, the new voevode of Kiev, about the necessity of reviving the postal service to that city. It appears that this was done so, because Tsar Fedor Alekseevich, upon sending Volkonskii, the voevode of Pereyaslav, to the Ukraine in 1676, instructed him that if "he would hear of an outbreak of plague in the surrounding areas, he was to write about this by mail to the Sovereign".
In August 1678, Neplyuev, the voevode at Sersk, received a new ukase stating that "for urgent sendings" from Moscow to the troops of Romodanovskii, he was to organize postal communications from Sersk via Glukhov, Konotop and Romny to the Dnieper river, "to the regiment itself" and that the distance between each relay station should be no greater than 30 versts (20 miles). In August 1686, an edict was sent to the same Neplyuev, relating to the organization of mails beyond the Dnieper rapids (the area of the Zaporogian Cossacks). It was laid down in the edict that "the mails be sent through Ukrainian cities and settlements to Perevylochna and to Kodak and to the Camp of the Zaporogian Cossacks". However, in 1687, letters were still being sent only from Moscow to Akhtyrsk.

In February 1689, the voevodes at Serpukhov, Tula, Mtsensk and Kursk were sent a communication stating that 20 relay stations were to set up on the stretch from Moscow to Rublevka for the swift transmission of edicts to the regiments. In 1677, an edict was sent to Kolomna, referring to the establishment of postal communications from Moscow to Tambov for correspondence with the army commander at the latter city.

During the period of complete suspension of the mail service to Vilna, the Muscovite Government restored courier communications from Moscow to Smolensk and Mignovichi. It was ordered that special messengers with four good horses a piece be maintained at the relay stations. However, when the mail service to Vilna was revived, the courier services between cities were terminated.

Among the best organizers of the governmental mails was the Office of the Peerage, especially since such mail concerned military matters. The Relay Head Office also had a hand in organizing the mail service. The mailmen were chosen from among archers or other civil servants, and sometimes from postillions and the local population. In instructions to the army commanders, it was ordered that they render every assistance to the "stroishchiki" or builders of the relay stations, and to extend to the mailmen sent with the stroishchik, lodgings and spacious yards with covered stables, sheds and storehouses with hay and oats at the station, and not somewhere in a lane. The mailmen were to be watched so that they did not drink or wander away from the relay stations. Also, their horses were to be always saddled and ready for driving, and they themselves were to take up the letters and go off quickly without delay from relay station to relay station.

The mailmen did not receive uniforms but they were given insignia, normally made of metal and in the form of an eagle. Mailmen who had not received such badges, asked the Government that they be supplied with them. They claimed that without insignia, people would not believe that they were conveying the mails and they would be beaten and robbed and their horses taken away from them.

The governmental correspondence being conveyed was sealed in a package or mailbag. Instead of "columns of notes", as utilized in the "German" postal service, the mailmen signed for the receipt of the mail directly on the package. "The arrival of the mail and its onward transmission were carefully noted at each relay station. The clerks took turns to keep track of the postal traffic.

The internal mails functioned as well as the "German" service. For instance, letters sent from Kiev arrived in Moscow 15 to 20 days later, while urgent mail was delivered in 6 to 8 days. Actually, this was now regular relay traffic and the forerunner of the postal communications of today.
Editorial Comment: We know that by serializing Mme Vitashevskaia's erudite work, we have given much pleasure to our senior members and revived nostalgic memories of their early lessons in Russian history. It is also felt that our English-speaking members have benefited from this exposure to the fascinating life and times of Old Muscovy and we like to point out that the doughty and conscientious "yamshchik" or postillion has always held a position of respect in Russian life. There are many songs and ditties about him, the best known probably being the traditional folksong "Step' da step' krugom" ("Around and around the steppe").

We understand that Mme Vitashevskaia has been working on a much expanded version of her book, now going to over 400 pages in the revised edition. We will keep readers informed of any further information of postal interest immediately after a copy of the new work has been received. In the meantime, we are setting out a short Russian-English glossary of the most important terms and titles used in the present text, as promised in Rossica No. 66, p. 40. It should be stressed that the English meanings given here only refer to their usage in the context of Mme Vitashevskaia's study and would not necessarily be the same where the Russian words are used in any other context.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Russian</th>
<th>English</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>dvornik</td>
<td>yardman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d'yachok-pis'movoditel'</td>
<td>recording clerk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gonets</td>
<td>courier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gramota</td>
<td>edict</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mirskije otpuski</td>
<td>private dispatches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nachal'nik nad Pochtoyu</td>
<td>Master over the Post (Postmaster)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>namestnik</td>
<td>governor, mayor</td>
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<tr>
<td>okhotnik</td>
<td>relay station volunteer, known as a &quot;yamshchik&quot; or postillion after about 1620</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>osadnyi golova</td>
<td>seige official</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pochtar'</td>
<td>mailman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>podorozhnaya</td>
<td>order for post horses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>podryadchik</td>
<td>supervisor of an intermediate relay station</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>podvoda</td>
<td>horse and cart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pod'yachii</td>
<td>clerk, scribe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Posol'skii Prikaz</td>
<td>Ambassadorial Office in Moscow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>prikazchik</td>
<td>relay station clerk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>progony</td>
<td>driving allowances</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Razryadnyi Prikaz</td>
<td>Office of the Peerage in Moscow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sloboda</td>
<td>relay settlement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>starosta</td>
<td>internal manager of the relay station</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stroishchik</td>
<td>builder of a relay station</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tseloval'nik</td>
<td>bonded official</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>voevode</td>
<td>army commander</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>volostel'</td>
<td>director of a volost' or district</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>yam</td>
<td>relay station</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>yamshchik</td>
<td>supervisor of the relay station until about 1620; after that, a postillion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>yamskoi d'yak</td>
<td>relay station secretary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yamskoi Prikaz</td>
<td>Relay Head Office in Moscow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zemskii starosta</td>
<td>county bailiff</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Subsequently, in February 1869, the agreement was supplemented with a new article, as follows: "The agents of the Company in the Levant accept subscriptions to Russian journals and newspapers, and after having charged the fees for the subscription rate inclusive of postage, as advertised by the publisher, together with insurance, transfer and duty charges, are to forward this money in its entirety to the Odessa Border Post Office, as well as notification as to the number of subscribers from whom payment has been received, the names of the magazines required, the period of subscription and the number of copies required by each subscriber. Upon receiving the money and advice, the Odessa post office would deal with all further particulars on the basis of the regulations for conducting post offices in the handling of newspapers, with the one and only difference, that in this present situation, the Odessa office will not have any dealings direct with the subscribers, and that its participation will be restricted to the forwarding of the subscribers' newspapers and journals on the ships of the Company in the same manner as other correspondence. In cases of incorrect transmission of newspapers and journals, the agents are to communicate direct with the Odessa office, and the Head Office of the Company may bring the matter to the attention of the Postal Department, but the post office cannot be held liable for eventualities, as outlined in article No. 8 of the regulations relating to the handling of newspapers."

Finally, in November 1869, and also in 1871, articles 5, 6, 7 and 9 of the agreement were changed by new regulations, which latter were in accordance with the law of August 7, 1869 referring to wrapper sendings, as well as the Provisional Ordinance for Postal Affairs, dated June 12, 1871 and covering wrapper sendings and registered letters. Moreover, the revision of these articles, together with the others remaining, was made uniform with their previous issue.

The Postal Department, wishing to expand even further postal services with the Levant, concluded, upon a request from the ROPiT, a third agreement with the latter, on June 8, 1872, relating to the transmission of the Levant mails by the steamers of the Company....The new agreement, which was in conformance with the postal regulations and conventions in force at that time as having been concluded between Russia and foreign countries, consisted of 20 articles, of which the following new articles were relevant to the position here:

Article 1: The ROPiT and the Odessa Railroad undertake:
(1) The dispatch by sea from Odessa and other ports along the Black Sea of mail sent from Russia, and delivery of the same to the addresses at Constantinople and all other ports of the Turkish Empire, visited by express steamers of the ROPiT, as well as the receipt of correspondence in these ports and transmission by sea to Odessa and other ports of the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov of mail addressed to Russia, as enumerated here below:
   a. Ordinary sealed letters and registered letters.
   b. Postcards.
   c. Wrapper sendings containing printed matter and samples.
d. Money packets enclosing Russian banknotes (currency bills), Russian coinage in small quantities (copper up to 9 3/4 kopeks, silver to 1 ruble and gold to 21 rubles), Russian Government bonds, bills of the Government Treasury, stocks and shares of private companies and corporations authorized by the Russian Government, coupons and warrants attached thereto, ordinary fiscal and promissory notes.

e. Bags of Russian coinage.

f. Unsealed packages of value, enclosing foreign banknotes, foreign coinage and all types of papers and articles of value to the addressee, with the exception of money, having circulation in the Russian Empire.

(2) The transmission by sea from Odessa and delivery to the addresses of ordinary sealed letters, and wrapper sendings with printed matter and samples, proceeding from foreign countries in Europe in transit across Russia to Odessa, Constantinople and other Turkish ports, as well as the acceptance in Constantinople and other Turkish ports, visited by designated steamers of the Company, and the transmission by sea to Odessa of the above-named types of correspondence, sent in transit across Russia to European countries.

(3) The dispatch by sea from Odessa and the delivery to the addresses of mailbags proceeding from Constantinople, as well as the acceptance there of mail from foreign postal administrations, brought in by steamers, and the transmission by sea of sealed mailbags proceeding to Odessa.

N.B: The above mentioned correspondence must comply with all conditions of the postal regulations and conventions in effect in Russia, but only as far as the latter do not change the present agreement.

Article 2: The Tariff for Correspondence, Forwarded from Russia to Turkish Ports at which Scheduled Steamers of the Company Call, is to be fixed at the Following Rates:

a. For ordinary sealed letters - 13 kopeks for each 15 grammes (about ½ oz.), or part thereof.

b. For registered letters, a further 10 kopeks are to be charged for the registration itself and 5 kopeks for a receipt, in addition to the basic rate of 13 kopeks per 15 grammes.

c. For postcards at the rate of 10 kopeks per card.

d. For wrapper sendings at the rate of 3 kopeks for each 50 grammes (1 3/4 ozs.) or part thereof.

This correspondence must be fully prepaid. The proceeds from the foregoing will be allocated as follows:

a. To the credit of the Russian Postal Administration for mail sent from Russia to Turkish ports, and

b. To the credit of the ROPiT for mail sent from Turkish ports to Russia or to other Turkish ports (this last regulation is also to be found in the agreement of December 9, 1867 and was based on the Imperial Injunction of April 9, 1867).

Article 3: Payment for Ordinary Sealed Letters and Wrapper Sendings, Proceeding from Constantinople and other Turkish Ports, in Transit Across Russia to Foreign Countries in Europe, as well as in the Opposite Direction, is to be Fixed as Follows:

1) For transmission between Odessa and foreign countries in Europe, at the rate in force in Russia for correspondence going abroad.
For transmission between Odessa and foreign countries in Europe at the following rates:

a. For correspondence proceeding from Constantinople to foreign countries, and vice versa at the rate of 3 kopeks per 15 grammes (½ oz.) for ordinary sealed letters, and at the rate of 1 kopek per 50 grammes (1 3/4 ozs.) for wrapper sendings.

b. For correspondence proceeding from other Turkish ports to foreign countries, and vice versa, at the rate of 6 kopeks per 15 grammes (½ oz.) for ordinary sealed letters, and at 1 kopek per 50 grammes (1 3/4 ozs.) for wrapper sendings.

The above mentioned correspondence must be fully prepaid in either direction.

N.B: For the purposes of calculating the amount due the Company for the delivery of mail from Odessa and proceeding from abroad to Constantinople and other Turkish ports, the post office at Odessa will strike special accounts every quarter from the duplicate ledger receipts together with which receipts this correspondence will have been forwarded by the Company's steamers.

Article 4:

The following rates will be regarded as going to the credit of the Company for the acceptance aboard ship, as well as the transmission by sea and delivery at the destination of sealed mailbags exchanged between the Odessa post office and foreign postal administrations in Constantinople (articles 1 & 3): thirteen kopeks for every 30 grammes (about 1 oz.) net weight of letters, and thirty kopeks for every kilogramme (2½ lbs) net weight of wrapper sendings. The Company will not be entitled to any payment at all for any official post office, undeliverable, forwarded and returned correspondence included in these mailbags for postal transmission.

Article 5: The Postage Stamps (of the Company) must Serve Exclusively for the Payment of:

a. Correspondence, proceeding from the Levant to Russia.

b. The Transmission of correspondence by sea to Odessa, proceeding from Turkish ports in transit across Russia to foreign countries in Europe. For the delivery from Odessa to the foreign place of destination of this latter correspondence, the mail must be prepaid with postage stamps of the Russian Government, which may be obtained by the Company at their face value.

Ordinary sealed and registered letters, postcards and wrapper sendings from Russia to Turkish ports, and vice versa, which are without stamps and not completely franked, as well as postcards which are not of the form prepared by the Postal Department, are entirely unacceptable for transmission, and if such correspondence is placed in the letter boxes, it will not be subject to transmission, except in the following circumstances:

a. There will be a charge of double postage levied on the addressee, upon the delivery of ordinary sealed letters, and

b. The same scale of charges as above, will also apply to the delivery of registered letters.

This double charge will be fully allocated as follows: to the credit of the Postal Department for correspondence conveyed from Turkish ports to Russia, and to the credit of the Company for mail transported from Russia to Turkish ports.

Article 10:

For the loss of money, or packages and bundles of value, or for a portion of any article of value enclosed by the sender in such correspondence placed in the mails,
Article 20:

The present agreement may be changed by mutual agreement between the Postal Department and the Company, and will be binding until such time as one of the parties to the agreement advises the other side one year in advance of its desire to terminate its activity.

All other articles of the agreement, which went into effect on July 1, 1872, were borrowed from the 1867 agreement, with the exception of articles 16, 18, 19, 23 (the notes to which being retained) and 24, whose regulations are no longer to be found in the new agreement.

The latest agreement, now in force between the General Administration of Posts and Telegraphs, and the ROPiT, was concluded on April 27, 1894. During the period between 1872 and 1894, the regulations of the previous agreement were subjected to several changes, in conformance with the new requirements of international postal conventions, and, moreover the charter of the ROPiT was also revised in 1891. According to the new charter which was ratified on January 22, 1891, the transmission of mails by the steamers of the Company was established under the following conditions:

(1) The Company must convey the mails free of charge along all designated essential and non-essential lines of postal communication, in accordance with postal regulations, carrying sealed mailbags containing letters, packages, wrapper sendings and written correspondence in general, the bags themselves being placed in trunks or large sacks and sent to and from Russian post offices, and without discrimination on the part of the Company against either the points of origin or the places of destination of the correspondence.

(2) For parcels conveyed on steamers of the Company and sent to or from Russian post offices payment will be made to the Company on a freight basis at the lowest scale of its rates of conveyance.

(3) In places where there is no post office with which the Russian Postal and Telegraphic Service may exchange sealed mailbags (paragraph 1), the acceptance and dispatch of written and insured correspondence and parcels without value are to be carried out by the agents of the Company, basing themselves completely on the regulations of international postal agreements concluded with Russia.

The detailed conditions under which the Company must conduct the postal operation, and its responsibility for the loss of correspondence, were specified in a special agreement concluded between the Company and the Director of the Central Administration of Posts and Telegraphs, and it was ratified by the Ministry of Internal Affairs. In addition to the mails the Company also had to convey free of charge on its steamers, couriers, state messengers, postal officials accompanying the mails, persons serving in the Postal and Telegraphic Administration and on assignment on official business. For its part, the Postal and Telegraphic Service was obliged to see to it that the delivery of the mails to steamers did not, under any circumstances, delay the departure of the steamers on the specified days and hours (articles 4 & 5).

The revised agreement of 1894, referring to the articles of the charter of January 22, 1891 and the regulations of contemporary international postal exchange, consisted of 28 articles, the first of which concerning itself with the
transmission of postal correspondence along internal routes and the remaining 27 with the conveyance of mail along foreign routes. On the basis of Article 1, the transmission of all kinds of postal correspondence between Russian ports on internal routes is to be carried out under the accompaniment of officials of the Postal and Telegraphic Service. With regard to this, the Company is not responsible, either for the internal enclosures in postal articles (sacks, bags, pouches and trunks), nor for the seals outside, all of which remain the responsibility of the persons accompanying the mails. In cases where it can be shown that the Company was guilty for losses in the mails conveyed along internal routes, its responsibility is to be reckoned by the due processes of the law.

It is left to the Company to carry out all operations on foreign routes, and in connection with this, it is to handle all existing types of postal correspondence with the exception of C.O.D. sendings. It does not even have the right to provide at ports visited by its steamers for the acceptance from strangers or business houses of sums of money to be transmitted in kind from one port to another (article 5). Persons guilty of infringing this last regulation are to be held liable for the consequences, as outlined in articles 1113 and 1114 of the Statute of Precepts.

The Company was obliged to display a sign at all agencies in Turkish ports, with an inscription in Russian and French or Italian, reading "Russian Post Office" (article 7).

The Company was permitted to transmit written correspondence (letters and wrapper sendings), proceeding from Constantinople and other ports in Turkey to Russia, or in transit across Russia to other countries, to Russian ports on its own steamers, as well on foreign ones. In addition, letters and wrapper sendings addressed to Russia could also be forwarded along the Constantinople-Sofia-Belgrade-Vienna railroad route in mailbags to the Russian border exchange post office with Austria (article 3).

The rates for postal correspondence, forwarded on the steamers of the Company, were fixed on the basis of the regulations for international correspondence in force in Russia, and, moreover, they included an insurance fee, stipulated in article 11 of the agreement, and which had to be collected at the rate of 1 kopek for every 75 rubles, which went to:

a. The credit of the Company for packages sent from Russia to Turkish ports.
b. The credit of the Postal and Telegraphic Service for packages sent from Turkish ports to Russia.

It was specified that the transmission of parcels, proceeding from Russia to Turkish ports, and back from these ports to Russia, be carried out on the basis of the following principles (articles 12, 13, 14, 18 & 20):

1. The necessary address and inscriptions must be in Russian or French on parcels, in accordance with the postal regulations in effect in Russia, and, in addition, the address must be placed directly on the parcel itself, and not attached to it.

2. A declaration in the French language must be included in two copies with each parcel, and filled in by the sender, with a detailed description of the contents of the parcel and with a notification of the quantity, grade, weight and value in paper rubles.

3. Neither the Postal and Telegraphic Service nor the Company are to be held responsible for the accuracy of the declaration.
It is the duty of the sender to tie the parcel securely, and neither the Postal and Telegraphic Service nor the Company are to be held responsible by the sender for any damage whatsoever done to the contents as a result of poor packing or loose tying of the parcel.

The value of the parcels, as well as of packages of money and valuables and bags of specie must be declared by the sender in paper rubles on the outside wrapping of this class of mail.

Fees in cash are to be levied on the senders for the transmission of parcels and bundles and the proceeds are to go to:

a. The credit of the Postal and Telegraphic Service on the basis of the internal postal rates of payment.

b. The credit of the Company on the basis of a weight fee of 5 kopeks per Russian pound, and an insurance fee of not more than \(\frac{1}{10}\) of the declared value, while for parcels and bundles proceeding from Turkish ports to Russia, a further 5 kopeks are to be charged the senders for a receipt.

Confirmatory declarations must be attached to parcels which have been returned as undeliverable at their destinations, to the effect that they did originally go thereto.

There will be a charge on the senders for the return of parcels and bundles of the postal rates in the same amount as for the original transmission and the proceeds will go to the credit of the Postal and Telegraphic Service, or the Company, as the case may be.

In cases where the amount realized from the sale of a parcel, which cannot be delivered either to the receiver or the sender, is insufficient to cover the cost of return transmission of the same, the Postal and Telegraphic Service and the Company are to apportion the losses between themselves on the basis of the expenses incurred by each of the two parties.

In relevant cases, the parcels are to be presented at the offices of the Postal and Telegraphic Service for examination at the Customs House.

Packages containing money or valuables, bundles of specie (hard cash), and parcels either of value or valueless, proceeding from Russia to Turkish ports, were required, on the basis of article 15 to be handed over to the offices of the Postal and Telegraphic Service functioning in Russian ports, to the captains of the Company's steamers, or to persons specifically authorized by them, upon the presentation of special documents. By the same token, the captains of the steamers, or the persons authorized by them were required to hand over to the offices of the Postal and Telegraphic Service packages, bundles and parcels containing money and valuables, proceeding from Turkish ports to Russia.

It was stipulated that compensation was to be paid only for the loss of correspondence, and, moreover, its extent was to be determined on the basis of the regulations for international correspondence in force in Russia (article 16). Finally, on the basis of article 19, the accounts between the Postal and Telegraphic Service and the Company were to be settled every three months for:

a. The transmission of written correspondence across Russia in the manner established under the international postal agreement in effect in Russia, and

b. The conveyance of packages, parcels and bundles containing money and valuables.

In connection with this, it was stipulated that the accounts be settled in full immediately they were confirmed.
All the other regulations of the 1894 agreement were taken from the corresponding regulations of the 1872 agreement. An order for the execution of the 1894 agreement went into effect on September 1 of that year and this order was issued after concurrence between the Central Administration of Posts and Telegraphs and the ROPiT, on the basis of article 23 of the agreement.

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A Catalogue of the
IMPERIAL RUSSIAN POSTAGE STAMPS

By Abraham Cohen

The author wishes to thank the members of Rossica and the British Society of Russian Philately for their aid and for the information given in the articles published in both journals of the sister societies.

SCOTT # 1   WATERMARK #166  DEC. 1857
10K BROWN & BLUE

a. Pen Cancellation
b. Penmark & Postmark
c. Postmark in Black
d. Postmark in Red
e. Inverted Watermark
f. Retouched "1" of "10" in upper R-H corner

SCOTT # 2   WATERMARK #166  JAN. 1858
10K BROWN & BLUE  14 3/4

a. Brown & Blue------------------------------- Thick Paper
b. Deep Brown & Blue-------------------------- Thick Paper
c. Brown & Blue------------------------------- Thick Paper
d. Retouched "1" of "10" in upper R-H corner---- Thick Paper
e. Retouched "1" of "10" in upper R-H corner---- Thin Paper
f. Retouched "12" of "10" in upper R-H corner--- Med Paper

SCOTT # 3   WATERMARK #166  JAN. 1858
20K BLUE & ORANGE  14 3/4

a. Blue & Orange------------------------------- Thick Paper
b. Uncolored dot center of top frame line------ Thick Paper
c. Uncolored dot S/W corner------------------- Thick Paper
d. Bisected, used at Berdichev-------------- Thick Paper
e. Deep Blue & Orange------------------------ Thick Paper
f. Deep Blue & Orange------------------------ Thin Paper
SCOTT # 4  
WATERMARK #166  
JAN. 1858

30k  CARMINE & GREEN

   a.  Carmine & Green---------------- Thick Paper
   b.  Carmine & Green---------------- Very Thick Paper
   c.  Carmine & Green---------------- Almost Thin Card
   d.  Carmine & Green---------------- Thin Paper

SCOTT # 5  
UNWATERMARKED  
JULY 1864

1k  BLACK & YELLOW

   a.  Black & Orange

SCOTT # 6  
UNWATERMARKED  
JULY 1864

3k  BLACK & GREEN

   a.  Black & Light Green

SCOTT # 7  
UNWATERMARKED  
JULY 1864

5k  BLACK & LILAC

   a.  Black & Pale Lilac

SCOTT # 8  
UNWATERMARKED  
OCT. 1858

10k  BROWN & BLUE

   a.  Light Brown & Blue
   b.  Red-Brown & Blue
   c.  Chocolate Brown & Blue
   d.  Very Pale Brown & Blue
   e.  Center Intaglio & Misplaced
   f.  Very Thick Paper
   g.  Bisected used as 5k

SCOTT # 9  
UNWATERMARKED  
OCT. 1858

20k  BLUE & ORANGE

   a.  Light Blue & Orange
   b.  Uncolored dot center of top frame line
   c.  Uncolored dot S/W corner
   d.  Bisected used as 10k

SCOTT # 10  
UNWATERMARKED  
OCT. 1858

30k  CARMINE & GREEN

   a.  Carmine & Green---------------- Thick Paper
   b.  Carmine & Green---------------- Very Thick Paper
   c.  Carmine & Green---------------- Almost Thin Card
   d.  Carmine & Green---------------- Thin Paper

No. 70  
Page 43
SCOTT # 11  UNWATERMARKED  JULY 1863
5k BLACK & BLUE
a. Black & Light Blue
b. Postmarked in Red 1863-68
c. Retouched S/W of "u" of "ubHA"
d. Used in St. Petersburg
e. Used in Moscow
f. Used in Kazan
g. Used in Astrakan

SCOTT # 12  UNWATERMARKED  JULY 1864
1k BLACK & YELLOW------------------------ Thin Wove Paper 114\(\frac{1}{2}\) x 15
a. Black & Orange---------------------- Thin Wove Paper
b. Black & Yellow---------------------- Thick Wove Paper

SCOTT # 13  UNWATERMARKED  JULY 1864
3k BLACK & GREEN------------------------ Thin Wove Paper 114\(\frac{1}{2}\) x 15
a. Black & Light Green---------------- Thin Wove Paper
b. Black & Light Green---------------- Thick Wove Paper
c. Black & Green---------------------- Thick Wove Paper

SCOTT # 14  UNWATERMARKED  JULY 1864
5k BLACK & LILAC------------------------ Thin Wove Paper 114\(\frac{1}{2}\) x 15
a. Black & Lavender------------------- Thin Wove Paper
b. Black & Violet--------------------- Thin Wove Paper
c. Black & Pale Violet---------------- Thick Wove Paper

SCOTT # 15  UNWATERMARKED  JULY 1864
10k BROWN & BLUE----------------------- Thin Wove Paper 114\(\frac{1}{2}\) x 15
a. Brown & Blue----------------------- Thick Wove Paper
b. Red-Brown & Blue-------------------- Thin Wove Paper
c. Center Intaglio--------------------- Thin Wove Paper
d. Brown & Green (error)---------------- Thin Wove Paper
e. Inverted Center---------------------- Thin Wove Paper
f. Brown & Pale Blue-------------------- Thick Wove Paper
g. Period after "ZALOT."---------------- Thick Wove Paper

SCOTT # 17  UNWATERMARKED  JULY 1864
20k BLUE & ORANGE---------------------- Thin Wove Paper 114\(\frac{1}{2}\) x 15
a. Blue & Orange---------------------- Thick Wove Paper
b. Pale Blue & Orange---------------- Thin Wove Paper
c. Bisected, used at "ZHARKT",
P. Postmarked dots and 162--------------- Thin Wove Paper
d. Bisected, used at "ZVENIGORDKA"----- Thin Wove Paper
e. Pale Blue & Vermilion---------------- Thick Wove Paper
SCOTT # 18 UNWATERMARKED JULY 1864

30k CARMINE & GREEN---------------------- Thin Wove Paper

   a. Carmine Rose & Green---------------- Thin Wove Paper
   b. Red & Pale Green---------------------- Thin Wove Paper
   c. Carmine Rose & Green---------------- Thick Wove Paper

SCOTT # 19 UNWATERMARKED #168 1866-75

1k BLACK & YELLOW---------------------- Med-Horiz. Laid Paper

   d. Black & Yellow---------------------- Med-Vert. Laid Paper
   e. Groundwork Inverted---------------- Med-Horiz. Laid Paper
   g. Black & Lemon----------------------- Med-Horiz. Laid Paper
   h. Black & Yellow---------------------- Thin-Horiz. Laid Paper
   i. Black & Orange---------------------- Thin-Horiz. Laid Paper
   l. Frame Double------------------------ Med-Horiz. Laid Paper
   m. Black & Yellow---------------------- Med-Vert. Laid Paper Imperf
   n. Offset on face, looks like a double print---------------- Med-Horiz. Laid Paper
   o. Black & Yellow---------------------- Very Thick-Horiz. Laid Paper
   q. Black & Orange Yellow--------------- Med-Vert. Laid Paper
   r. Groundwork Inverted---------------- Med-Vert. Laid Paper
   s. Groundwork Inverted---------------- Med-Vert. Laid Paper Imperf
   t. Black & Orange---------------------- Med-Vert. Laid Paper
   v. "F" for Roman numeral "I" bottom of oval
   w. Groundwork shifted South

SCOTT # 20 WATERMARK #168 1866-75

3k BLACK & DEEP GREEN------------------- Med-Horiz. Laid Paper

   d. Black & Green------------------------ Med-Vert. Laid Paper
   e. "y" in background (error) - (1870)
   g. Black & Green------------------------ Thin-Horiz. Laid Paper
   h. Black & Pale Yellow Green------------ Very Thick-Horiz. Laid Paper
   i. Black & Green------------------------ Very Thick-Horiz. Laid Paper

No. 70 Page 45
o. Groundwork shifted East------- Horiz. Laid Paper 14 3/4

SCOTT # 22 WATERMARKED #168

5k BLACK & LILAC------------------ Med-Horiz. Laid Paper 14 3/4
    b. Center Inverted Med-Horiz. Laid Paper
    e. Black & Purple---------------- Thin-Horiz. Laid Paper 14 3/4
g. Frame Intaglio---------------- Med-Horiz. Laid Paper 14 3/4
o. Shifted Background----------- Med-Horiz. Laid Paper Imperf

SCOTT # 23 WATERMARK #168

10k BROWN & BLUE---------------- Med-Horiz. Laid Paper 14 3/4
e. Upper left "10" broken---------- Med-Horiz. Laid Paper 14 3/4
g. Center Intaglio---------------- Med-Horiz. Laid Paper 14 3/4
t. Center Intaglio---------------- Med-Vert. Laid Paper 14 3/4

(Continued)
A BUKHARAN RECEIVING POSTMARK ON A RUSSIAN SHANGHAI COVER

By Melvin M. Kessler

In the fall of 1965 I acquired a cover that had the earmarks of being unusually interesting and probably very rare from the standpoint of contributing to Russian postal history. I do not know how many covers from Shanghai with stamps of the Russian Offices in China exist that have a Bukharan receiving postmark, but I am recording this cover for the benefit of Russian philatelists because the combination of used abroad from one place (China) and received abroad in another (Bukhara) may not have been previously described or, for that matter, not have been known to exist. The cover, stamps, and postal cancellations are described below and illustrated in exact size elsewhere in this journal. The types of cancellations are noted in S. D. Tchilinghirian's and W. S. E. Stephen's excellent study Stamps of the Russian Empire Used Abroad (1959), Parts 4 and 6. References to pages in these parts are given in the text.

From the illustration one can see that the cover front has the addressee's name printed in four languages, starting at the top, in Persian, Russian, Hindi, and English. Evidently, the addressee's name in multiple languages was to indicate without misunderstanding for whom the letter was intended. At the top the destination is given in two languages and reads in Russian V STAR. (UYU) BUKHARA/(ROSSIYA) or Old Bukhara/(Russia) and at the bottom in English BOKHARA/(Russi). The Shanghai registry etiquette in Russian is the ordinary type with number 631. The black double-circle cancellation on the front and back is Tchilinghirian's Sub-Type 6B (Figure 499, Part 4, pages 356-7) and reads in French SHANGHAI POSTE RUSSE, has the Russian serial "b", and is dated on one line (bound by straight lines) 24 7 09 (24 July 1909). The cancellation measures 27½ mm in diameter (outer circle) and 15 mm in diameter (inner circle). The printed front suggests that an extensive commercial correspondence existed between the sending firm or agent and the addressee.

The violet oval handstamp on the back of the cover shows the name of the Shanghai firm or agent to be Hadjee Kh---bul Hadjee Karime Baksh, given in English and in the center in Persian. There is also in Hindi manuscript that which appears to be an address notation. The stamps on the back were struck seven times with the Shanghai cancellation noted above but not with full strikes. The stamps are those used during the period and are on horizontally laid paper overprinted KITAY (China). These stamps are three 2 kopek value (blue overprint), two 7 kopek value (red overprint), and one 10 kopek value (red overprint). Originally there was another 7 kopek value stamp on the cover, but it had come off as evidenced from the remaining part of the cancellation outside the area where the stamp had been affixed to the cover. The total rating for the registered cover was 52 kopeks. How correct this rate was I do not know. Perhaps someone has data about rating letters from Shanghai to the Central Asian khanates. It is quite possible that the fee was double or triple because of the weight of the letter.

The two 2 kopek value stamps were cancelled again (this time clearly) in Bukhara with a black double-circle canceller, Tchilinghirian's Sub-Type 8B (Figure 882, Part 6, page 564). This receiving postmark is indicated in the illustration by an arrow. The cancellation or receiving postmark inscription
Въ СТАР. БУХАРУ
(РОССИЯ).

Хаджи Мухамедъ Бахшъ и
АбдулмажиДъ Лакесаръ

Наъеe Mohamed Baash
abdolmajeD Lakesar.

№ 631
Шаixкый.

BOKHARA
reads in Russian STARAYA BUKHARA (without hyphen) and translates Old Bukhara, has serial "b", and is dated 27 7 9 (27 July 1909). The year date for the canceller had only the last digit to represent the year. This cancellation is rated scarce for outgoing mail from Old Bukhara in the 1900s. What rating it might have as a receiving postmark has yet to be determined.

At first glance at the dates, one may question the validity of the receiving postmark since the cover had been cancelled in Shanghai as outgoing on 24 July 1909 and received in Old Bukhara as incoming on 27 July 1909 -- three days later! Indeed, a physical impossibility at the time. Tchilinghirian, however, makes a special note about Shanghai dates (Part 4, page 355) and states that

Along among Russian P.O.s abroad, the Shanghai Office went over from the "old style" to "new style" dating in its cancellations at the beginning of the year 1900.... This different dating at Shanghai must be kept in mind when examining markings on XXth century covers, which sometimes show on this account the apparent discrepancy of a letter mailed at Shanghai on a date later by several days than its date of arrival at another P.O. in China still using the "old style" on its cancellers.

The last part of the statement also implies that Shanghai "new style" cancellers on covers will also show an apparent discrepancy in dating when sent elsewhere in the Russian Empire and its "possessions" and receiving at destination an arrival date in "old style." Converting the Shanghai "new style" date of 24 July 1909 to the "old style" by subtracting 13 days for the XXth century, we obtain a date of 11 July 1909 and arrive at a transmission time of 16 days from Shanghai to Old Bukhara. The length of time then for the cover to reach Bukhara is correct when one considers that it probably travelled by rail in China to connect with the Trans-Siberian Railroad and connect in Western Siberia with the line to Bukhara.

The cover is a remarkable one because of the Old Bukhara receiving postmark on Russian stamps for use in China. In that respect, the postal markings document another facet of Russian postal history for which possibly very few covers may exist.

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THE PAPER MONEY OF BLAGOVESHCHENSK AND TERRITORY OF AMUR 1917 & 1918
(Continued from #69)

By M. M. Byckoff

Due to the enormous number of the notes that had to be registered (over $3\frac{3}{4}$ million pieces) and the short time given for the purpose, the management of the Blagoveshchensk Branch of the State Bank apparently was prepared for the satisfactory accomplishment of this work and, as we suppose, had prepared not less than ten registry stamps made in the same shop, at the same time, and using for this purpose the same matrix to pour out the rubber registry stamps so that in
the final count these stamps could not differ much one from another either by the
form, or letters, or other characteristics. The differences resulted from entirely
different occasional reasons, such as the force of pressure, freshness, amount and
quality of the ink at the moment of stamping, the attention of the operator, the
speed of the stamping and the wearout of the stamp. These variations are numerous
and different and cannot be described; for example, the stamping using the same
stamp with different force applied may result in fluctuations in the length from \( \frac{1}{2} \)
to 1 vertically, and \( \frac{1}{3} \) to nearly 2 mms. horizontally. Among other deviations from
the standard are impressions that have the stamps not with two but one-line border,
frequently not quite straight. This was due to the wearout and the loss of the
elasticity of the rubber more on the edges than in the center. Some collectors
take erroneously such freaks as a variety. In our collection we have a note with
the stamp where the capital letter "Ya" in the word "Yavlen" has the upper
part of the same line as other letters (photo 7); apparently when preparing the
matrix for the stamp the first capital letter was levelled not by the lower but by
the upper edge of the letters and the stamp was poured out in this way. We have
seen this variety in other collections and consider it to be a permanent one.

Apart from the registry stamp described above, there is seen, rather rarely,
another one the origin of which is due to various considerations, causing doubt
as to it being a genuine one; but since these notes, together with this stamp
carry the eagle seal of the Blagoveshchensk Branch of the State Bank, which do
not create and doubts as to being genuine, we shall classify them as doubtful
until some facts confirming the legal origin of this stamp is published. This
stamp is rectangular, frame of one thick line, size of stamp 32-33½ mms. high,
46½-47½ mms. wide. Inscription in four lines: "Presented Blag. Br. (State
Bank) " 1918. Cashier " (Photos 11 & 12). Letters slanting to
right; notable absence of Roman figure XI (eleven) for the month of November;
capital letters 3½ others 2½ mms. high; letter "a" ordinary Russian handwritten
letter, other letters have normal thickenings and rounded points. The stamp has
all the signs of being completely worn out and, when using this stamp, apparently
to achieve a good print, very strong pressure was applied resulting in the letters
of the text becoming flattened and losing clarity, therefore being hardly readable
as is the case with all the text, (photo 9). We have in our collection a 100 rub.
note of Amur Territory which we have not seen in any other collection of money
notes known to us. The stamp is oval, 48-49 mms x 29-30 mms., double frame, the
exterior oval with sawlike teeth to outside, other thin line oval inside; the
inscription inside around oval, up "BLAGO-VESHCHENSKOE" and below "OTDELENE
GOSUDARSTVENNOGO BANKA"; in the center of the stamp, in three lines: Has cir-
culation together with credit notes". Above the oval stamp, another stamp,
parallel to the longer axis of the oval, in a single line, 22 mms. long and 2½ mms.
high; "October 1918." photo 5. The origin of this stamp is unknown. It may be
an invention of some note collector who sought personal gain, or to create a
sensation; at the same time this stamp could have been issued in October 1918 by
the legal government with a very definite aim - to show that the note with that
stamp was a legal one. We have mentioned previously that the Provisional Amur
Government almost from the moment it took power, due to the total absence of
cash in its treasury, was forced to issue Sept. 25 and Oct. 1, 1918 180,336 notes
of 100 rub. denomination, the so called "Mukhinka's", that is to say, the Soviet
issues.

One must remember the history of that era and what was happening!!! In the
neighboring Khabarovsky at the same time, by the order of Ataman Kalmykov, all the
members of the symphonic orchestra that were playing in the park of Count
Muraviev-Amursky were shot by the firing squad only because all the musicians, war prisoners of the Austrian Army, were Hungarians by nationality. In those days the Soviet Government had opened its doors to Hungarians to join the Red Army, to balance the Chechoslovaks, war prisoners of the Imperial Army, who due to the circumstances and due to the obligation of the Soviet Government to the German Government according to the Brest-Litovsk Treaty not to permit the return of Chechs through Vladovostok to their homeland resulted in being drawn forcibly into the ranks of the Siberian, anti-Soviet Army. The issue of the "Soviet" notes was caused by the necessity to avoid the money crisis, still, at the same time this move could have been interpreted by the ultra-nationalistic, super-patriotic politicians as an indication of "pro-Soviet" sympathies, which could result in tragic consequences to the persons that made this decision to issue the notes. We believe that in view of this the Government decided to stamp all notes that were issued, moreover, in the neighboring Maritime Territory (Khabarovsk), this system was in use and practice since September 20th. We think that the stamp was used during a very short period for two reasons: (1) the number of newly issued notes was enormous and it would not have been possible to have them all stamped without delay, and (2) Blagoveschensk was more democratic than Khabarovsk and the Provisional Amur Government by its spirit and structure was of Zemstvo type. Then the Ataman (Commander) of Amur Cossacks Mr. Gamov, who by the decision of the Cossack meeting changed his position of the teacher in one of the Cossack settlements' schools to the Ataman's baton was entirely different from the Ataman of the Ussuri (Khabarovsk) Cossacks and he did not use the extreme measures to eradicate bolshevism but fully relied on wise decisions of the Cossack council. The population of Blagoveschensk was entirely indifferent towards the appearance of the stamped money notes. The disappearance of this stamp was met with absolute indifference and it was forgotten until October 19, 1918 when there came another order, this time from the Siberian Government, to the effect that all the notes that were circulating in the territory must have been all stamped, sealed and signed by the State Bank Branch Cashier. The Amur money notes had penetrated to the adjoining territories downstream of Amur River to Khabarovsk and Nikolaevsk-on-Amur. To avoid any kind of misunderstanding in connection with the appearance of these new money notes in the neighboring states the Blagoveschensk Branch of the State Bank notified the nearest branches of the State Bank of these issues sending them samples and requesting them to accept them or to exchange them for the local paper money. In its turn, the Blagoveschensk Branch of the State Bank assured the neighboring branches that there would be no obstacles for the exchange of their money notes for the Amur notes and of the following exchange of such notes between the branches. The Khabarovsk Branch of the State Bank, together with the registry of their "Krasno-Shchekov" notes were also stamping the Amur Territory and City of Blagoveschensk notes that were presented at the branch; once stamped these notes were back in circulation. The registry was done with the stamp "A" September 1918. Khabarovsk Branch of the State Bank, accepted for circulation. This stamp is more frequently seen on the 100 r. and 50 r. Amur notes, rarer on the 15 r., still rarer on 1 and 3 rub., but the 25 and 10 rub. notes (photo 6) apparently did not reach the town of the Cossack Khabarov (Khabarovsk).

Having received the order to register the paper notes of Soviet issue according to the 17 Oct. 1918 law, which has limited the circulation of these notes to the territory for which they were originally issued, the Khabarovsk Branch of the State Bank issued an order to surrender the Amur notes, due to
We are submitting in continuation the total tabulation of the Amur Territory and the cities exchange notes of 1918.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Paper Money Notes</th>
<th>Total issued:</th>
<th>Exchanged:</th>
<th>Remained with the population unchanged:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Amount of notes</td>
<td>Value</td>
<td>Amount of notes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cities:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1917 1 R.</td>
<td>375,800</td>
<td>375,800</td>
<td>Not exchanged, nor registered.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1917 3 R.</td>
<td>533,000</td>
<td>1,599,000</td>
<td>367,555</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1918 1 R.</td>
<td>331,600</td>
<td>331,600</td>
<td>269,179</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Territorial</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 R.</td>
<td>1,326,000</td>
<td>6,630,000</td>
<td>1,184,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 R.</td>
<td>50,400</td>
<td>504,000</td>
<td>48,082</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 R.</td>
<td>264,250</td>
<td>3,963,750</td>
<td>250,993</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 R.</td>
<td>43,600</td>
<td>1,090,000</td>
<td>40,041</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100 R.</td>
<td>749,866</td>
<td>74,986,600</td>
<td>734,001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL:</td>
<td>89,480,750</td>
<td>85,942,684</td>
<td>96.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

+ 1917 Cities: 375,800

the lack of cash, to the Branch either to the checking or to the savings accounts in the local Savings offices and to send them later to Blagoveshchensk for the exchange. Due to numerous reasons this surrender of the Amur notes was very slow and in amounts smaller than was expected and therefore the matter of the Amur notes was presented to the Interdepartmental Meeting of Khabarovsk District, where the following desolution No. 20 as of December 3, 1918 was adopted: "The institutions, commerce and the population of the Town of Khabarovsk and of Khabarovsk district are notified hereby that the Amur notes of 1, 3, 5, 15, and 100 rubles denominations stamped by the Khabarovsk Branch of the State Bank, by the Savings Office and by the Zemstvo Institutions of the Maritime Province must be, during the two weeks period, deposited in Khabarovsk Branch of the State Bank, for checking accounts or in all Savings Offices with the understanding that the payment will be made when the Bank receives the re-supply of notes. The Amur notes, either unstamped, or stamped by some other institutions excepting the ones listed above, will be received for exchange, the special receipts will be given. The original signed by: President of the District Interdepartmental Meeting, N. Burdukov; Khabarovsk City Mayor, Zbaikov; President of the Khabarovsk County Zemstvo Offices, Dolejal; Manager of the Khabarovsk Branch of the State Bank, Fugalevitch; Comissar of Khabarovsk County, A. Figin." This ruling, same as the preceding one of the Khabarovsk Branch of the State Bank gives solid reasons to believe that the Khabarovsk Branch of the State Bank did not stamp the Amur notes with the type "b" stamp: "Presented. October 1918. In Khab. Br. (of) Sta. Bank", since the 1917 law committed the Bank Branches to withdraw from circulation the notes of the "alien" territories sending them to the place of issue, thus the necessity of stamping them did not arise. We did not see in the collections any Amur notes with the stamp "b" of Khabarovsk Branch of the State Bank, nor any of
the above-mentioned notes stamped with the Savings office or the Zemstvo establishments of the Maritime Province. The total amount of Amur notes withdrawn from circulation in the Maritime Province that went through the Khabarovsk Branch of the State Bank reaches the imposing amount of 5,225,000 rubles. Penetrating via the Amur River as far as Nikolaevsk-on-Amur, the Amur notes have acquired legal status there by being stamped with the "Nikolaevsk na Amure" stamp of the Branch of State Bank there, also with the two line stamp of the same Branch (Rossika No. 68, photos 9 & 10), as we have seen then on the Khabarovsk notes. These stamps are encountered on the 100, 15, and 5 rub. Amur notes; we did not see in other collections any other Amur and Blagoveshchensk notes with these stamps.

The violet colored stamp ink was used widely for stamping of all notes of Amur Territory, same as in Blagoveshchensk, Khabarovsk, and Nikolaevsk-on-Amur since this color, to a degree, is official for the stamps and seals of all official branches of Russian State, except the postal service where black color is official; the use by the postal branch of stamp inks of red, blue, green and violet has not been clearly explained to date by philatelists. It is difficult for us to explain why apart from the violet ink for Amur and Khabarovsk stamps there was used the ink of magenta, black, blue and brown colors; the appearance of the black stamps may be explained, stretching the point, by the lack of violet ink, borrowing the black one from the post office; the appearance of other colors may be explained only by the desire of the collectors to have the notes stamped in colors to suit their tastes.

Due to the absence of a stock of money notes in the State Bank Branch, the authorities ordered that when the Amur notes were presented for stamping, only a part of them, up to some definite figure, will be returned to the customer after stamping. The rest must be deposited either in the checking or savings account of the customer. Due to war conditions, transportation disorder, and shortage of labor, certain merchandise, such as dry goods, shoes, sugar, small hardware, chemicals, etc., were absent on the market. These goods were sometimes brought by the Chinese merchants from Manchuria and, of course, the Amur citizens bought this merchandise whenever the opportunity presented itself, and not only in the amounts needed but in the amounts which they could buy with the existing money notes on hand. Therefore, the population, to have always sufficient notes on hand, abstained from stamping and from the process connected with stamping, the surrender of the excess to the checking or savings accounts. The Bank Branches existed only in three towns of Amur Territory, Blagoveshchensk, Zeya and Alexeevsk, while the savings offices apart from these three towns, existed also in 3-4 larger settlements. Therefore the withdrawal of money notes from the accounts was connected with a trip by horse, or by rail for a considerable distance. The Chinese knew well, of course, that the money notes must be stamped, but not knowing the Russian language, or better to say, did not know it enough to decipher and read the text of the stamp and of the seal, frequently read with difficulty even by the Russians. The Chinese were satisfied if there was an "eagle" on the stamp. If one would take old Russian 5 kop. copper piece, rub it gently with greasy fingers, then get some soot on the obverse side off the flame of a candle, cool it and place carefully on the paper, then press it hard, then there would be on the paper a print greatly resembling the impression of the eagle seal, it is true that in such an impression the text will be read from right to left, the eagle holding the sceptre and the orb in the wrong paws, but such fine details were not understood by Chinese merchants, just as the majority of our village population, so such stamps with
ILLUSTRATIONS

1. Reverse side of town and territorial paper money 1,3,10 and 25 roubles.
2. Registry seal (shtempel) of Khabarovsk Branch of Govt. Bank (semi-schematic).
3. Obverse side of town and territorial paper money 1,3,10 and 25 roubles, with a round, metallic seal for wax sealing, and a rectangular registry stamp.
4. Reverse side of territorial paper money, 15 roubles, with a registry shtempel and a seal.
5. Obverse side of territorial paper money (Oblastnogo bileta) 100 roubles with an oval seal of the Blagoveschensk Branch of the Govt. Bank (Gosudarstvennego Banka) "October 1918 has equal circulation to the credit notes."
6. Reverse side of the territorial note of 100 roubles with the registry seal of Khabarovsk Branch Govt. Bank "September 1918 genuine for use."
7. Obverse of a territorial note of 100 roubles with a metallic seal for wax sealing, inscription and registry seal, in which the Russian letter "Ya" in "yavlen" is lowered to the level of the other letters.
8. Obverse side of a town note of 1 rouble, 1918 to the right instead of numeral letters AA (see text) round seal of Govt. Bank Blagoveschensk Branch.
9. Obverse side of a territorial note of 15 roubles, with the inscription in two lines of Nikolaevsk on Amur Branch of Govt. Bank.
11. Obverse side of a territorial note of 100 roubles, round wax seal "Blagoveschensk Branch Govt. Bank and registry seal (Shtempel) in four lines.
12. Registry seal or shtempel in four lines, semischematic.

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(con't.)
the "Tsar's eagle" were passed as the genuine ones same as the ones that passed through the bureaucratic procedure. Another type of forgeries was more skillful. It consisted in transferring from the hectograph of the print of the stamp and of the control seal to the nonstamped note. Normally the hectograph mass was prepared from a mixture of glycerine and gelatine. In our case, this mass was substituted by a plain raw potato. A potato the size of a fist was slashed in two by a very sharp and wise knife, so that the cut surface would be completely flat; this flat surface was placed on the freshly stamped note, (the fresher was the ink, the better), the other half of potato was placed in the same way on the impression of the eagle seal, in such a way that between the surface of the note and the surface of the sliced half of potato there would not be any bubbles of air and that both surfaces would be completely touching one another; after some time the ink of the impression dissolved in the juice of the potato mass, penetrating it somewhat, as we have noticed this while preparing a negative on a real hectograph. The time of the ink dissolving and of its absorption by the potato was determined by the tests. A well-timed potato hectograph as many as 50 perfection distinguishable from the genuine prints on the notes. This method was told me by men of Blagoveschensk and of Alexeevsk, whom we have met here, in the U.S.A., and therefore it is difficult to say how good were these prints and how to distinguish them from the genuine ones, but according to my informers the prints were perfect and the potato method of stamping was known along the
shores of Amur River and was used successfully not only by the plain citizens, but also by the commerce when it was imperative to have the money notes urgently and in large amounts.

In the preceding paragraphs, when describing the registry stamp with the two-line frames we have mentioned the deviations from the normal stamps and were trying to indicate the reasons causing such deviations. It is possible that one of the reasons for such deviations was that the stamp was of the hectographic origin. We think that the ink of the inner, thinner line of the frame dried faster and to such an extent that it could not be dissolved fast enough comparing it with the other much thicker elements of the stamp. Thus, the ink off this line either did not transfer itself to the potato-hectograph or was transferred in such small amounts that it was sufficient only for a limited number of prints, hence the on-line frame.

While describing the second stamp with the four line inscription, we have placed this stamp into the group of doubtful ones, since it is seen on the notes that carry the eagle seal of the State Bank Branch, the seal undoubtedly genuine. At the present moment, knowing that an illegal method was used to stamp the notes - according to the witnesses the hectographic impressions were above suspicions - we have the right to assume that the second, the four line stamp, was used, and, in addition to it, there was added using the potato hectographic method, the impression of the eagle seal with the Tsar's Eagle, that had practically a hypnotic effect on the Chinese merchants. It is necessary to keep in mind that for the hectograph there was used a special ink, "Chemical", as it was called in Russia (Gentian violet, aniline paint), and for this reason only the notes for stamping of which was used the stamping liquid prepared with the addition of this chemical substance could be utilized for the transfer of the seals via the hectographic process.

Apparently, due to the shortage of impressions of the stamps with the fresh, recently applied paint which was fit for the preparation of hectographs, the registry stamps could have been prepared illegally since the drawing of the stamp was very simple, while the forgery of the seal with the eagle in the center demanded more skill and better technique. Basing on this supposition there could result a combination of the forged stamp and hectographed seal; we think that the four line stamp was prepared illegally. However, until the moment of official confirmation that this stamp was prepared legally, we will be of the opinion we have formed.

In continuation we are presenting the list of the Amur Territory and Blagoveshchensk City 1918 paper notes with all varieties of the stamps:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amur Territory</th>
<th>City of Blagoveshchensk</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I. Original Issues:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. 10 rub.</td>
<td>1. 1917 1 rub.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. 25 &quot;</td>
<td>2. &quot; 3 &quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. 5 &quot;</td>
<td>3. 1918 1 &quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. 15 &quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. 100 &quot;</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Amur Territory

II. With the five line stamp of the Blagoveshchensk Branch of the State Bank in two line frame and with the eagle seal of the Branch (three varieties).

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<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>10 rub.</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1917</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>25 &quot;</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1918</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>5 &quot;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>15 &quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>100 &quot;</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

III. With the stamp of Khabarovsk Branch of the State Bank, "A", September 1918. "Authorized for circulation."

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>5 &quot;</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1917</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>15 &quot;</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1917</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>100 &quot;</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

IV. With the Nikolaevsk-on-Amur Branch of the State Bank, "for parcels" stamp and the name of the Branch in two lines.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>5 &quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>15 &quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>100 &quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

V. With the oval stamp of Blagoveshchensk Branch of the State Bank, "October 1918" and: "Circulates together with the money notes", (a very doubtful stamp).

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>100 &quot;</td>
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</table>

Explanation of the list of the photographs of the Amur Territorial and City of Blagoveshchensk paper money notes of 1918:

(Turning the sheet clockwise 90°, read the top line).

1. Reverse side of the City and Territorial notes of 1, 3, 10, and 25 rub. denominations.
2. Registry stamp of the Khabarovsk Branch of the State Bank, (schematic drawing).
3. Obverse side of the City and Territorial notes of 1, 3, 10, and 25 rub., impression of the round eagle seal on the notes, (metal seal for wax stamps, but used with mastic), rectangular registry stamp.
4. The reverse side of the 15 rub. territorial note with the registry stamp and the eagle seal.
5. Middle row: The obverse side of the 100 rub. territorial note with the oval stamp of the Blagoveshchensk Branch of State Bank "October 1918" and "Circulates together with the money notes."
6. The reverse side of the 100 rub. territorial note with the registry stamp of Khabarovsk Branch of the State Bank "September 1918", "valid for circulation."
7. The obverse side of the 100 rub. territorial note with the metal (wax) eagle seal and the registry stamp in which the capital "Ya" (Я) in word "Yavlen" (= presented) is lowered to the level of other letters.
8. The obverse side of the 1 rub. 1918 city note, on the right side Letters "A" (see text) instead of number, round eagle seal, mastic impression

*GOSUDARSTVENNOGO BANKA * BLAGOVESTCHENSOYE OTDEL.*
9. The obverse side of the 15 rub. territorial note with the Nikolaevsk-on-Amur two line stamp.
10. The obverse side of the 5 rub. territorial note, round eagle seal, mastic, "for packages" of Nikolaevsk-on-Amur Branch of State Bank.
11. The obverse side of the 100 rub. territorial note, round red mastic eagle seal: "VZIOGOVESHCENSKOE OTDELENNI" GOSEVARSTVENNOGO BANKA," and the four line registry stamp.
12. Registry stamp in four lines - schematic drawing.

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THE RECOLLECTIONS OF VLADIMIR TRUBACHEEV-ONE OF THE FOUNDERS OF THE BULGARIAN POSTS

By D. N. Minchev

As is well known, the establishment of postal services during 1877-78 in the liberated territory of Bulgaria was entrusted by Prince Cherkasskii, Director of the Civilian Administration, to the Court Councillors Vladimir Trubacheev, superviser of postal affairs in the Smolensk governmentship, and Konstantin Radchenko, who held the same post in the governmentship of Kovno (now Kaunas in Lithuania). Both these experienced postal officials were appointed as "Administrators of the Postal Services in Bulgaria."

The story of the first steps taken in the organization of postal services in Bulgaria, although by now quite well known, still leaves some details and particulars unknown. It is this impression which gives rise to a special inducement to delve further so as to supplement or clear up the picture. In any case, we had been advised that Vladimir Trubacheev had published many years ago his recollections about his work in the foundation and organization of the postal network in newly-liberated Bulgaria. After close to three years of continuous searching, we finally had the opportunity to see the text of the above-mentioned reminiscences.

His memoirs entitled "The Fieldpost during the last Turkish War", were published 20 years after his return to Russia and they take up 13 printed pages in octavo size. The author gives in three sections a range of information, much of it hitherto unknown and dealing with the initial steps taken for the establishment of the mails on Bulgarian soil during 1877-78. These recollections are set out in the Postal and Telegraphic Journal, Unofficial Section, pp. 1521-1533, published at St. Petersburg in 1898.

As far as space allows, we will deal here only with the most important data, as we are sure they will be of use to collectors primarily interested in Bulgarian postal history.

In the first section of two pages, Trubacheev, after emphasizing the importance of postal services during wartime, states that as early as October 16, 1876, a series of instructions was set out in a book of regulations entitled "The position of management of the troops in the field during wartime" which was approved for the use of the Russian Army delegated for active service in operations against European Turkey. Among the series of projects with special designations to be set up at the
Card in The Kurt Adler Collection titled in with The Recollections of Vladimir Trubachev by D. N. Mincuk.

"Notes on the Russian Military Mail in Bulgaria" by Vladimir Trubachev.

Card in the Kurt Adler Collection.
GHQ, as noted in the "positions", there were the following: the Fieldpost Administration and the Directorship of Posts and Telegraphs. The Fieldpost Administration was completely subordinate to the Chief of the Military Staff. The work of the postal service started at Kishinev, where the GHQ were also situated. At the beginning, its function was to assist the post offices in Bessarabia, as the delivery of military correspondence had overburdened the latter and their staffs could not cope with the work.

With the advance of Russian forces into Bulgaria, the GHQ, together with the Fieldpost Administration and the Field Post Office were brought into close proximity of the fighting operations. Trubacheev notes the difficulties and the great amount of work involved at that time in regard to the receipt, sorting, distribution and delivery to the destination of postal correspondence and parcels. Such was the state of the army postal service, when Prince Cherkasskii undertook a series of measures to organize the "Civilian Postal Service" in Bulgaria.

The second portion of his reminiscences is more extensive than the first and takes up nine pages. Bearing in mind the pressing needs of the troops and the fact that there had been nothing done to meet the urgent postal needs of the local population, the facilities of the army postal service were extended to the latter. Prince Cherkasskii proceeded to set up the first postal establishments on the model of those in Russia. Radchenko and Trubachev were assigned to Bulgaria to implement these tasks, on the orders of Baron Velyo, the Director of the "Postal Department."

Before setting out for Bulgaria, Radchenko left for Kishinev and Trubacheev for the former Bender and Akkerman districts in Bessarabia, so as to hire horses, carts and personnel, all of which were required for the transmission of the mails. Immediately thereafter, they both set out for Svishtov (Sistov) and then on to T'rnovo, so as to begin work on the spot. At this point in his story, Trubacheev gives some details in connection with their activities. After a short time, Trubacheev was instructed to go back to Bessarabia and Odessa to bring back the resources required for the transmission needs of the postal service. With this view in mind, an appropriate agreement was concluded in September 1877 with German colonists living in the Ukraine and Bessarabia. The Bulgarian colonists living in the same area did not participate in this assignment. At the end of October, when he arrived back in Svishtov, Radchenko informed him that he (i.e. Radchenko) was to remain in the service of Prince Cherkasskii, and that Trubacheev had been appointed Director of the "Postal Service" in Bulgaria. In a short space of time, Trubacheev assigned supervisors in towns along the postal routes for the establishment of post offices. In this way, 14 post offices were opened.

There were another three branch lines assigned on the main Svishtov-T'rnovo-Gabrovo route: the first to Byala, the second from Tsarevets via Gorna Studena-B'lgarene and Pordim to Bokhot and the third from T'rnovo direct to Lovech. A central office was established at the town of Zimnicea, on the Rumanian bank of the Danube opposite Svishtov, to handle the Russian mails from Bulgaria. The correspondence was sent from Zimnicea by the Rumanian railroad on to Russia. A little later, a military postal agency was also opened at Bragadiru, in the vicinity of Zimnicea and on the railroad to Becharest. Trubacheev notes a very important date, November 10, 1877 when the postal service began to work on a regular basis.
With the advance of the Russian Army over the Stara Planina range, the urgent problem arose of establishing constant and regular traffic across the Balkin Mountains through the Shipka Pass to the south. Trubacheev also had to stop short here because of the great difficulties and inconveniences which arose because of the harsh winter conditions during January and February 1878. The transmission of mail at that time was accomplished by using mules; there was no other way. Since the term of the agreement with the German colonists expired during February 1878, Lt. General Anuchin, whose duties lay with postal affairs, recommended General Dondukov-Korsakov on the 22nd of the same month at San Stefano to the post of Director of the Civilian Administration after the death of Prince Cherkasskii, in a special memorandum which set out the measures that should be taken for the continued smooth operation and maintenance of the postal routes. Trubacheev reproduces this report in full in his article. A new agreement was concluded with the colonist Schernor for the maintenance of a regular postal service. Under the direction of Prince Cherkasskii and the experienced administrator General Dmitrii Gavrilovich Anuchin, says Trubacheev, "the postal service in Bulgaria was extended systematically and steadily." This was because many young Bulgarians were also enrolled in the work of organizing the mails. Such was the healthy state of the postal service just a short time after the signing of the Treaty of San Stefano on February 19 / March 3, 1878.

The third and final section of Trubacheev's article examines in four pages the situation which arose after San Stefano. He relates here that some difficulties arose in the day to day operation of the civilian and military mails. Since closer cooperation between the military and civilian authorities was always essential for the correct and rapid delivery of military correspondence, Trubacheev suggested that a special "Commission for the Fieldpost" be established. Because of the passage of the Russian armies over the Danube, the primary tasks of this Commission would include the establishment of entry points at Svishtov and Ruse (Rustchuk) for the exchange of correspondence and sendings with Russia, on behalf of the army in North Bulgaria. A similar postal point was also suggested to be located at Burgas to take care of the needs of the military units which were to be withdrawn from South Bulgaria. In addition, postal agencies were also opened to serve the needs of each separate military detachment and in this way the burden of the postal service was eased. All these measures were utilized to take care of the impending evacuation of the Russian troops, which had to take place between the summer of 1878 and the middle of the following year, in accordance with the Treaty of Berlin.

With this view in mind, the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, upon agreement with Prince Dondukov-Korsakov, decided that "until the final evacuation of the troops, the army postal service should be combined with the civilian mail service." Trubacheev was appointed to supervise the new state of affairs. He sets out a series of data in connection with the unavoidable difficulties encountered in the postal service on Bulgarian territory. Here he notes the many problems which were the result of day to day work with the military, to whom he was temporarily subordinate. He records the cooperation extended to him at that time by the Austrian postal service along the Danube for the transmission of Russian correspondence. During September 1878, Trubacheev was released from his duties, left Bulgarian soil and returned to Russia. After his departure, the pace of evacuation of the troops was increased and thus the army postal service was gradually wound up.
With that, the civilian postal services again passed under the supervision of the Provisional Russian Administrative Commissariat in Bulgaria. The work of further development of the postal service on Bulgarian territory went on. The post offices established earlier were extended and new ones opened. The work and help of the Russian liberators was markedly noticeable even in the newly established national postal service of Bulgaria.

From the foregoing, related in abridged form but including the main facts, we get an idea of the first steps and great difficulties inevitable in establishing postal communications under trying wartime conditions. It speaks volumes for the hard work put in by Trubacheev and his staff to overcome the countless inconveniences that sprang up. The legacy left behind by Trubacheev was the basis upon which the postal service of the Bulgarian state was founded on May 1, 1879.

EDITORIAL COMMENT: In connection with Mr. Minchev's highly interesting summary given above, we like to report that our hon. member Kurt Adler has recently acquired an item which has a link with the information given by Trubacheev. This is in the form of one of the types of Russian postcards, addressed in Russian to "Russia, Livonia Governmentship, town of Fellin", and in German to "Frau A. Schmidt, Haus Gransberg, Fellin." It was apparently sent by a Baltic German on active service with the Russian Army in the Russo-Turkish War, and the German text on the back reads as follows:

"4 Dec. 1877.

Delivered the sick in Zimnicea. On the way, it was very cold and unthinkably bad for the sick. It is snowing today, but the snow is wet, the mud very bad. Just now, I am going over to Sistov, intend to buy hay and oats in the town. Tonight I shall stay in Sistov, continue on tomorrow. I am quite well, no further news.

Adieu, Max"

Let us now consider the markings on the card (please see illustration). The first one, indistinctly struck at upper right, is dated Dec. 4, 1877 and appears to read "POLEVOE POCHT. OTDELENIJE .14.(l).14." or "Field Post Agency No. 14", although this last figure cannot be stated with absolute certainty. Four days later, the card was handled by the Russian border post office at UNGENI, with its No. 8 cancel dated Dec. 8, 1877 struck on the back of the card and confirming the information on this important exchange office during the Russo-Turkish War, as given by Mr. Minchev in Rossica No. 68. We now know of No. 8 and No. 9 markings for Ungeni in this single-circle type. After another four days, it was handled by Mail Coach No. 39-40, Gang No. 8 (St. Petersburg-Riga Line) and dated Dec. 12, 1877. It was in Riga the next day and remained there on the 14th, before being delivered in Fellin on Dec. 17, 1877. A magnificent item.

Referring now to the data given by Mr. Minchev in the article above, we may surmise from the message on the card that it was mailed either at Zimnicea or nearby at the Bragadiru railroad station. In other words, Field Post Agency No. 14 functioned at one of these two locations and we need to see further material before we can pinpoint the position exactly.

Finally, the Editorial Board feels that we have come a long way in research on the Russian mails in the Balkans since we began publishing Mr. Minchev's erudite studies, beginning with Rossica No. 62 back in 1962. It is up to our readers and members to keep a sharp lookout for further material so that a coherent picture of the postal arrangements in the Russo-Turkish War of 1877-78 will finally emerge.
NOTES ON THE RUSSIAN MILITARY MAILS IN BULGARIA

By Franz See

Translated from the Bulgarian Journal "Philatelen Pregled" of Sofia, No 11 for 1964

It is well known that the Russian Postal Service in the past was very well organized and held in high regard in Europe. We may also find much information in Russian and Bulgarian literature on postal communications in Bulgaria. The most detailed study of the subject from the philatelic point of view was written for the first time in the Bulgarian magazine "Poshtenska Marka" ("Postage Stamp") during 1938, and the anniversary book "60 godini Postha, Telegraf, Telefon" (Sixty Years of the Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones), issued during 1939. Individual articles were also published after 1944 in the journal "Philatelen Pregled."

The Russian military postal service which functioned during the Russo-Turkish War of 1877-78, which liberated Bulgaria, began quite early to convey also the correspondence of the population in the liberated districts of Bulgaria.

Looking at figure 1, we see a letter sent on January 10, 1878 from T'rnovo and addressed in Russian as follows: "To the town of Sistovo, in Bulgaria, to the haberdasher Dmitrak Chelekov to be handed over to Dimitraki Rusovich." The letter bears the postmark of the Russian main Field Post Office No. 1, dated January 10, 1878 and the arrival bilingual Russo-Bulgarian marking of Sistov-Svishtov, dated January 12, 1878. From this, it may be seen that at the beginning of 1878, the Russian Field Post Office No. 1 was already functioning at T'rnovo, and that a post office had been opened at Svishtov for the benefit of the public and had a cancel showing the name of the town. The text of the postmark is in Russian at top and in Bulgarian at bottom.

Figure No. 2 shows the front and back of a letter from T'rnovo, sent on January 23, 1878 and addressed in Bulgarian to "Mr. Nikolaki K. Russovich in Svishtov", where it was received on January 27, both markings again being bilingual. It appears from this letter that by this time a cancellation was in use at T'rnovo with the inscription "Tyrnovo Post Office No. 1." During the establishment of these post offices, the Russian Postal Administration did not have any stamps at its disposal and the tariff was paid in cash. On the back of this particular letter, there is a manuscript notation in violet ink reading "1/2 franc" and the T'rnovo cancel is placed above it. This procedure is very interesting and was unknown until recently.

Figure 3 shows a letter almost a year later on January 3, 1879 from T'rnovo and addressed in Bulgarian "to Mr. Ilarion K. Russovich, at the Military College in Sofia." By now, the cancel for T'rnovo is already in the second type, with name in Russian and Bulgarian but without the words for "post office." Moreover, the date is inverted in relation to the rest of the marking. The letter is franked with a Russian 8 kopek stamp, Scott's No. 28, Gibbons No. 32, Yvert No. 25, Michel & Zumstein No. 26. The curious thing about the stamp itself is that it has been cancelled with a portion of the date from the canceller, i.e. with the month slug containing the abbreviation "YANV" for January, which was applied three times on the stamp. Upon arrival in Sofia, the bilingual "SOFIA-SREDETS" marking was placed on the letter. At the top of the letter, there is a manuscript notation in Bulgarian which states that it was accompanied by two parcels.
In conclusion, it may be pointed out that some of the markings found on the letters described above may also be encountered on the first stamps of Bulgaria, the "centimes" issue.

EDITORIAL COMMENT: The items described above by our esteemed Viennese member, Mr. Franz See, are all showpieces, especially the last letter, which may be unique. Our thanks go out to him for sending us such fine photographs, so that we could do his treasures adequate justice in our journal.

THE TRANS-SIBERIAN POSTAL ROUTE

By Henri Tristant

The Russo-Japanese War and the 1905 Revolution (continued from No. 69.)

It is worthwhile here to turn briefly to what the French "Bulletin Masuel des Postes" euphemistically referred to as political events. In fact, it turned out to be an armed conflict and was the consequence of Russo-Japanese antagonism. Tsarist Russia was pursuing its expansive aims in the Far East, in the face of a Nipponese Empire which was already over-populated and striving to extend itself to the continental regions of Asia nearest its own home islands. Korea and Manchuria constituted the line of natural and geographic convergence of these two empires.

In a lightning war waged against China in 1894-95, Japan obtained for itself the Pescadore Islands, Formosa and Port Arthur. Russia, supported by the Western Powers, forced Japan to give up the idea of establishing itself at Port Arthur, which it had occupied in 1896-97, and in addition, Korea became an independent state recognized by China and was the object of Tsarist ambitions. However, Japan, which did not consider itself beaten, attacked Port Arthur, where a portion of the Russian Fleet was stationed, on February 8, 1904, and destroyed it the following August. The base was finally seized in January 1905. It then went into battle on the mainland and invaded Manchuria, seizing Mukden, an important rail center south of Kharbin, on the Trans-Manchurian R.R. on February 23, 1905. The final blow to Tsarist military power was dealt in May 1905 at the naval battle of the Straits of Tsushima, where Admiral Togo annihilated the rest of the Russian Fleet which had arrived as a reinforcement from Europe.

Russia, which was obliged to sign the Treaty of Portsmouth in August 1905, abandoned Port Arthur to Japan, ceded to it the southern portion of the island of Sakhalin and recognized its right to establish a Japanese protectorate over Korea. This last act was transformed a few years later in 1910 into annexation. Thus Nipponese expansion began, at the expense of Tsarist power. These "political events" were the origins of an evolution which was to upset the world balance of power and whose political and economic consequences are doubtless even now far from having run their full course.

In spite of these difficulties, the work embarked upon to link the two sections of the Trans-Siberian Railroad was pursued with the construction of a new line following the south bank of Lake Baikal. This linkage was completed at the end of 1904, thus bringing to an end all transshipment, making the line open at all seasons along the entire length of 7426 km (4650 miles) between Chelyabinsk and Vladivostok,
a distance which fast trains covered from then onwards in ten days. Unfortunately for itself, Russia lost in 1905 the Manchurian terminus of Dalny, which now took the Japanese name of Dairen, and which, together with Port Arthur, passed under the control of Japan.

The suspension of postal traffic sent by the Siberian route, as from February 15, 1904, was notified by the Russian Postal Service to the UPU at Berne, as we have seen previously. However, this notice should not be taken literally. Perhaps it was the case so far as mail going from Europe to China and the Far East was concerned, a conclusion which may be inferred from the absence of such material known in collections. Nevertheless, in the opposite direction from China to Europe, the suspension of traffic, if it had ever happened, actually appears to have been very spasmodic. In fact, there is a certain number of covers known, bearing the term or indication "Voie Sibérie" and sent from French post offices in North China during the years 1904-5, and the transit times taken to forward them to France show without any shadow of a doubt that this mail utilized the Trans-Siberian route.

In particular, there are several covers of this kind in the collection of M. Raymond Salles of France. They include two envelopes sent from Tientsin on June 2 and June 27, 1904, being delivered in France on June 27 and July 23 respectively, i.e. taking 25 or 26 days in transit. A final example is in the form of a cover sent from Tientsin on September 2, 1904 and showing as an arrival mark the French RPO cancel of Erquelines-Paris dated October 5, 1904. The first two covers were transmitted before the occupation of Port Arthur, and all three predate the invasion of Manchuria by the Japanese.

The readers of the French journal "Les Feuilles Marcophiles" have already had knowledge of a letter from Tientsin dated March 6, 1905 and delivered in Charenton, France on April 10, 1905. This cover must have gone by way of Mukden, which was occupied 15 days earlier by the Japanese. It bears a cachet reading "Voie Sibérie" and was cited two years ago as the first instance of the existence of postal traffic along the Trans-Siberian route during the Russo-Japanese War.

We can see that all these items, which were forwarded by the Trans-Siberian route from the Far East to Europe, fall within the period of hostilities which lasted from the Japanese attack on Port Arthur on February 8, 1904 until September 5, 1905, when the Treaty of Portsmouth was signed. The way they are spread over this period leaves little room for interruptions of traffic for an interval of more than a few months. However, it will be noted that the length of transmission often went beyond the normal transit times, but there is nothing exceptional about this in wartime.

Covers can also be found with the cachet "Via Sibérie", which arrived in France 40-odd days after leaving Tientsin. The length of such transmissions would lead one to conclude that they had been conveyed by surface mail (by sea) via Shanghai and Suez, as this could have been feasible. A Shanghai transit mark on the backs of these covers would constitute the best proof of such forwarding by sea. However, it could be equally argued that military operations were responsible for delaying their transmission by the Trans-Siberian route and thus extending the journey well beyond the normal schedules, especially where the cachet "Voie Sibérie" had not been crossed out. Of course, it is also possible that this cachet had not been deleted by oversight. All we can say is that, in the absence of any transit marking, no confirmation of the actual route of transmission can be deduced for such correspondence.
The Russo-Japanese War had a grave effect on the Tsarist Government, which was weakened by its military reverses. From the beginning of 1905, the whole of this immense empire was shaken by a revolutionary movement which spread to Siberia, where some dissident governments were set up in several industrial centers such as Krasnoyarsk and Chita on the Trans-Siberian Railroad, while a military revolt broke out in Vladivostok. Rail traffic was interrupted and this same railroad carried contingents of troops loyal to the government, leaving from Moscow on the one hand and Kharbin on the other and arriving to meet each other to crush the rebellion. Order was restored at the beginning of 1906, but it appears that international postal traffic was not re-established until the spring of 1907. No material has been seen or recorded as having been forwarded by the Trans-Siberian route between the dates of March 6, 1905 and April 19, 1907. It is hoped that some new research or new information will bridge this interval. In any case, it can be stated that the internal situation in Tsarist Russia, rather than the war, was responsible for the suspension of international postal traffic along the Trans-Siberian Railroad.

The Period of Stability 1907-1914 - The Western Powers, disturbed by Japanese designs on China, reconciled their differences with Russia and this resulted in 1907 with the Triple Entente, which brought together Russia, France and Great Britain.

Russia, whose communications with Vladivostok were henceforth dependent on Manchuria, which remained a Chinese province but where Japanese influence tended to be decisive, decided to consolidate its position in Eastern Siberia by constructing on its own territory a railway line which branched off to the east of China and north of the Amur River to reach Vladivostok.

The Universal Postal Convention of 1906 - The Universal Postal Convention, signed at Rome on May 26, 1906 between the various member countries of the UPU, devoted the second article of its final protocol to the "settlement of forwarding charges to be paid to the Russian Administration for the right to exchange mails by way of the Trans-Siberian Railroad." The fifth paragraph of this second article specified that "unsealed transmission is not accepted by the above-mentioned railroad." The mail therefore had to be forwarded exclusively in sealed mailbags, as had always been laid down from the beginning. Postal historians will regret this as no Russian transit markings can be found on the mail and this is undoubtedly responsible for the lack of interest with which it is still met even now among collectors.

A special clause referred to the Japanese mail, which could be forwarded "by way of the Japanese Railroad in China (the Trans-Manchurian Railroad)", while all the mail exchanged with China by Western Europe went by way of Vladivostok. The new conditions for forwarding mail were also soon afterwards laid down by the French Administration in the "Bulletin Mensuel des Postes", No. 5 for May 1907, in the following terms:

UTILIZATION OF THE TRANS-SIBERIAN RAILROAD FOR THE TRANSPORTATION OF POSTAL CORRESPONDENCE
The Trans-Siberian Railroad is again available for the transmission of ordinary and registered letters, as well as postcards, exchanged between France on the one hand, and Japan, Korea and North China, including Shanghai and Hankow, on the other. Mail for the southern provinces of China may also be forwarded by the Trans-Siberian Railroad, but only if it bears a notation indicating the use of this route.

Letters and boxes with value declared, as well as all articles at reduced rates, cannot be forwarded by the Trans-Siberian until further notice. Such articles will continue to be directed by way of Suez or Vancouver, as the opportunity of departure permits.
Departures to link with the Trans-Siberian are made in Paris every evening at 8.45 pm by Train No. 125. Transmission of the mails between Moscow and Vladivostok is carried out by express trains leaving three times weekly on Sundays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at 10.30 pm St. Petersburg time.

In the opposite direction, departures from Vladivostok take place on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 11.45 am Kharbin time.

The effective length of transmission from Paris to Moscow is four days, and from Moscow to Vladivostok about 12 days 7 hours, thus making a total length of 16 days 7 hours.

Since the Trans-Manchurian line, which branches off at the station of Manchouli from the main Siberian line to serve Port Arthur, Dalny, Tientsin and Peking cannot for the moment, be utilized for postal traffic, the transmission of mail for South Manchuria, China and Japan is being carried out by way of Vladivostok. Departures from Vladivostok are as follows:

(1) For Tsuruga (Japan) on Wednesdays, arriving at the destination on Fridays; duration 39 hours.
(2) For Nagasaki and Shanghai every Sunday, arriving at Nagasaki on Tuesdays and at Shanghai on Thursdays.
(3) For Nagasaki every Saturday; duration of the voyage 61 hours.
(4) For Gensan, Fusan and Chemulpo, every fortnight.

There are also mailboat services linking Nagasaki and Shanghai with Dalny and Tientsin. From the last-named, there is a rail service to Peking.

In comparing the conditions for forwarding mail in 1907 with those of the original period in 1903, it can be stated that the minimum transmission time from Paris to Vladivostok had decreased by three days (17 instead of 20), due to the linking of the two sections of the Trans-Siberian Railroad on the banks of Lake Baikal, but this apparent advantage was nullified or reduced by the fact that the number of departures from Moscow had been cut back from seven to three per week. Moreover, the closing of the Trans-Manchurian branch to postal traffic delayed considerably the services to the offices in China, especially to Peking, Tientsin and Chefoo.

In December 1908, the "Bulletin Mensuel des Postes" in its issue No. 14 carried the following details:

Departures from Moscow on Sundays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 11.30 pm.
Departures from Paris on Wednesdays and Thursdays at 8.40 pm and leaving Moscow on Sundays.
Departures from Paris on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, and leaving Moscow on Wednesdays.
Departures from Paris on Mondays and Tuesdays, and leaving Moscow on Fridays.

Until further notice, the Trans-Siberian Railroad will continue to be utilized only for the transmission of ordinary and registered letters, addressed to Japan, Korea and North China, including Shanghai and Hankow.

Other articles may continue to go by the surface route (by sea). Correspondence for the southern provinces of China will only be forwarded on the Trans-Siberian Railroad if they bear a notation expressly specifying the use of this route.
POSTAL RATES FOR THE TRANS-SIBERIAN ROUTE - It is of some interest to turn our attention here to the postal rates applicable to correspondence forwarded by the Trans-Siberian route. It is a strange fact, but there is not even one specific instance of the relevant rates published by the "Bulletin Mensuel des Postes" until the end of 1912, while on the other hand, for the English, as we have seen previously the rates had been specified right from the beginning of the service.

In practice, the tariff for French postcards was 10 centimes, regardless of whether they were exchanged between France and a French office in the Far East, or with a foreign post office there. Letters exchanged between France and a foreign post office were naturally franked at the international rate, namely 25 centimes.

As for letters exchanged between France and its post offices in North or South China, it appears that the franking was in accordance with the international rate, i.e. 25 centimes, at least up to 1912. Unfortunately, we have not come across any cover addressed from France to the Far East during the 1903-1912 period. By contrast, covers having gone in the opposite direction confirm this tariff, judging by quite numerous examples mailed from Shanghai. The registration fee was 25 centimes.

An important exception was made for the benefit of members of the French Corps of Occupation in China, who could send at the internal rate, i.e. 15 centimes up to 1906, and then 10 centimes, after the lowering of the tariff for franking an ordinary letter, whose maximum weight was fixed at 20 grammes (2/3 oz.). The registration fee was 25 centimes.

It appears that, until December 1912, official French sources did not mention the exchanges of mail between France and Indochina by the Trans-Siberian route. However, from 1910 at least, mail originating from Tonkin (North Indochina) went by this route when a special notation specifying it was placed on the correspondence. The rate was the international tariff, as laid down by the Postal Administration of Indochina.

The following notices, which appeared in the "Bulletin Mensuel des Postes", beginning from December 1912, made the rate for France and its Colonies applicable to letters exchanged between the mother country (France) and the French offices in China and North Indochina:

From the "Bulletin Mensuel des Postes", for December 6, 1912 - Decree fixing the rates applicable to correspondence exchanged between France and the French colonies on the one hand, and the French or Indochinese post offices in China:

Article No. 1: The rate for letters exchanged by the French and Indochinese offices in China, either between themselves or with France, Algeria and French colonies, is fixed as follows:

- Up to 20 grammes weight (2/3 oz.) 10 centimes
- Above 20 grammes, but less than 50 grammes 15 centimes
  (1 3/4 ozs.)
- From 50 to 100 grammes (3 1/2 ozs.) 20 centimes
- Above 100 grammes, five centimes for every 50 grammes or part thereof.

Articles which are not franked, or only partly so, are to be charged at double the franking rate or deficiency, as the case may be.

The weight of letters referred to in the present decree must not exceed one kilogramme (2 1/2 lbs.).
Article No. 2: The date of the coming into force of the present decree is fixed at December 1, 1912.

Signed: Jean Dupuy, Minister of Public Works, Posts and Telegraphs
L.L. Klotz, Minister for Finances
A. Lebrun, Minister for the Colonies

From the "Bulletin Mensuel des Postes" for January 1913 - Notice concerning the rate for letters exchanged between France and its Colonies on the one hand, and the French and Indochinese offices in China on the other.

The preceding decree applies to the internal rate of letters. All other correspondence continues to be subject to the international tariff.

It is reminded that the French Administration maintains post offices at:
Amoy
Chefoo
Canton
Hoi-Hao

and the Indochinese Administration at:
Foochow
Hankow
Mongtsceu
Pakhoi

From the "Bulletin Mensuel des Postes", March 1913, No. 3 - Note on the rate applicable to letters exchanged between France and Indochina by way of Siberia.

"The tariff for letters between France and Indochina has been fixed by Article No. 44 of the Law of Finances, dated April 8, 1910 and no restrictions are to be placed on this rate regardless of the forwarding route to be utilized. Hence, the internal rate is applicable to letters destined for Indochina, without restriction to the route employed for their despatch, i.e. by way of Suez or Siberia."

From the "Bulletin Mensuel des Postes", May 1913, No. 5 - "The forwarding of correspondence from Indochina to France by way of Siberia. Up to now, the Indochinese Administration has forwarded correspondence for France by way of the Trans-Siberian Railroad only if it had been franked at the international tariff. The General-Governmentship of Indochina has now decided that this restriction will be abolished henceforth. Mail originating from the Colony and franked at the rate for France and its Colonies will be sent by this route."

Thus, beginning from May 1913, all mail exchanged by way of the Trans-Siberian route between France and the French offices in the Far East and Indochina enjoyed the France and Colonies rate for letters, i.e. 10 centimes, or the equivalent in local currency, for a letter whose weight did not exceed 20 grammes (2/3 oz.).

The World War I Period 1914-1918 - The benefit of the reduced rate did not last for a long time. The state of war between Germany on the one hand, France and Russia as allies on the other, put a limit to the transmission of the French mail exchanged with the Far East by the Trans-Siberian route. This was officially announced in Circular No. 159 EP of April 13, 1915 "relating to the forwarding of correspondence addressed to Indochina by way of the Trans-Siberian route", which was sent to postmasters, but not made public, as mentioned in the "Bulletin Mensuel des Postes" page 655 for 1915.

However, it must not be concluded that all traffic stopped during the war years. Mail from the Far East, arriving in Moscow, could in fact proceed to Petrograd and from this port continue on its way by sea to neutral Western
countries or allies of Russia. Also, the above-mentioned circular only refers to mail for Indochina, which was forwarded with more security and doubtless quite rapidly by the Suez sea route.

An example of transmission by the Trans-Siberian route during wartime is provided by a letter which left Peking on April 1, 1915 and was delivered in Melun, France on April 28, i.e. after a 27-day journey, which was shorter than by sea.

The real cessation of traffic was caused by the Russian Revolution of 1917 ending in the seizure of power by the Bolsheviks, who signed a separate peace with Germany (the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk in March 1918).

The Revolutionary Period 1918-1922 - These grave events marked the end of the first period of postal traffic by the Trans-Siberian route. They gave way at the same time to a new revolutionary era in Siberia which was to last until the end of 1922.

Counter-revolutionary movements sprang up in various regions of Siberia. A provisional government supported by the Allies was set up with the cooperation of Admiral Kolchak and the Japanese landed at Vladivostok, while the Social-Revolutionaries formed a Provisional Duma or Chamber of Representatives of the People, which was moved to Kharbin. This Duma found itself face to face with a local government of monarchist tendencies, under the authority of General Khovat. Thus, Siberia found itself in complete anarchy.

It was then that the Czech Volunteer Corps, which had been set up in Russia under the authority of Marsaryk to fight on the Russian front against the Central Powers, and which was augmented with Czech and Slovak prisoners taken from the Austrian Army, decided on February 20, 1918 to continue the fight on the side of the Allies by linking up with the French Army. Escaping from the Bolshevik Army, which wanted to disarm and integrate them, and supported by Baltic elements, they seized the Trans-Siberian Railroad, so as to get to Vladivostok.

At the end of 1919, the Omsk Government was set up in Siberia, by agreement with the counter-revolutionary government of Samara, which latter city, now known as Kuibyshev, was situated on an extension of the Trans-Siberian Railroad, at the junction of the Volga and Samara rivers. Admiral Kolchak became the head of this Omsk Government. However, his army, after many vicissitudes and diverse fortunes, was pushed back by the Red Army during the course of the year 1919 from Ufa in Russia to behind the Urals and then to Omsk and Novosibirsk. The troops revolted and took to flight and finally Kolchak, who had resigned, got back to Irkutsk where he fell into the hands of insurgents and was shot on February 7, 1920.

Meanwhile, the Allies had sent military missions and contingents of troops to Vladivostok. The British, who had embarked at Singapore and Hongkong, landed at Vladivostok on August 2, 1918 and were followed by Canadian troops. A French military mission headed by General Janin was also directed there. After the death of Kolchak, the Allies evacuated Siberia and repatriated the Czechoslovak troops to Europe.

These military contingents from various countries have left behind for postal historians their franking marks and military cachets. The Czechoslovaks issued a number of stamps whose postal usage is somewhat debatable, but which are regarded by their compatriots as precious historical souvenirs, which are much sought after.
The Soviet authorities, who were set up originally at Irkutsk, advanced towards the East where a Far Eastern Republic was established at Chita and towards the Maritime Province which was still occupied by the Japanese. In October 1922, they reoccupied Vladivostok and the only thing left in the following months was to put an end to local resistance which had continued to spring up.

III - THE SECOND PERIOD OF TRANS-SIBERIAN POSTAL TRAFFIC - The Trans-Siberian route for international mail between Europe and the Far East, excluding Japan, was not resumed until September 6, 1923. A year later, it was extended to the Japanese mail, beginning from October 1, 1924. However, in this post-W.W.I period, there was a weekly service only. The conditions for transmission were specified in the following notes:

From the "Bulletin Mensuel des Postes", 1923, No. 19
"NOTE ON THE SUBJECT OF THE UTILIZATION OF THE TRANS-SIBERIAN ROUTE: - Beginning from September 6 next, the Trans-Siberian route will be utilized again for forwarding letters and postcards only, ordinary or registered, destined for Siberia and the Far East, with the exception of Japan.

Senders who wish to avail themselves of this service must mention this route at the top of their correspondence. Despatches will take place every Thursday night from Paris, as the Trans-Siberian Railroad can, for the moment, assure only a weekly departure from Moscow."

From the "Bulletin Mensuel des Postes", 1923, No. 31
"NOTE CONCERNING THE UTILIZATION OF THE TRANS-SIBERIAN AND RUSSIAN ROUTES: - (1) for Eastern Siberia and the Far East (Japan excepted) may be forwarded by the Trans-Siberian Railroad, if the notification of this route has been indicated by the senders at the top of the articles. (2) for Persia may be forwarded in transit by the Russian Administration on condition that the indication "Via Russie" be placed on the envelope or outer covering of the articles. Sendings for Northern Persia take two or three weeks to arrive at their destinations by this route, while the present sea route by Marseilles and Bombay requires five to seven weeks. The Paris-Etranger post office puts up daily a direct despatch for the Persian exchange offices containing mail which bears an indication of transmission via Russia.

Registered articles sent via the "Trans-Siberian" or "Russian" routes are only accepted at the senders' risk, until further notice."

From the "Bulletin Mensuel des Postes", 1924, No. 24
"NOTE ON THE SUBJECT OF THE UTILIZATION OF THE TRANS-SIBERIAN ROUTE: - From October 1, the Trans-Siberian route may be used for forwarding ordinary letters and postcards destined for Tonkin (North Indochina), as well as for all articles of correspondence ordinary or registered, destined for Japan. However, registered articles for this latter country must only be accepted at the senders' risk.

The notification "Via Trans-Siberian" must be given in a very clear fashion at the top of the articles. Moreover, correspondence for Tonkin, intended to be forwarded by this route, must be franked in accordance with the international rate.
Despatches take place from Paris every Thursday morning, so as to connect with the special weekly train which leaves Moscow on the Wednesday of the following week.

The time taken by this route is 22 to 24 days from Paris to Tokio, and 27 to 29 days from Paris to Haiphone."

From the "Bulletin Mensuel des Postes", 1924, No. 26
"NOTE CONCERNING THE DESPATCH OF CORRESPONDENCE TO BE FORWARDED BY THE TRANS-SIBERIAN ROUTE: - From November 1, correspondence for the Far East (Siberia, China, Japan and Tonkin) addressed to go by way of the Trans-Siberian route, is despatched every Saturday morning, leaving the PARIS-NORD R. R. Station at 8.10 am, instead of Thursday, to link up with the special weekly train which leaves Moscow on the Wednesday of the following week. This new arrangement will ensure the saving of a period of 48 hours for despatches."

It is fitting to note here that the French offices in North China and the Indo-Chinese offices in South China were finally closed on December 31, 1922, prior to the resumption of traffic by the Siberian route. Therefore, the only mail from French offices in the Far East after 1923 can only have originated from Tonkin (North Indochina) and the franking must have been at the international rate.

The Trans-Siberian route was in use until 1939, particularly for Japan and the countries bordering on Siberia. From 1930, the development of commercial aviation began to supplant it, just as it had itself superseded the sea route.

In the course of this study, we will review the different items which have been examined, often thanks to the kindness of helpful correspondents, whose identifying initials and names are given below in alphabetical order:

K. A. : Kurt Adler, New York, N.Y., U.S.
G. B. : Gaston Berteloot, La Madeleine-lez-Lille, France.
A. C. : Andrew Cronin, New York, N.Y., U.S.
C. D. : Colonel C. Deloste, Bordeaux, France.
J. D. : J. Dumont, Vincennes, France.
J. G. : Dr. J. Grasset, Nice, France.
A. M. : A. Mabille, Montauban, France.
G. P. : Georges Petit, Bois-Colombes, France.
L. P. : Dr. L. Philippe, Paris, France.
G. B. S. : Dr. Gregory B. Salisbury, Philadelphia, Pa., U.S.
H. T. : Henri Trissant, Paris, France (items from my personal collection).

(to be continued)

EDITORIAL COMMENT: With characteristic Gallic clarity, Monsieur Trissant has brought forward several important points and deductions, which we hope will be studied carefully by our specialists. In particular, it would be very interesting to hear of any material sent from Europe to China and the Far East by the Trans-Siberian route during the Russo-Japanese War, as well as any evidence of utilization of this route from March 1905 to April 1907, i.e. during the period of the 1905 Revolution in Russia and its aftermath. The attention drawn by Monsieur Trissant to postal rates, especially from France and Europe to the Far East during the 1903-1912 period is noteworthy, and all in all, we feel that there are many discoveries still to be made in this fascinating field. We urge members to send in full details of any such material they possess, so as to make this study as comprehensive as possible.
NOTES FROM COLLECTORS

D. N. Minchev, Sofia, Bulgaria

A. Pages from Bulgarian Errinophilia: In my article on this subject published in Rossica No. 67, I dealt, among other things, with the 10-leva label, printed in 1923 and having as its theme the well-known painting "All quiet at Shipka", by the great Russian painter Vereshchagin. This particular etiquette was issued on the occasion of the 45th anniversary of the liberation of Bulgaria and in aid of the Russian veterans and Bulgarian militia who served in the 1877-78 war.

My surprise may readily be imagined when I recently had the opportunity of finding another value in this design, namely 5 leva, and printed in grey-blue. It has the same characteristics as the 10-leva stamp. The specimen of this 5-leva value which is before me, is without gum and shows the trace of some kind of marking applied in lilac.

In any case, it appears that this value is quite rare, as it has only just been discovered while the 10-leva vignette is encountered much more frequently.

B. "La Postelnitzesse": In his interesting article "Notes about the Russian Post Offices in Rumania", published in Rossica No. 69, Mr. Kurt Adler mentions that the word "Postelnitzesse" in the address on the letter under examination is unintelligible to him. I am taking the liberty here to give a few short explanatory notes regarding this word.

The Rumanian word "postelnic", which is of Slav origin, denotes a title given to a male courtier in the service of the Moldavian and Wallachian "hospodars" or princes. This noble title indicated a great boyar and member of the Princely Council, who also had to be at hand to carry out the functions of Marshal of the Prince's Court, and who supervised the care of the Prince's bed chamber.

In Moldavia, the administrator of the province of Jassy was also referred to as a "postelnic". During the Phanariote period of the 18th and 19th centuries, the Minister of External Affairs bore this title. Later on, the boyars or nobles were called "postelnics", although they did not carry out any special duties. There were several categories of postelnics, including second class, third class, etc.

The wife of the postelnic was called "postelniceasa", from which is derived the attempt to gallicize the word into "Postelnitzesse", as given in the address on the letter.

It appears from the data given by Mr. Adler that Alexandra Soutzo (or Shutsu in the Rumanian version), was a member of the great Phanariote clan of Soutzo from Constantinople. Alexander and Michael Soutzo, who were members of this family, became the "hospodars" of Moldavia and Wallachia respectively, and were appointed as such by the Sublime Porte (the Imperial Turkish Government at Constantinople). The first of them ruled from 1818 to 1821 and the second from 1819 to 1821. They were the last Phanariotes to administer the two Rumanian principalities.

EDITORIAL COMMENT: For the benefit of our non-Slav readers, we like to point out that Mr. Minchev is correct in saying that the word "postelnic" is of Slav origin, as the term 'postel' means "bed" in Russian. Mr. Minchev is an authority on
Balkan history and it would be well to explain here that the word "Phanariote" originally denoted a dweller of the suburb of Phanar in Constantinople. Many wealthy and influential Greek merchants lived there and they enjoyed certain economic and political privileges in the Turkish Empire.

C. Further notes on the Russian marking for the Postal Department in T'rnovo: In connection with the cachet notified by me in the article "A special marking of the Russian Posts in Bulgaria during 1877-79" published in Rossica No. 68, I recently had the chance to find out a few additional details about it.

Mr. K. Kopanov refers to this marking in his article entitled "The postal and telegraphic service at T'rnovo under Turkish rule, during the liberation and immediately thereafter", published on pages 307-312 of the manual "60 years of the Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones", Sofia 1939. After the author has set out a series of data on the workings of the posts and telegraphs in T'rnovo, we find the following information at the end of the article, given here in summarized form - "It is seen from the files that undeliverable registered and valuable sendings were sent after the expiration of a period of three months to the "Postal Department" for storage, but without specifying where this department was situated. With regard to this, correspondence has been found which originated from the office at Gabrovo and sent to the Postal Department as undeliverable letters. A cachet in circular form has been seen placed on the correspondence and the text reads as follows: "Komissiya khraneniya nerozdannoi korrespondentsii". From this, it may be inferred that the 'Postal Department' was in T'rnovo".

As can well be seen from the excerpts quoted above, it is clearly evident that the opinions expressed by us concerning this cachet have been almost completely verified. A new fact that emerges is that registered and valuable sendings were also forwarded for storage after the expiration of a period of three months to the "Postal Department" in T'rnovo.


Re the excellent article by Viktor Indra on the 3 kor. stamp of the Carpatho-Ukraine, which was published in Rossica No. 69, I like to announce a further cancel found on this historic stamp. As can be seen from the illustration here-with, a marginal copy of this stamp is shown on piece with a special cancellation in red dated March 18, 1939, 10 am, with subscript "a" and reading "PRAHA I-NÁVŠTIVA VUDECE A ŘÍŠSKÉHO KANCIÈRE 15 A 16 BREZNA 1939" ("Prague I, Wellcome to the Fuhrer and Reichs Chancellor, 15 and 16 March 1939"). This was applied in the first days of the German occupation of Bohemia and Moravia, and the surprising thing about the cancel is that the text is still entirely in Czech, rather than bilingually in German and Czech which would normally have been the case.

Michael Carson, Arcola, Illinois - I wish to report a variety of a Russian stamp, Scott No. 2440, 2 Kopeck green. The variation is in the lettering "CCCP" in the upper right corner. As shown in my crude drawings, on the normal stamp, the tail
of the second "C" extends beyond the third and on the variety, it does not.

In regard to this variety (which was unknown to me), I would like the following questions answered. Has this variety been reported previously? If so, it is a constant one? What is its position in the sheet? Are there any other varieties in this issue?

Dr. A. H. Wortman, London, England - Dr. de Stackelberg will have read my comments on Kessler's cover on p. 22 of No. 69. My cover with imprint of the Russo-Chinese Bank, Dalny and stamp with cancellation of the No. 17 F.P.O. is fairly strong evidence that this F.P.O. was near Dalny in December 1903. His comment on the Cyrillic "i" following No. 17 in the cancellation is interesting. Do we have here another of the Cyrillic errors referred to by Andy Cronin recently? I can assure him that in the six or seven covers I have with No. 11, No. 13 and No. 17 F.P.O.'s they all have the Cyrillic "i" following the number.

Cronin's illustration of a label with "Taken out of a box" etc. reminds me of a similar one which I have, also of St. Petersburg, indicating that the cover was received damaged and officially re-sealed. The label is printed in black on yellow, the top of the cover is torn where it has been re-sealed and the date of the postmark is 1915.

Melvin M. Kessler, Yorba Linda, California - Dr. de Stackelberg's comments in the Rossica Journal, No. 69, pages 64-65, on my article "The Dalny Field Telegraph Branch Cancellation on a Remarkable Cover" in Rossica Journal, No. 68, were very much appreciated, particularly about Cancellation No. 4 (pages 22-23) in reference to the location of the 17th Field Post Office on the Iyantoing Peninsula in April 1903. The doctor's analysis of the likely location of the military post office at the time serves to help clarify a point or add other interpretations to points in question for which writers do not always have a ready answer owing to lack of supporting data. The interpretative comments from studied researchers such as Dr. de Stackelberg add a positive stimulus to find answers to postal history questions and are indeed welcome.

When I wrote the article, I had no idea where the 17th Field Post Office was located in 1903. To be sure, the location of the field post office could have been up the line north of Dalny, as Dr. de Stackelberg suggests. The location of this office on 25 April 1903, when the cover received its postmark, has not yet been determined. If only the detailed history of Russian military units in the Far East at the turn of the present century were available, how much easier our task as postal historians would be.

I have taken the liberty of sending to Dr. de Stackelberg a Xerox copy of the cover since it was illustrated in No. 68 in reduced size.

Dr. C. de Stackelberg, Washington, D.C. - Mr. Walter E. Norton of Philadelphia, the erudite Editor of the "Bulletin of the Lithuanian Philatelic Society" of New York was kind enough to give me five stamps with faked "Postgebiet Ober-Ost" overprints for my collection of bogus and faked stamps. I did not know that these fakes existed, as they are even not mentioned in Michel's catalog, which generally notes all known fakes. As these fakes might interest our members, I will now describe them:
The stamps I was given represent two types of faked overprints on genuine German stamps, all of which are cancelled. Unfortunately I am unable to distinguish whether the faked overprints were affixed on already cancelled stamps, as I suspect, or whether a faked cancellation was added later. Fake Type I. At first glance the overprints are very similar to the genuine overprint. The print is as heavy, but coarser, i.e. the letters do not have the type fineness of the original overprint. One chief difference can easily be detected with a magnifying glass: the top left flourish of the "P" in Postgebiet, instead of forming a small "s", ending in a thin stroke to the left, looks more like a "c", ending to the right in a thick stroke. Fake Type II: is easy to detect, as the lettering is very thin, quite different from the heavier type appearing in the original or faked Type I overprints. Of Type I, I have the 3,15 and 40 Pf. stamps, and of Type II only the 5 and 10 Pf. stamps. I never the less suspect that they exist in all the original values. As Ober-Ost stamps are still comparatively cheap, it is odd that one would bother to falsify them.

John Lloyd, Colchester, England - A Double sheet of the Arms Type, imperf. 1 rouble denomination recently found its way into my collection. On examination this sheet was most unusual in that it appeared to have been torn and repaired with pieces of gummed paper at the right hand lower corner, on the gum side.

On a closer look one could see that the original tear was due to the corner of the sheet being doubled under when put through the machine applying the chalk net. There are no chalk lines where the sheet was creased and doubled under.

On then being handled, preparatory to being fed into the machine applying the design, the operator flattened the sheet, but not enough, as this crease in the paper then became torn in its turn. Part of this second tear remained turned under the sheet whilst having the background and the design printed over the space where the turned under piece should be. On the fold being flattened out, it now appears blank.

This stamp, number forty six, of the right-hand pane of fifty with the V's below it is only half printed.

Fred W. Speers, Escondido, California - Recently I circulated a memo among some dealers that I was on the trail of so-called "aviation propaganda Labels" or the "air fleet" labels. One of my good friends (who has visited here in Escondido) sent me an astonishing one of 1923--the so-called "build a plane for Ilyich" one. He says he believes there are only two copies of it in existence. Needless I have come into possession of another prize item: A flown card from the Sibiriakov ice breaker to the Kola Peninsula with the 50 K rose carmine 2nd Polar Year stamp--and what's more--a printed in red ink air mail etiquette, printed on the card, that is. True, the card obviously was prepared for the flight, but it's the first instance I've ever seen of one of the three-line red on yellow etiquettes reproduced in printing on a card.

Vsevolod Popov, Nyack, New York - Very seldom, at stamp auctions during the past few years in the U.S.A., cancelled R.S.F.S.R. stamps have been offered of the consular Post. Sometimes photos of the stamps were shown in the catalogs of the sale, revealing the same method of cancellation - four horizontal or vertical lines, parallel, and of 1½-2 mm in width. I acquired one such stamp "12 German marks on 2r.25 Kop." (Cat. Sanabria) Type I, "Postage stamps of USSR" - Type III. Not having a quartz lamp for verifying the stamp overprint with one already having
a guarantee of SFA, I have nevertheless data confirming the genuineness of the overprint of the bought stamp. As for the cancellation, not one of the examined catalogues states anything about the parallel cancellations of these stamps. It is recorded that these stamps were cancelled by ink or pencil, and there is general silence about the methods of cancellation. I sent a photo of my acquired stamp to my correspondent in Moscow. He was a member of the jury for the USSR exhibit at "Praha 62" international exhibition. I likewise asked him to tell me all that he knew about this type of cancellation. His answer was, "stamps of the consular post are known to me and my colleagues in Moscow never to have been glued to the envelopes. They were glued in the ledger, according to which in Berlin the consular mail was dispatched. Thus these stamps served as a receipt for payment of postage. These stamps were cancelled by a chemical pencil. To determine if this cancellation with lines is genuine, is probably impossible."

If we believe this statement it becomes clear why these consular stamps are not found on envelopes. There are many dark spots in Russian philately. We hope, that with the aid of other philatelists we may "liquidate" such dark spots in the near future.

Dr. Rudolf Seichter, Soltan, Germany - (Comments to #69, Page 7)

N 1. This cover is a simple philatelic work. It is not noted, if the card had really gone through the post. It has a private text. The field post wanted no postage stamps but philatelists affixed different stamps: Russian, Polish, German etc. and asked the postal clerk to apply the field post mark. We also know of postage stamps, used not for franking letters but for their "embellishment" only from upper Silesia, cards, pre World War I, the 3 emperors, have one postage stamp for franking, and others additionally from Russia and Austria, cancelled with Austrian, Russian postmarks. Thus they went through the post. We know of some kind from China 1900: German, English-colonial, French colonial, perhaps China itself, stamps together with different postmarks mailed to Europe.

N 5. pg. 8 A well known "Schierhorn" letter, Ukraine 1918/20 overprint Ekaterinoslav II. A great number of letters of major Schierhorn, written to his own address, perhaps went through the post, perhaps not. With all the values of Ekaterinoslav album of F. Hennig-Weimar 1920, (English language-priced in U.S. dollars). Thus are conserved many numbers of good stamps and letters for collectors.

BOOK REVIEWS

"SOVIETSKII KOLLEKTSIONER N. 3" ("Soviet Collector No. 3 for 1965"). Issued by the Moscow City Collectors' Society and published by the "Svyaz" Printery in an issue of 25,000 copies as a paperback of 176 pages. Price 1 ruble and reviewed by our honorable member Kurt Adler.

The third issue of the "Soviet Collector" prints in first place an important editorial by Editor-in-Chief B. Stalbaum under the heading "Be friends with the Post Office." In it, he condemns the lack of interest of many Soviet philatelists in the postal history of their country. He criticizes the fact that they are collecting only mint stamps and are completely disinterested in philatelic research. Stalbaum cites as an example for the right approach to philately the work done by French philatelists which the Moscow collectors could view at the Paris-Moscow Exhibition during the summer of 1965. This exhibition, by the way, included some splendid items from the collection of our honorable member Michel Liphschutz, demonstrated by their owner.

Stalbaum calls on the Soviet philatelists to do research on the postal history of the Turkestan-Siberian Railroad (Turksib), the different industrial projects of the first Five-Year Plan, such as Magnitostroi, the postal services of the

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developments on the Volga, Angara and Yenisei rivers, and the Bolshoi Tyumen Oil Deposit projects, as well as the work of the Field Post during the Second World War. He further criticizes the speculative character of the fabrication of special cancellations by many City Collectors' Societies, for almost any topical event such as Cosmos or Sport. He forgets to mention, however, that the Moscow Society is doing exactly the same thing. Many such special cancellations are not listed in the official Soviet catalogs of these cachets. He condemns also the speculative issuance by the Ministry of Communications of topical sets such as birds, animals, flora etc., usually being inferior to foreign emissions as to technical execution.

We heartily endorse Mr. Stalbaum's criticisms. As collectors of Russian stamps, we have come a long way to arrive at serious research of Russian and Soviet postal history. Our collections of Russian Field Post, Railroad Post Offices (stationary and travelling), Ship Posts, postmarks of different governmentships and districts of the country, such as Transcaspia, Crimea, Ukraine, Bessarabia and the northern areas such as Karelia, bilingual postmarks (Ukrainian, White-Russian, Tartar and other Turkic types, Tadzhik, Birobidzhanian, just to name a few), the immense spaces of Siberia including the former autonomous republic of Tannu-Tuva, the whole array of Russian Post Offices abroad, are all being studied by us and serious philatelic research is taking place.

The manual continues with an article on the first Soviet stamps by Yu. Parmenov, Leniniana on stamps by V. Karinskii and a further topical article entitled "Moscow, yesterday and today" by A. Vigilev. Next come "The Zemstvo Post and its stamps" by D. Karachun and an interesting article, somewhat on the lines of our own "Notes from Collectors" by the noted Soviet philatelist S. M. Blekhman and entitled "First Steps". Under the discussion section we read an article by A. Kolesnikov entitled "Variety or Freak?" and V. Yakobs follows with the special cancels of the USSR for 1964. The next section on research poses a question about an Imperial proof well-known in the West, details on a Rumanian series of stamps prepared at Petrograd in 1917 but never issued, and a description of a medal in honor of I. P. Kulibin, a researcher in mechanics.

Then follow sections on numismatics, collecting paper money, illustrated postcards, and matchbox labels. Notes from abroad include an article on the huge collection of medals and badges held by Ferenc Karoly of Rumania, a survey of Bulgarian philately by Todor Garvanov, the Editor-in-Chief of "Philatelen Pregled" and a description of an unusual museum of matchbox labels in Poland. Next follow book reviews, including a very good bibliography, some pages in a lighter vein, and the volume concludes with informative notes, descriptions of exhibitions, definitions of line and comb perforations and colors of overprints and with a list of all clubs and societies in the country bringing up the rear.


During the past few years, philatelic literature in the USSR has become more and more varied. Together with this, the quality of such work has been rising. Among it is the recently issued book entitled "A Journey without Visas", which contains 320 richly illustrated pages. This is actually a Russian translation of the second edition of the well-known work by Wolfram Grallert, published at Leipzig
in 1963 under the original German title "Erdball ohne Grenzen" ("The Globe without Frontiers") and which has enjoyed great popularity among philatelists because of its interesting contents.

Notable and remarkable facts and events of all kinds relating to the postal history of many parts of the world are related here in an absorbing way and thus back up the sub-title which is given as "Book of the Posts and of Philately".

The interesting thing about the Russian edition is the addition of much explanatory material which is inserted into the original text, together with valuable supplementary commentaries which are to be found on the last 16 pages of the book and which are the work of B. Stalbaum, under whose editorship the book has been issued. The latter notes are mainly concerned with the history and development of the Russian and Soviet postal services and philately, which Grallert was not able to deal with in a broader fashion. Actually, it is these notes that make the Russian translation of the original book so useful. The book, which appeared during the last few days of 1965, is highly recommended.

"KOLLEKCIJONARS Nr. 23" - ("The Collector" No. 23). A quarterly magazine of Latvian philately edited in Canada and distributed in the United States by our member Andrejs Petrevics of Perry, New York.

The number under review was issued in September 1965 and is almost entirely in Latvian. Among much informative data, we note a very interesting article by Mr. Petrevics on pp. 8-9 on the subject of the postal history of the naval base of the Port of the Emperor Alexander III, or "Kara Osta" (naval port), as it is known to our Latvian colleagues.

The subject was originally raised in the "Notes from Collectors" section of Rossica No. 65 for 1963 and Mr. Petrevics reproduces the postcard about which we had given details and adds further information to show that subscript letters "a" "b" and "g" are now known to exist. The author rounds off the article with illustrations of two interesting German cards relating to the base and issued during W.W. I.


Already well-known to our readers through translations of some of its leading articles, this particular issue gives many details of a Bulgarian-Soviet Philatelic Exhibition held in Sofia at the end of October 1965. Among other interesting features, we note illustrations of some nice Zemstvo markings from Bogorodsk and a combination cover to Buguruslan, a fine description, complete with illustrations of the beautiful Tuvan treasures held by S. M. Blekhman, and last but not least a mouth-watering photograph of a 10-kopek narrow-tail stamped envelope with a clear strike of the single-circle type of cancel reading "MINUSINSK 20 JUN. 1869." Any marking from that period emanating from Eastern Siberia is a nice item! All in all, this issue of the magazine contains much of interest to collectors in our sphere.

"LATVIEŠU FILATELISTS UN KOLLEKCIJONARS" - (Latvian Philatelist and Collector), issued by the Latvian Philatelic Society 1966, February, No 1/60, Editor - J. Ronis, Woodward Ave, Brampton, Ont. Canada.
This is No. 1 of the joint magazines from Latvian Philatelic Society's publication "Latviesu Filatelists" and by A. Petrevics and J. Ronis publication "Kollekcionars".

Some of the articles are: "Cancellations on First Stamp of Latvia" by A. Veveris is a continued story from "Kollekcionars" No 18 - 24. Here are description about round cancellations of town Jelgava. 1) JELGAWA with 3 ears of corn and head of deer - in the end of 1918 - with open bridge for date, year marked with two last numbers, in the start of 1919 and under Soviet occupation - with closed bridge, year marked with 4 numbers. E. Becker in his table LE 15 gives the last one but without dash over last "a" in "Latwija". 2) JELGAWA as the first Latvian cancel of RIGA with 1 star and letter "a".

"Money or Tax Stamp" by well known numismatist A. Platbarzdis from Sweden, continues from "Kollekcionars" No 18 about the Rezekne town administration's stamp for tax or money and stated his opinion that this stamp was used also as payment.

A. Balodis in his article "Somija - Karelija - Ingrija" tells about Finland and her provinces and how the changes of Russian occupation showed up in postmarks.


A. Veveris - "Rainis in Exile Philately" - Covers and postcards issued on the poet Rainis 100th birthday with the designs from Rainis stamps which were issued Latvia 1930.

J. Ronis - "100 Latu banknote of Latvia 1923." Description about collection of Latvia's 100 latu banknote - proofs, detailed drawings, color trail prints, with designers R. Zarrins handwritten marks.

BOOK NOTE


This carefully compiled German-language manual and catalogue provides a useful frame of reference for the orientation of the collector of censored mail of the world.

Not intended by the author to be a comprehensive monograph on the subject, it provides not only a useful listing of pieces bearing censorship markings, with a valuation of each censored piece, but also a number of references to studies by other authors for further research.

Arranged chronologically, the material covers censorship markings on pre-stamp mail as well, extending as far back as 1745 in the case of Great Britain and the years of the French Revolution, 1789-94, in the case of France.

Of particular interest to us are references to Russian censorship markings included in this volume.
The first to be noted is the "D. Z." marking of 1890. Unfortunately, these initials are mistakenly explained as standing for "Department Zenzura," whereas, in reality, these initials, of course, stand for "Dosvoleno Zenzuroi" (Passed by the Censor). This error is repeated in subsequent listings.

Next to be listed are the censorship markings of the Russo-Japanese war period extending from February 5, 1904 to September 5, 1905. This includes, on the Russian side, the light-violet cachet with the double-headed Russian eagle.

In the description of the censorship markings of the World War I period only the major types are included and no attempt is made to report the variety of place names included in many of the cachets, nor to list any of the well-known examples of the "Voennaya Zenzura", or Military Censorship, cachets of that period.

Censorship markings of Finland, treated separately, include those with inscriptions in Russian only, in Finnish and Swedish and in Finnish, Swedish and German. Both the cachets and the labels are dealt with.

Markings of Poland are classed as "Old Poland" (with inscriptions in Polish), the formerly German territory--giving place names in German and Polish--and formerly Austrian territory, with a like listing in these two languages.

While Estonia is given a brief separate mention, no reference is made to the markings of Lithuania or of Latvia. Absence of adequate recognition of the interesting and scarce markings of the formative period of independent countries of the Baltic region is an important omission.

One does find a mention of Riga cachet of May, 1919--the lilac double oval with Russian text of Censor No. 3, and of the Libau cachet of June, 1919--the violet two-numeral cachet "Censure à Libau/Censeur (signature)", but this is noted under Soviet Union listing of 1919.

To list under the Soviet Union markings dated 1919 is, in itself, an anachronism, failing to distinguish the RSFSR period from that of the USSR.

The Russian markings of the interesting closing period of World War I, or of the entire civil war period of 1917-1921, are woefully neglected. This is in contrast to a detailed listing of the markings of the Spanish Civil War of 1936-1939, which specifically enumerates such markings by place names both on the republican side and on the side of Franco.

Another, obviously inadvertent, slip is an anachronistic attribution of the place name Petrograd to St. Petersburg, much before the war-time change in the name of the Russian capital.

These, however, are minor flaws in an otherwise excellent compilation, attractively presented and well-illustrated by numerous cuts, a number of them in color.

This work should be of interest and of help to the beginner, as well as the advanced collector. We look forward to an early appearance of Volume II of this most worth-while compilation.

Boris Shishkin
British Journal of Russian Philately #37, October 1965 - Editor P. T. Ashford presents another excellent issue with varied and pleasing contents which include: the Shagiv Issue of the Ukraine by I. L. G. Baillie, the Eagle Stamp of the Western Army by R. J. Benns outstanding covers by Kurt Adler and Michel Lipschutz, the "Three Solid Triangle" Ekspeditsiya Postmarks of 1921-22 by H. Q. Marris; "Ekspeditsiya Postmarks with triangles on Ukraine cards and covers" by Dr. R. Seichter, Fourth Addenda to Russian Field Post Cancellations during the Russo-Japanese War 1904-5 by Kurt Adler, A. S. Waugh's "Modern Soviet Stamp Varieties", and many others.


January 1966 - Kingdom of Poland-Russian Railway cancellations by Miroslaw A. Bajanowicz.

The American Philatelist - March 1966, Colors and philately by Fred W. Speers.

June 1965 - Russia: Commemoration of Lenin's Death, 1924 by Joseph M. Sousa, Jr.


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