

THE JOURNAL
of the
ROSSICA SOCIETY
of
RUSSIAN PHILATELY



Silver Medals at Belgrade National Exhibition "Zefib 1937" and
the International Exhibition, Koenigsberg "Ostropa 1935"
Bronze Medals at the International Exhibition "Praga 1935" and
Vienna International Exhibition "WIPA 1933"

Recent International Awards

Silver Medals at Berlin, "Bephila 1957", Parana, "Eficon 1958"
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Hon. Memb. Dr. G. Bondarenko-Salisbury

49th and Locust Streets

Philadelphia 39, Pa., U.S.A.

PUBLISHER

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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Hon. Memb. Andrew Cronin

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San Francisco	K. Jansson	624 16th Ave., San Francisco, Calif.
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The views expressed in this JOURNAL by the authors are their own and the Editors disclaim any responsibility.

At the present time the Membership Dues are \$5.00, due January 1, for all members. 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, P. O. Box 406, Englewood, New Jersey 07631.

We welcome advertisements from members, non-members and dealers. The rates are as follows: Full Page Ad 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 ADS except for covers which is full price for all. Therefore, the net cost of advertisements to members is only 25¢ 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

The letter from Vsevolod Kurbas arrived on Monday, 17th of April, with the news of his illness, anginal pains, a possibility of a coming coronary thrombosis... "my condition is catastrophic and I already made certain arrangements, just in case...sorry that I cannot help you with the membership list of Rossica...deepest thanks for your past kindness and concern about me...I wish you all the best, and beg you to remember me well". His face, seen but a brief while ago at a luncheon during the INTERPEX, seemed to appear on the sheet of paper, and a foreboding chill set about the date of writing "April 14th!" The phone rang, "This is Lavrov". Did you hear that Kurbas died on Friday the 14th? He was buried on Sunday." It was a terrible shock, the suddenness of it all, the ruthless smuffing out of a human flame of life. Vsevolod Antonovich was a kind, gentle, self-effacing, humble man, who lived a great deal in the past glories of the Empire that is no more, the battles of the Civil War in which he participated, and in the code of honor of the Russian officer. He knew history and geography amazingly well, as well as philately, and was of great help on the editorial staff. When he received the title of the "Honored Member" he was deeply touched, and grateful, Rossica salutes you dear Vsevolod Antonovich, and prays for the peace of your soul!

The following notice appeared on the front page of Novoye Russkoe Slovo, as a memorial, on Sunday, April 23rd: Dr. G. B. Bondarenko-Salisbury, President of the Rossica Society, the officers of the society, and all of its members deeply grieve at the untimely passing of their member and friend Vsevolod Antonovich Kurbas, on Friday 14th of April, 1967."

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New appointments have been made to the editorial staff, please note in the write up of the INTERPEX meeting. Mr. Andrew Cronin, who is now the Associate Editor, provides a most capable replacement for the Editor, in case of illness. There is no fear for the demise of the Journal, a common cause for the ending of publication, as it happened to our own Rossica when Eugene Archanguelsky could no longer carry on. Our C. P. Bulak, another addition to the editorial boards, is an indefatigable worker, a great rarity these days, for most of our members, it seems, are allergic to hard work. The new Ukrainian editor, takes place of the late Captain de Shramchenko, and fills a void long felt by us all. We need a qualified, level headed specialist in Ukrainian philately, not only to edit the articles in this field, but to attract new members who are avid collectors of Ukrainian stamps, and who desire sound articles of interest to them. We appeal to the large body of Ukraine specialists, and the rank and file collectors to join Rossica, to send us articles. Editor J. Terlecky, our Ukrainian editor needs support!

LIFE OF THE SOCIETY

ROSSICA MEETS DURING INTERPEX

Rossica Society of Russian Philately met during Interpex at the Americana Hotel, in New York, on Sunday, March 19, 1967. As in the past, a fine turn out featured a series of interesting events.

At noon, the New York delegation, headed by the Chairman Jos. F. Chudoba, joined Dr. Gregory B. Salisbury, President and Editor of the Society, for a lively lunch, followed by an informal meeting. Dr. Salisbury announced changes in the editorial staff, appointing Andrew Cronin as the Associate editor of the Journal, J. Terlecky as a new member of the editorial board, in charge of the Ukrainian philately, and C. P. Bulak as another member of the editorial board, in charge of Russian manuscripts, and Zemstovs. Mr. Bulak has done a great job in this capacity, unofficially, particularly during the past few issues. Mr. Cronin needs no introduction, for he is Internationally known for his original research in the philately of Tanna Touva, Mongolia, Russian Offices in Levant, Balkans and in the entire field of Russian philately in general.

At two o'clock a capacity crowd of Rossica members filled one of the lecture halls, and heard a remarkable lecture, and an illustrated presentation of Zemstvo local stamps by Emile Marcovitch, famous specialist in this field. It was given in the Russian language, simultaneously translated into English by Dr. Salisbury. Some of the greatest rarities were shown, as well as unusual items on piece, in blocks, sheets, and on covers, some in mixed franking with the Imperial postage. Afterwards, Dr. Salisbury described his recent experience with the armed gunmen who invaded his office, beat him over the head with guns, robbed him, and tied him up with his patient!

The activities ended by Boris Shishkin, Chairman of the Greater Washington chapter of Rossica, giving a party in his suite, and serving refreshments, interlarded with his famed wit and anecdotes. In another part of the hotel Martin L. Harow, publisher of the Rossica Journal, met with the editor for a long session dealing with the forthcoming #72 issue.

NEW YORK CHAPTER

Joseph F. Chudoba, Chairman of the New York City Chapter, writes that the group had a meeting on May 6, 1967, and at the opening stood in silent prayer for the departed member, Mr. V. Kurbas. Mr. Emile Marcovitch reported about the funeral which he attended as the representative of Rossica. Martin L. Harow, publisher of the Journal, commented on the progress of the forthcoming issue, which was being completed. A brisk bit of stamp buying and trading followed the business meeting.

WASHINGTON CHAPTER MEETS

The Greater Washington Chapter of Rossica Society met at Gordon Torrey's on Saturday, 4 March. This meeting's topic was Russian Levant Post Offices. Torrey gave a most interesting talk on the historical background of these offices and illustrated it by showing material from his collection. Boris Shishkin displayed a number of gems from his extensive collection, as did Ed. Wolski.

A pleasant addition to the meeting was the presence of Mr. Goldblatt, who had brought along a considerable lot of Russian material. Of special interest were the postal markings on several unusual covers and many pieces of Soviet inflation material. The fascinating story of their being acquired at Washington Dead Letter Office auction back in the early 1920s was recounted by Mr. Goldblatt.

Following a lively bourse, refreshments, including blinis, were provided by Mrs. Torrey.

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REPORT FROM WASHINGTON

Boris Shishkin

The November meeting of the Greater Washington Chapter of the Rossica Society centered on philatelic literature.

A report was received from member Leo Gordon of the Philatelic Museum of the Smithsonian Institution about the discovery there of a nearly complete set of issues the earliest Russian stamp journal. He was urged to prepare a report of the find for a forthcoming issue of the Rossica Journal.

The Chapter's Treasurer, Ed Wolski, who is with the Library of Congress, led the discussion of the early literature on the Russian Zemstvos. Boris Shishkin noted that the earliest Zemstvo catalogue was published in French by Moens. Wolski reported his discovery of a copy of Wm. Herrick's "Catalogue of the Russian Rural Stamps," published in New York by the Scott Stamp and Coin Co. in 1896. Herrick's catalogue is based largely on Moens' pioneer work.

Wolski had also discovered in the Library of Congress the first, and extremely rare, handbook describing the Russian Zemsto stamps, published in Kiev in 1888 by Dmitrii Nikolaevich Chudovskii. This work lists and describes in detail all Zemstvo stamps, envelopes and wrappers issued through 1888.

Interestingly enough, the Library of Congress obtained this volume when it bought from the Soviet government some years ago the entire - and one might say "fabulous" - house library, intact, of a one-time wealthy Siberian trader, G. V. Yudin. The Chudovskii volume has a Yudin library book plate, dated 1907 and embodying an engraved portrait of the white-bearded, fur-capped trader and also a picture of the imposing Yudin mansion in which the library was originally housed.

Shishkin rounded out this review by showing his copies of the Stanley Gibbons Zemstvo catalogue of 1899, of Chuchin's and Schmidt's later classics and his set of the handbooks prepared by C. Schmidt and A. Faberge and published in a series of volumes by the "St. Petersburg" section of the Dresden International Philatelic Society. The preparation of these invaluable volumes was, unfortunately interrupted by World War I. It ended with the publication of Volume 16, ending the alphabetical listing of Zemstvo issues with that of Kolomna.

The meeting was rounded out by lively trading, in the course of which an interesting Siberian cover, signed by Chuchin himself, changed hands.

The Chapter Secretary, Gordon Torrey, brought to the meeting a supply of APS circuit books replete with Russian material which was eagerly snapped up.

Held in the home of the President of the Chapter, Boris Shishkin, the session was topped off by the customary blini with sour cream and Iranian beluga caviar.

Was only English collector at show



Mr John Lloyd and his unusual award.

EXHIBITION PARIS-MOSCOW-LENINGRAD IN PARIS

John Lloyd

I was unable to reach Paris until Saturday Evening 19th., too late to attend the Opening of the Exhibition Paris-Moscow-Leningrad Exhibition held at the Salle des Fetes de la Mairie du 13e arret, Place d'Italie. However, I went along on the Sunday morning to see the exhibition and hear all the news.

On the Saturday the opening was performed by the French Minister of Postes & Tele communications, Mr. Zorine, the Soviet Ambassador to France, and Mr. Berthelot, President of F.I.P. attending also. At this ceremony, was also present an eighteen member delegation from the Moscow and Leningrad Philatelic Societies. I gather everything went according to plan without any hitch whatsoever as everyone was in high spirits when I arrived on the Sunday morning.

On Sunday morning I met Monsieur George Citerne, president of the French Cercle, Michel Lipschutz, and various other members of the French Circle. The Russians under the wing of Monsieur Godard were visiting the sights of Paris, the following day the rota was changed, with Ch Godard attending the Exhibition and George Citerne and Michel Lipschutz taking the Russian party to Amiens at the invitation of Monsieur Ivert.

Now for a tour of the Exhibition, 74 exhibits in three thousand frames, 63 of these exhibits being of Russian or Soviet material, the other dozen or so were of French stamps or philatelic items. There was feast for everyone, from the first adhesive to the latest issues and everything in between to include "mutes"

to the 'erinophilia' stickers. The smallest entry was of 1 frame of 12 sheets to the largest display of Mr. Blekman's of Moscow, who had on show 16 frames of the "Soviet Air Mails". This last exhibit was to win the highest award. Michel Lipschutz displayed 'Zemstvos', and myself my 'Provisionals of the Revolutionary period'. Mr. Ch. Godard, Vice-President of the Cercle France-U.R.S.S. will be producing a detailed report of the entries on show so do not propose to describe in full all these wonderful exhibits. I can only say that it was enough to regale the most critical of collectors of Russian & Soviet stamps and other items.

One fault and one only, poor lighting from chandeliers, too high and too few.

Now to the 'Banquet des Palmars' held at the Restaurant Jean Goujon, rue Jean Goujon, near the Champs Elysees. At 8 p.m. 70 guests, one presumes, philatelists, met for cocktails in the foyer, where the English language was conspicuous by its absence, German, French and Russian, yes, but no English. At 8.30 we sat down to a wonderful menu of 'Saumon Glacee', 'Caneton', Salade a la Maison and oco on etc. etc. ... Red wine, white wine, Champagne with, to round off coffee and an exquisite liqueur.

This was to be the 'prize giving' banquet, so after appropriate speeches by Messieurs G. Citerne, President cercle France-U.R.S.S., Blumel, Conseiller Municipal de Paris, L. Berthelot, President de la Federation des Societes Philateliques Francaises, President de la F.I.P. and finally by E. Krenkel, President de la Societe des Philatelistes Sovietique, the prizes were announced.

Monsieur George Citerne then rose and told diners that he only proposed to announce the 16 top awards with their corresponding Special prizes if any, but that eventually all participants of the exhibition would receive a diploma and a souvenir from the organizing committee or donor. A complete list of prizewinners will appear in the bulletin of the Cercle France-U.R.S.S., but here are the top prizes as were awarded with the speeches and champagne.

One 'Vermeil' medal with Sevres Vase given by the President of the French Republic to Mr. Blekman of Moscow.

One 'Vermeil' medal and a Special Plaquette from the Society of Soviet Philatelics to Michel Lipschutz.

There were no 'Gold' awards so the two 'Vermeils' were followed by the 'Silver' medal awards which were eight in number for the 'classics' (in this case meaning normal philatelic collections not thematic).

Thus the list was: Mr. Blekman (Russian), Mr. Lipschutz (French) vermeils. Then three soviet collectors to receive 3 silvers with their special awards, the 4th silver award was my own, a silver medal presented by the Federation des Societes Philateliques Francaissess and presented to me by Monsieur Berthelot himself who wished me and our Society in London prosperity and success.

With this medal I also received from Mr. Citerne on behalf of the Moscow Collectors Society a special award for my entry of the Revolutionary Period. This special prize was a specially made porcelain plate with gold and red

edging and a replica of one of the centenary stamps issued in 1958 stamped in the centre of the plate. The whole was encased in a red velvet covered case lined with white silk. The remaining 2 silvers were then awarded with special prizes to participants.

After this 6 silver medals were then awarded to the 6 winners in the "Thematic" class. With each of these special prizes, given by various people or societies there were long and short speeches if in French they were translated into Russian if in Russian they were of course translated into French and generally speaking there was much merriment until about 1.30 a.m. when we all rose to have a general conversation before finding our way home.

I would like to record however a conversation which gave me a great deal of pleasure with Mr. E. Krenkel, president of the Soviet Society of Philatelists. No one was more surprised than myself when Mr. Krenkel came over to me after the dinner to shake my hand and tell me in perfect English that he was so pleased to meet me, an Englishman, interested in Soviet philately that he congratulated me on my display. During his conversation he also said that he would be writing to me for further details of our Society and work, researches and studies.

I did meet our friend and member John Fosbery at the Hotel Opera-Comique, who had attended the exhibition on opening day but who did not attend the banquet.

On Monday I returned to the Exhibition to have a last look at the entries and wish our friends in France power to their elbow if they are to continue to produce such exhibitions.

STAMPS OF RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR PERIOD:

1918 - 1922

by Boris Shishkin

In the wake of the Russian Revolution which culminated in the establishment of the Soviet regime on November 7, 1917, Russia went through a period of economic dislocation, social disorder and civil strife, that can best be described as "Smootnoye Vremia" or "Troubled Times".

During these years, the land was swept by a runaway inflation and, for a time, suffered from an acute famine.

In several parts of the country, resistance to the new regime coalesced into such forces as the Army of the North, the Northwest Army, the Volunteer Army of South Russia and a similar military command in Siberia.

In some parts of the former Russian Empire, sectional and nationalist aspirations led to the formation of separate or autonomous regimes in such regions as the Ukraine and Siberia and in various parts of Caucasus, such as Armenia, Georgia and Transcaucasia.

In the midst of all this, there were several thrusts of foreign armed intervention. For a time, Austrian detachments roamed around the Ukraine, while at other junctures, Allied expeditionary forces were found around the White Sea in the North, in Odessa in the South, and in Batoum, on the Causasian coast of the Black Sea.

Of philatelic interest in all of this is the fact that each resistance Army or government and each regional regime, in an effort to maintain postal communications in the area within its purview, issued stamps and tried to operate postal services of its own.

But of even greater philatelic interest is the fact that the central Russian government during this period, or, rather the succession of such governments - the Provisional Government of Kerensky, the RSFSR, and, finally, the USSR - strove to re-establish the shattered postal system throughout the land, while trying to keep up with a galloping inflation, and yet was unable to extend such service to a large number of cities, towns and localities.

To meet the need of people in these localities during this period to communicate with each other and with the outside world, the local posts had to find some way to overcome their lack of postage stamps to prepay such mail as could go through under those chaotic conditions.

Those that still had the remainders of the old Empire stamps, or their reissue by the Provisional Government, used these, but at current, inflated prices. Those whose supplies of these stamps were short, sometimes cut them in half and used the biscuits for postage (see photo). Some used the remaining supplies of the old savings stamps, or even of control stamps. We have an example of a 5 rouble (blue and beige) control stamp with the imperial coat of arms on the right-hand side and the blank space to enter the date at the bottom, used on cover from Kiiiv (sic!) to Minsk province of Poland, as late as 25 February, 1922. In addition to the regular cancellation, the stamp is also tied to cover by a purple circular cachet of the Cossack Regiment of the Zaporozhskaia Cossack Division.

Local Postmasters' Provisionals

With this passing note of the postal vagaries of these civil war years, let us turn to the main subject of our philatelic interest in this period - the local postmasters' provisionals. These are the stamps of the reissue by the Provisional Government of 1917 of the previous Czarist regular issue, both perf. and imperf., overprinted, often by hand, and often quite crudely, with rouble values on kopeck values, sometimes merely by a letter P (for rouble).

¹ For a summary description of postal issues of the Provisional Government (March 17-November 7, 1917) and of stamps issued by the Soviet Government prior to 1921, which can be considered together as the early Revolutionary issues, see "Postage Stamps of the Russian Revolution" by D. S. Haverbeck in Chambers Stamp Journal, Feb. 9, 1942 and Feb. 16, 1942 reprinted in The Russian American Philatelist, October, 1943 and December, 1943, respectively. In the second installment of this study, Haverbeck provides a useful check list of stamps issued during this period.

At this point, in order to understand the way in which the underlying economic conditions were reflected in the postal rates of this period, let us briefly trace the course of these rates during the period under consideration.

Between 1914 and 1918 the postage rate for an ordinary domestic letter gradually increased from 7 kopecks in 1914 to 35 kopecks in 1918. Late in 1919, by Soviet decree, the domestic delivery of ordinary mail was made free. Stamps were used at that time for prepayment of letters addressed for delivery abroad, as well as of money orders and of packages sent by parcel post. Postage was also necessary for registered letters and the rate on these rose from 1.05 roubles early in 1919 to 10 roubles by the end of that same year.

The price level by the end of 1919 was such that a pound of bread cost 100 roubles.

On March 1, 1920 a revaluation was put into effect, fixing the value of stamps a 100 times face, so that a 1 kop. stamp was now sold for 1 rouble. Small denominations from 1 to 10 kop. were now in use at 100 times their face value. With the Ukraine and South Russia placed under Soviet control at that time, the Ukrainian and South Russia issues still on hand were also made subject to this revaluation.

The group of the local postmasters' provisional overprints issued between mid-June and the beginning of October of 1920, were the result of the March, 1920 revaluation.

On August 15, 1921, the rate of ordinary domestic mail, which, for over a year and a half had required no postage, was established at 250 roubles for a letter and 100 rbls. for a postcard. The registration fee was raised from 10 rbls. to 1000 rbls.

Inasmuch as the highest value of postage then available was 40 rbls. (Scott No. 187), the postal savings and control stamps were again pressed into temporary use, each stamp, regardless of its own face value, valued at 250 rbls., so that one such stamp was sufficient to carry a domestic letter. To be properly included in this group, these postal savings and control stamps should bear a cancellation subsequent to Aug. 15, 1921. The lower values (1, 5 and 10 kop.) in this group should be between Aug. 15, 1921 and April 1, 1922, when these were again revalued upward. They were valid only for domestic correspondence.

In March, 1922, the 200 and 300 rbl. Soviet stamps (Scott Nos. 182-184) were reissued at 10 times face, i.e. at 2000 and 3000 rbls.

On April 1, 1922, the 1, 5 and 7 rbl. values of the last regular Czarist issue were reissued at 10,000 times their original face value. The postal savings stamps with cancellations of that period are extremely scarce.

The period of use of these reissues extended through 1922, but the postal rates continued to rise during that year under the pressure of continuing inflation. The number of stamps needed to prepay a letter increased correspondingly, with envelopes carrying 10, 20, 30 and even 50 stamps each, these panes or sheets

often loosely attached to the letter at one end only. ²

With this background of the course of the currency inflation during these "Troubled Times" let us now turn to the local postmaster provisionals in use during this period.

A. The Kharkov Provisionals

Between June 16 and October 1, 1920, local postmasters in 236 post offices in Kharkov Gubernia and several post offices in the neighboring Kursk Gubernia made provisional use of the stamps of the 1909-1917 issue they still had on hand and also of the stamps of Ukraine with trident overprints of types "Kharkov I", "Kiev II", "Kiev III", and "Ekaterinoslav I", overprinting these stamps of kopeck denominations with a vertical surcharge reading ROUB for rouble. The issuance of these local provisionals was prompted by the first revaluation of stamps, made in March, 1920, at 100 times face. S. Parkhomovich, writing in the first issue of the Sovietski Collectionner in 1963 states that the total issue of these provisionals was 928, 292 stamps. ³ Some denominations in this group, however, were issued in very small quantities.

B. 1920 Revalued Postmasters' Provisionals Issued in Other Localities

In his pioneer study of stamps of the Russian Civil War Period - "Notes of the Russian Revolutionary Stamps, 1920-1922" (New York, 1927), our own K. Lissiuk lists and illustrates, in addition to the Kharkov Provisionals we have just discussed, Postmasters' Provisionals originating in 34 other cities or localities. Counting the districts of Moscow, Leningrad, Odessa and Kiev as covered in other literature, Lissiuk arrived at a total of 39 districts and cities as places of origin of these provisionals.

In the much later, 1963, study published in Moscow, S. Parkhomovich (op. cit.) reports "more than 60 post offices" in the 1920 period as having revalued stamps of the 1909-17 design with an overprint or in manuscript.

Writing even more recently, in the April 1, 1966, issue of the Philatelic Magazine, our colleague John Lloyd, Honorary Secretary of the British Society of Russian Philately, states that "only just over a hundred post offices have been identified as using them (the revalued postmasters' provisionals)". "Many more did so", John Lloyd goes on, "but paper was extremely scarce at that time, envelopes were re-used for a number of purposes - even as cigarette paper - and many must have been destroyed". "Thus it is hardly likely, after a lapse of 45 years", Lloyd ruefully, but rightly concludes, "that much more will now come to light concerning these scarce and interesting provisionals".

² Cf. "Russian Reissues, Revalued Stamps and Provisionals, 1918-1923", by Dr. Paul D. Krynine, in The Russian Philatelist, April-June, 1944, Vol. 3, No. 3.

³ S. Parkhomovich, "Provisional Postage Stamps of R.S.F.S.R. and U.S.S.R. 1918-23" in Sovietski Collectionner (Soviet Collector), No. 1, Moscow, 1963. Reprinted in English translation by A. Pritt in British Journal of Russian Philately, No. 35, October, 1964.

C. Fort Alexandrovskii - A Special Case

A curious variation on the theme of revaluation in these provisional issues is found in the town of Ashkhabad in the Transcaspian District, where Fort Alexandrovskii was located - the name often applied to the town itself.

Early in 1919, the revolutionary government of the Transcaspian District broke off its relations with the Soviet government in Moscow. They were in need of revenue and, in that connection, in need of revenue stamps or fiscal stamps. The local postal authorities had an ample supply of the 1909-17 postage stamps for the immediate needs of the district and, on March 25, 1919, an order was issued, authorizing the overprinting of postage stamps for fiscal purposes. Hence, the local post and telegraph office of Ashkhabad made an allocation of a portion of its stock of postage stamps to have them overprinted with letters "G. M.", appearing near the top of each stamp. These letters stand for "Gerbovaia Marka", or fiscal stamp.

Because the minimum tax payable at the time in the District was 25 kop. the stamps overprinted for such use were only of denominations in multiples of 25, up to 10 roubles.

On June 8, 1919, detachments of Red Army occupied Ashkhabad and the district was brought back into the Soviet orbit. Upon taking charge of the District's affairs, the Soviet government abolished the local tax and the postal administration of Fort Alexandrovskii or Ashkhabad used the "G. M." overprinted stamps for prepayments of mail. Their use was confined to late 1919 and early 1920.

A couple of additional special cases must be mentioned to round out this brief summary of local postmasters provisionals. Both belong to the 1922 period.

One is the Kiev issue, with 7,500 rbl. and 8,000 rbl. overprints on the 5 kop. postal savings stamp and the 15,000 rbl. overprint on the 10 kop. postal savings stamps. These were once listed by Scott as Nos. 207-209.

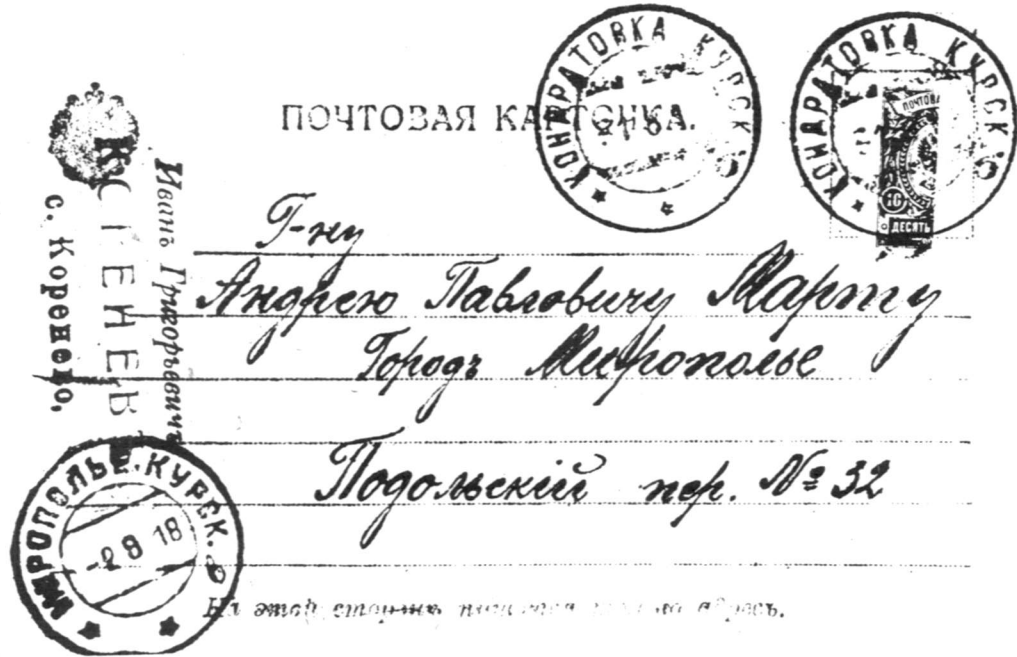
Another is the Viazma local, a 7,500 rouble handstamp on the Soviet 250 rbl. stamp (Scott No. 183). Some authorities dismiss this overprint as a forgery. However, Dr. Paul D. Krynine, who lived in Russia until 1924, and in 1923 served as a member of the Committee of Experts of the Moscow Philatelic Society, has this to say in his notable article in the Russian - American Philatelist (op. cit.) about this issue:

"The writer knows at first hand that this issue was sold exclusively of any other at the post office in Viazma and was extensively used on mail. Thus, it is either an unauthorized issue or, at worst, a private overprinting made by post office clerks and sold to the public."

Another special instance of a local issue of postmaster provisionals is reported to be Krasnovodsk, but further research is needed to document and authenticate this issue.

All stamps of the Russian Civil War period and especially the "postmaster's provisionals" of that time provide a fascinating field for philatelic study and specialization. The author would be most grateful for any information that would supplement and reinforce our knowledge of these issues.

1918-22



1920

TYPE III

KUSTANAY



TYPE IV

June - September, 1920

Provisionals

SPASSK
(KAZAN.)

Kharkov District



RED OVPOT

MODERN VARIETIES

By Michael Carson

Following is a list of varieties discovered by myself recently while examining some examples of recent stamps of the U.S.S.R. They are on the stamps listed in the Scott Catalogue between Nos. 2439A and 2448 on the lithographed stamps. The varieties are as follows:

1 kopeck (2439A)

A. A break in the frameline to the left of the numeral "1". There are two small marks within the break. (Illustration 1)

B. A projection from the lower right corner of the frameline. (Illustration 2)

2 kopecks (2440)

In the lettering "CCCP", the tail of the second "C" extends beyond the line of the third "C" on the normal stamp (Illustration 3), while on the variety, it does not (Illustration 4).



1



2



3



4

3 kopecks (2441)

To the right of the figure standing at the lower right, the small semi-circle is joined to the vertical line at its left (Illustration 5) while on the normal stamp it is not. (Illustration 6)

6 kopecks (2445)

On some stamps, on the dome atop the tallest tower in the background, there is a colored projection in the light area (Illustration 7) that does not appear in others. (Illustration 8)

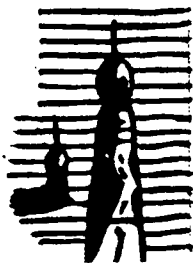
There is also several color varieties on this issue, but I shall not attempt to list them here at this time. There are most likely many other varieties of this sort on these stamps. They appear to be very common as I have examined only a very few examples of each of these stamps, and yet I have found all these varieties. I would be pleased to hear of any other varieties which the readers of "Rossica Journal" might discover.



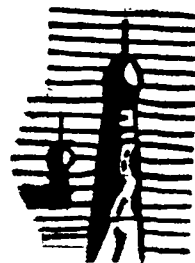
5



6



7



8

THE BELGIAN ARMORED CAR DIVISION IN RUSSIA IN WW I

Frederic Patka

Reprinted from WAR COVER CLUB BULLETIN

The Belgian armored car Division was organized through the efforts of Comte de Liedekerke and Mr. Van Espen and de Ligne. This unit which was to engage in action at Volhynia on the South Eastern Front, was offered to the Tsar of Russia by the Belgian Government, and was readily accepted by the Russian Monarch.

Although the Belgian Armored Car Division was in existence since the early part of 1915, and had received its baptism of fire on the Yserfront, the Belgian law prohibited its being sent abroad. To circumvent that law volunteers were recruited and trained to make up the division.

The unit was under the command of Major Collon and consisted of four batteries, staff and supply units amounting to a total of 12 officers and 359 men assigned as follows:

H Q Staff	1 Officer	10 men
1st Battery	1 "	51 "
2nd Battery	1 "	44 "
3rd Battery	2 "	48 "
4th Battery	5 "	141 "
Supply Unit	2 "	65 "

Simultaneously a group of 300 specialists, engineers, etc., were transported to Russia with the designation "Corps Expeditionnaire Industrielle Belge en Russia" (Belgian Industrial Expeditionary Corps in Russia).

The Unit was transported to Brest and embarked on September 20, 1915 aboard the S/S Wray Castle and arrived at Archangle on October 15, 1915; and then proceeded to Peterhof where they were billeted in the barracks of the Imperial Guards near Petrograd. Their arrival could not have been later than October 19th, as my first item was mailed on October 19th, from Petrograd (Mr. J. Barry gives the date as Oct. 20th).

When Tsar Nicholas learned of the arrival of this unit in Russia, he cabled his sincere thanks to the Belgian King for his assistance. "All Russians will receive their Belgian brothers-in-arms with enthusiasm!" This news was officially released in Belgium on October 19th, after the unit had arrived in Petrograd, and the public received this news with a great deal of indignation and protests.

This criticism of the populace towards the government for not giving first consideration to the defense of the homeland continued. "Telegraph October 19, 1915". The "Vlaamsche Stem" (Oct. 31, 1915) had been more aggressive--"Belgian warfare must possess the exclusive characteristic of defense. Which means that the war is over for us once our territory is liberated. In affect this is a one-sided obligation on the part of the Entent powers; to drive the Germans out and restore our independence; but that does not mean for our troops to be used

beyond our own frontiers...has the government forgotten that the Belgian law prohibits the use of Belgian troops in our own colonies, and certainly in place of British or French Colonial troops in the interests of Russia!"

However, such protests were in vain, as the Belgian unit had already arrived in Russia.

Following their inspection by the Tsar at Czarskoje-Selo near Petrograd, the unit departed on December 28, 1915 for the South Eastern Front and placed under the command of the 11th Army of Gen. Sacharow, and was also employed as support for units of the 7th Army.

Prior to the Russian summer offensive of 1916, the division was moved to the front of the Tarnopol sector, from the assembly area of the 11th Army Reserve. Mr. Barry's statement that the unit had been transferred from Petrograd to 20 miles West of Tarnopol is not accurate, for as of this date Zborow was 19 Km. to the rear of the Austro-Hungarian front lines.

The following historical summary mentions the actions in which the Belgian Armored Car Division were employed. Information has been obtained from the official publication of the Austrian War Archives "Osterreich-Ungarn letzter Kreig 1914-1918":

Issued in 1936 and, "Der Volkerkrieg" (Wien/Stuttgart). The first reference refers only to Russian Armored Cars, however since no such units existed and the dates correspond with those of the Belgian Units serving with the various Russian Commands, it is logical to assume that the mentioned ones refer to the Belgian Units. These armored cars were equipped with cannon and heavy machine guns and on account of their mobility were quite formidable in those days. They were the forerunners of the tank which were to appear later in the war. The Division was not used as a complete unit, but instead were divided amongst the various Russian Units as the necessity arose, whenever needed.

The summer offensive of Gen. Brussilov started on the South Eastern Front with a tremendous artillery barrage, much larger than any previous one known up to that time. Simultaneously, the barrage was extended to seven other points on a front line of 300 Km.

At 11 AM on June 4, 1916, the 4th and 16th Inf. Div. (VI Corps 11th Army, Gen. Sacharow) began their assault against the 32nd Inf. Div. of the 9th Corps, 2nd Austrian Army. As the attack broke loose, and the two armies came to grips, 13 armored cars were ready for support.

The Russians had numerical superiority, and threw their men in, regardless of losses, however, the Austrians were tenacious and fought with desperation, resulting in very little ground being gained by the Russians. Most of the ground gained was retaken by vicious counterattacks. The following day with heavy fighting continuing, and both sides suffering heavy casualties, the line held on this sector. However, some break-throughs occurred further north, in the sector of the 4th Austrian Army. Also, in the south, in the sector of the 7th Austrian Army, the frontline had to be evacuated piecemeal. To give an idea of the tremendous losses sustained in this battle by the Austrians after the first two days of fighting, the Austrian 82nd Inf. Reg. had only 718 men left

out of 5330 which they started with and the 40th Inf. Reg. 270 out of an original force of 5000.

On June 9th the Russian VI Corps resumed their attack against the 32nd Austrian Inf. Div. and elements of the 19th Inf. Div. The battle raged for eleven hours, with the Austrians repelling seven heavy attacks, and holding on to their positions. The Russians had made a slight gain on hill 389, located between Cebrow and Hladki, and could not be dislodged. On the evening of June 9th, the 12th Austrian Inf. Regt. and a heavy battery of the IV Corps arrived on this sector to reinforce the worn troops.

In a Russian dispatch of June 10th, special mention was made of the Belgian Armored Cars; "Belgian Armored automobiles gave our troops powerful support in a series of fighting which took place near Hladki and Cebrow".

On the morning of June 11th, the ground adjacent to hill 389 near Worobijowka was retaken by Austrian Units, but lost again at midday. On June 12th the positions of the Austrian Units between Cebrow and Hladki were subjected to a continuous artillery barrage. When the barrage lifted, the Russians assaulted those positions and heavy infantry fighting took place, but were repulsed. With this failure, Gen. Sacharow's plans to break through in the North, where the Tarnopol-Zborow Road was located, came to nothing.

However, the Belgian Armored Cars were in action in the Northern and Southern Sectors of the front. Especially in the north, on June 10th by making a sudden attack where they were successful in piercing that section of the 4th Austrian Army, the Brigade Jachmann of the Division Ruschke, Corps Bernardi.

In the south Armored Cars made advances from Buczacz along the road Jezierzany-Monaster-Zyeka (about 65 Km south of Tarnopol) against the positions of the 36th Infantry Division.

There was a lull in the fighting for some time giving the opposing forces time to regroup and consolidate their positions. Then on August 4, 1916, the V Siberian Div. (17th and 7th Inf. Div., 11th Army of Gen. Sacharow) again fiercely attacked the 2nd Austrian Army on the South attempting again a break through towards Lemberg.

Russian Forces applied powerful pressure on units of the IV and V Austrian Corps (the 14th and 33rd Inf. Div.'s) forcing the Austrians back, but the expected break through did not occur. Also the Russian advance to Zborow, an important railhead on the Austrian front broke down on the fourth day.

Although units of the 11th Army again attacked the Austrian positions on Aug. 10th at different points, no advantage was gained, however the northern flank of the 7th Russian Army (VI Corps) advanced on this day from their Tarnopol bridgehead on a frontline of 30 Km width. The situation at this time was as follows: In the north the 4th Inf. Div. against Zborow, in the center the 16th Inf. Div. against Koniucky and in the south the 23rd Inf. Div. (from 18th Corps) facing in the direction of Brzezany.

The Austrian front steadily weakened under the mounting assaults, yet the enemy assaults could not reach its final objectives and was everywhere stopped. During the assault on Zborow, units of the 4th Inf. Div. had been supported by the Belgian Armored cars but had been beaten off by units of the Austrian 32nd Inf. Div. in the center, units of the 38th Honved Inf.Div. (Hungarians), and

near Brzezany those of the Austrian 55th Inf. Div. stubbornly resisted the Russian advances and forced them to retreat. By this time the great operations of the Russian summer offensive of 1916 had come to an end.

On February 1917 the first riots broke out in Petrograd. The revolution took a violent form during March and on March 14 Tsar Nicholas II arrived at General Russky's Headquarters in Pskov, where he abdicated at 3 PM on that day. In his "Abdication Proclamation" he clearly stated that he would not want his beloved son to succeed and named his brother Michael instead. Michael, however refused the succession, and Russia then became a Republic, with Prince Lvoff, the leader of the upper class patriots as Prime Minister and Kerensky as Minister of Justice. The government in control agreed that the war must go on against the common enemy.

Towards the end of June 1917, Russian troops on the South East Front stood on the battle grounds on which a year ago they had fought, before their offensive broke down. Once again they were preparing for a final offensive, with the same objective as before, Lemburg.

Their plan was for the main assault to be carried out from the Southern flank of the 11th Russian Army on both sides of Zborow and Koniucky. For this operation, the 11th Army, (Gen. Erdeli) had at his disposition the 35th Inf. Div. (17th Corps), the 49th Corps, composed of the 4th and 6th Finnish Rifle Div. the 82nd Inf. Div. and the Czechoslovakian Rifle Brigade. Also the 6th Corps, consisting of the 2nd Finnish Rifle Div., the 4th, 16, 151st and 155th Inf. Div. In reserve were the 1st Guard Corps (1st and 2nd Guard Div.) and the 1st Transbaikal Cossak Division stood by at Jezierna.

The bulk of the Russian assault troops consisted of Finnish and Siberian Regiments and a special unit of the Czechoslovakian Rifle Brigade which had been assigned to the 11th Army. This unit was composed of former POW's and deserters of Czech origin in the former Austrian army. Also, the Belgian Armored Automobile and Heavy Machine Gun Div. had been placed as assault support to the 2nd Finnish Rifle Div. in the sector of Koniucky. The Belgian Unit had been reinforced by the British Armored Car Unit, commanded by Colonel Locker-Lampson.

On the Austrian side in this sector, units of the 54th Inf. Div. (81st and 88th Inf. Regt.) and 19th Inf. Div. (35th and 75th Inf. Regt.) as well as the German 223rd Inf. Div. opposed the Russians.

The Russian general assault was scheduled for July 1, 1917 at 9 AM. For two successive days before this, a very heavy barrage of concentrated artillery fire covered the Austrian positions. However, the Austrians answered with a counter artillery barrage on June 30th, which silenced some of the enemy guns. On the early morning of July 1st, after a preliminary bombardment, mass attacks of the 6th and 49th Russian Corps started at 9AM against the Austrian positions near Koniucky. These attacks were designed to deliver a knock-out punch and otherwise demoralize the Austrians.

By employing a pincer operation to the north and south of Koniucky, the Russians broke through the Northern flank of the 54th Inf. Div. and overwhelmed the 81st Inf. Regt. the Ukranian Legion and the assault Battalion of the 54th Inf. Div. taking many prisoners in their advance. Reserve Units of Austrian and German troops were brought to the front in an effort to stem the advance and minimize the extent of the break through. Further to the north the

Czechoslovakian rifle brigade moved forward through units of the 32nd and 19th Inf. Div. In as much as no additional reserves were available and the fact that there was the danger of the break through being extended, the battle was fought with unexpected fierceness.

New Russian attacks against the German 223rd Inf. Div. and units of the Austrian 54th Inf. Div. commenced on July 2nd, in the vicinity of Koniucky. Although these attacks were supported by armored cars (Belgian and British) they were turned back at all points. By the evening of July 2nd the line of defense in sector Zloczow had been moved approximately 5 Km west of the former front line (Koniucky-Zborow). There remained but 6700 men of the 16,000 Austrian troops who had started the campaign on June 30th.

In his article, Mr. Barry has given the date of this battle as July 28-31, 1917. However, it is to be noted that by this date Koniucky was behind the advancing Austro-German front. (Mr. Barry's article of the Belgian Armored Car Division appeared in the "Forces Postal History Society of G.B." newsletter issue dated September-October 1963).

The contributing cause of the break through in this particular sector of the Austrian front was the make-up of the 35th and 75th Bohemian Regiments. Comprised of 65% and 80% respectively of Czechoslovakian troops, only offered token resistance when they faced the Czechoslovakian Rifle Brigade.

Russian attacks continued until the middle of July 1917, when the first indications of disintegration became noticeable. Russian GHQ had ordered a general attack for July 13th, however, entire units refused to fight and abandoned their positions. Subsequently, the general attack was cancelled.

On July 19th 1917 the concentrated Austrian and German Divisions began a counteroffensive, which resulted in marked success. By the evening of July 20th a break through 38 Km. wide and 18 Km. deep had been achieved. On July 21st the Austrian-German units had advanced to Tarnopol having expanded the break through to 50 Km wide and 36 deep, while driving the Russians back in disorder. By the 8th of August 1917, Eastern Galicia and Bukovina were occupied by the Central Powers.

At the start of the Russian retreat, the Belgian units, (although no documented data has been found to verify this) managed to detach themselves and headed East via Tarnopol.

Following the Bolshevik Revolution of October, the Belgian unit, in November 1917, was ordered to return to Belgium. This was easier said than done and it was not until February 20, 1918 that this order could be executed. Russian officials placed every obstacle in their way to prevent them from leaving, treating them almost like enemies. Finally they started on their journey on that date via Moscow, the return to home wended its way across Siberia via Omsk and Irkutsk via the Trans-Siberian Railway to Vladivostock.

From that point, on May 24, 1918, the unit embarked aboard the American vessel S/S Sheridan which transported them to San Francisco, arriving on June 12th. The return was concluded by rail to New York and thence by steamer across the Atlantic to Bordeaux, reaching that port in July 1918.

POSTAL

Postally the Belgian Unit never had been allotted an Army Post Office. During their stay in the rear areas, mail was usually sent in closed bags to Petrograd for further transmission. Of course, mail could be posted at any Civilian P.O. which happened frequently.

This mail can be found as "Free Mail" as well as with Russian postage stamps, also later from Front Areas. When the Unit was transferred to the area of the Reserve of the 11th Army, the mail was routed via the Russian "Rear Area P.O. 213". During the operations on the South East front, most of the mail was routed via the "Russian P.O. 8" which probably was attached to the VI Russian Corps.

As the Russian summer offensive of 1916 bogged down, and the unit had been shifted from the front line to the surroundings of Tarnopol, mail will be found with the Russian APO "T". It is probable that this was a stationary APO at Tarnopol.

At intervals, until the end of 1916, items can be found with APO 8, these seem to originate from different parts of the front, as these units, or parts of it, had been sent to the front to support the various operations, in other words, they were split up occasionally.

From the period of the second Russian summer offensive of July 1917 until the retreat started, I have not been able to locate items, and this is understandable, they were too busy to do much writing.

TIMETABLE

MAILED

Oct. 15, 1915	Arrival at Archangel	No data
Oct. 19, 1915	Arrival at Petrograd	Via Petrograd
Oct. 28, 1915	From Petrograd to South East Front	Via Petrograd & Other Civil P. O.'s
Jan. 10, 1916?	Rear Area of the 11th Army	"Rear Area PO 213"
June 1, 1916	The front west of Tarnopol	FPO 8
End Aug. 1916	Surroundings of Tarnopol	FPO T
1916/1917	Area of 11th Army	FPO 8
July 1, 1917	New Russian offensive near Tarnopol	?
July 19, 1917	Counter-offensive of the Central Powers	?
Until May 1918	Retreat and march through Siberia	?

The only possibility of identification are the various unit stamps, of which a total of six different are known. All are rubber stamps, the circular ones all with double outer circumference. Color always violet in various shades.

- Type 1 double-circle diameter 33/21,5mm, text; "Auto-Artillery and heavy Machine-Guns", in the center "Belgium/Army/in/Russia".
- Type 2 double-circle diameter 36/21 mm, text; "Belgian Armored Auto/Division", in the center "Divisional/Command".
- Type 3 double-circle diameter 36/20,5mm, text; "Belgian Army in Russia/(Star)", in the center "Armored/Auto/Division".

- Type 4 double-circle diameter 35/20 mm, text; "Technical Expeditionary Corps in Russia", in the center; "Belgian/Army".
- Type 5 double-circle diameter 34/21, 5mm, text; "Belgian Armored Auto Division/ (Star)" in the center; Russian Eagle.
- Type 6 straight-line 20,5/68,5 mm, text; first line; "Belgian", second line; "Armored Auto Division".

Concerning the scarcity of all these unit stamps, the one of type 5 seems to be with the passage of time the scarcest of all. My only example is no postal item, but a fragment of a document from a member of this unit, which shows this unit stamp and it is my opinion this was the official seal. The text of this classification may be type 4, whilst the others may well be balanced out.

Also there are items which show only written senders-addresses, without addition of one of the mentioned unit-stamps. This concerns especially the members of the technical and industrial expeditionary corps, all of whom had been engaged through out the country.

RUSSIAN APO CANCELS

From the Russian APO cancels there are also several types known. All are double-ring steel canceller with innter-bridge. Color normally black, date single lined in the bridge.

Diameter	29/17mm	text;	Stanzia Post. Telegr. Otd. No. 213
"	25/16mm	"	- do - /two stars
"	24/17mm	"	Polowaja Post. Kantora No. 8 / two stars and "D"
"	27/14,5 mm	"	- do - - do -
"	24,5/18 mm	"	Polowaja Post. Kant... T / two stars and "A"

There are also two letters between "Kant. and T", but I was not able to decipher those in the cancels I have seen.

In the following are descriptions of the 27 items in my collection:

1. Letter addressed to "Le Mot du Soldat" Baarle Hertog. stpd, with 10 Kp Russian stamp, cancelled Petrograd Oct 19, 15, also Petrograd Oct 20th and Oct 22nd '15 (dates when the mail had been handed over to the censor and received back from there), rectangular Russian censor No. 138. Unit stamp type 6.
2. Letter addr. and stamped as 1, cancelled Petrograd Oct 29th '15, departure Petrograd Oct 29th '15, rectangular Russian censor No. 59. Sender: "Auto Canons Belge Legation de Belgique a Petrograd". Unit stamp type 6.
3. Letter-card addr. to Baarle Duc, Belgium, stpd. 10 Kp Russian stamp, cancelled Briancki Oct 29th '15. Arrival Moscow Oct 30th, small double circle Russian censor "Prosmotr. Moskowsk. Woen, Zensuros. B.G.B.". Moscow Oct 31st (returned from censor), departure Moscow Nov 4th '15. Transit cancel Paris Dec 4th, French double-line censor stamp "CONTROLE/PAR L'AUTORITE MILITAIRE". No unit stamp, but a paragraph in the letter reads: "...I'd been on the Belgian front and I'd been sent here for the fabrication of ammunition...".
4. Russian illustr. Red Cross card, addr. to Belgian army address, free mail,

- Petrograd Nov 10th '15, rectangle Russian censor 141, Petrograd Nov 13th. Arrival cancel Belgian APO Dec 11th '15. Unit stamp type 1.
5. Letter addr. to "Le Mot du Soldat". stpd. 10 Kp Russian stamp, cancelled Petrograd Dec 2nd '15, rectang. Russian censor 350, Petrograd Dec 2nd '15. Arrival cancel Belgian APO, date blurred. Sender: "Auto Canon Belges". Unit stamp type 6.
 6. Letter to Belgian army address, free mail, cancelled Petrograd Dec 21st '15, rectang. Russian censor 75, Petrograd Dec 23rd and Jan 4th '16. Le Havre transit Jan 29th French censor small frame with No 10 (Later only referred as French censor No..) Belgian APO Jan 31st '16. Sender: "Corps des Auto Canons-Mitrailleuses Belge, Russie-Poste Centrale a Petrograd". Unit stamp type 2.
 7. Letter to Belgian army address, free mail, cancelled Petrograd Nov 5th, rectang. Russian censor No 416, Petrograd Nov 9th '15, arrived Belgian APO Dec 4th '15. Sender: "Auto-Canons Belge Russie". Unit stamp 1.
 8. View-card (Russian Artillery).
 9. View-card (army cemetery) both cards addressed to Belgian army address, free mail, Petrograd Nov 30th '15, rectang. Russian censor No 58, Petrograd Dec 1st '15 & Dec 4th Le Havre Jan 12th '16. Unit stamp type 1.
 10. Letter addr. to Belgian army hospital, stpd. 10 kp Russian stamp, cancelled Petrograd Dec 2nd '15, rectang. Russian censor No 437, Petrograd Dec 21st & Dec 22nd '15, French censor No 10. Arrival cancel, Belgian APO Jan 13 '16. Sender: "...Soldat Belge Corps Expeditionnaire Industrielle, % Consulat de Belgique a Petrograd, Russia". No Unit stamp.
 11. Letter with same addr as No. 10 stpd, 10 kp Russian stp., cancelled Petrograd Jan 5th '16, rectang. Russian censor No 395, Petrograd Jan 6th & Feb 29th '16 (retained one full month at the Russian censor-office!) French censor No 16. No Unit stamp.
 12. Letter addr. to Belgian army address, free mail, cancelled Russian APO "Rear Post & Telegr. PO No 213, Jan 12th '16, Petrograd Jan 20th, rectang. Russian censor No 712, Petrograd Jan 24th '16. Arrival cancel Belgian APO Feb 20th '16. Unit stamp type 2.
 13. View-card to Belgian army address, free mail, cancelled Russian APO 213 (same as 12) Jan 13th '16, Petrograd Jan 19th, rectang. Russian censor No 413, Petrograd Jan 24th French censor No 10, arrival Belgian APO Feb 20th '16. The card was written at Gere-ninninka on the way to the front. Unit stamp no 2.
 14. Letter addr. to "Le Mot du Soldat", 10 kp Russian stamp, cancelled Petrograd April 7th '16, rectang. Russian censor No 339, Petrograd April 19 '16, French censor No 6. Included in the sender's address "army No OX 4009". Unit stamp type 6.
 15. Letter addr to "Le Mot du Soldat", stpd, 10 kp Russian stamp, cancelled Kiev April 9, 1916. Two Russian censor stamps; rectang. 52 X 20 mm "Seen /Military Censor" and a circular one, similar to a regular postal cancel,

text; above "Military censor" below "Controlled" date 12.4.16 (inscription in Russian of course). Circular French censor C.F. Sender: "Auto Canons Berle Poste Centrale Petrograd Russie". On the front of the envelope the entry "Armee Belge en Russie". No Unit stamp.

16. Letter addr. to "Le Mot du Soldat", stpd. 10 kp Russian stamp, cancelled, Russian APO 213 (small type) May 2nd '16, Petrograd May 7th, rectang. Russian censor No 631, Petrograd May 24th '16, French censor No 39. Unit type 6.
17. Letter addr. as previous one, 10 kp Russian stamp cancelled APO 213 (small type), Petrograd May 19th '16, rectang. Russian censor No 555, Petrograd May 27th '16. French censor No 39 and circular C.F. Sender: "Corps des Aut. Mil. Belge en Russie, Armee du Front". Unit stamp type 2.
18. Letter addr. same as No 16, 10 kp Russian stamp cancelled APO 213 (large type) May 30 '16, no Russian censor, French circular censor C.F., arrival cancel Belgian APO July 4th '16. "Corps des Autos Canons Belge, Russie, Armee du Front:.". Unit stamp type 3.
19. Letter addr. same as No 16, 10 kp stamp cancelled Russian APO 8 June 6th '16, rectang. Russian censor No 882, Petrograd June 11th, French censor No 21. Unit stamp type 2.
20. Letter addr. same as No 16, free mail, cancelled APO 8, June 19th '16, no Russian censor, Le Havre transit July 17th, arrival Belgian PO July 18th. Unit stamp type 2 & 6.
21. Letter addr. to Belgian army address, free mail, cancelled APO 8, July 28th '16 Petrograd July 28th, rectang. Russian censor No 401, Petrograd Aug. 2nd, French censor No 88. Arrival cancel, Belgian APO Sept. 1st '16. Unit stamp type 2.
22. Letter addr. to Belgian army address, free mail, cancelled APO "T" Sept 10th, Petrograd Sept 17th rectang. Russian censor, transit La Havre Oct 16th French censor, arrival APO Oct 25th. Sender: "Corps des Auto-Canons-Mitrailleuses Belge, Front Sud-Ouest-Russie". Unit stamp type 3.
23. Registered letter addr. to Belgian military hospital in France, redirected to Hoogstade. Stpd. 20 Kp Russian stamp, cancelled Chostka-Zern Sept. 15th '16, registered label Chostka No 607. Small rectangular Russian censor, text illegible, with No 8. Le Havre transit Nov 3rd '16, Belgian APO 6, Nov 8th '16, Unit stamp type 4.
25. Letter addr. as #24, stpd. 10 Kp Russian stamp, cancelled Sestrorjezk (near Petrograd) Oct 3, 1916, Petrograd Oct 7th, rectang. Russian censor No 639, Petrograd Nov 3rd '16. French censor No 8 and circular C.F. Arrival Belgian APO Dec 5th '16. Unit stamp type 6. It seems that this letter had been posted by a member of the corps on service tour.
26. Letter addr. as #24, stpd 7 & 3 Kp Russian stamps, cancelled Briancki-Gorod Oct 4th '16 Moscow Oct 6th '16, circular Russian censor stamp from Moscow with No 107, Moscow Oct 7th '16 French circular censor C.F. Unit stamp type 6.

27. Letter addr. to La Haye Netherlands, stpd. 10 Kp Russian stamps, cancelled Makievka-Don July 5th '17, rectangular Russian censor "War censor No 1480 P.W.O." French censor No 89, British censor label "Opened by censor No 1084". Arrival cancel Scheweningen Oct 12th '17. Sender: "Convoi de Transport de Cokes de L'Union Miniere Makievka". On back rubber stamp of the Russian command "Mining Union".

The towns mentioned of Chostka, Gereninka and Briancki-Gorod, (they could have been tiny villages) I could not find on a map, either they were too small or they had been renamed since.

Finally it may be said, that all items from this unit are rare and in spite of the 45 years since the end of World War I, only a very few of those items have turned up.

Concerning the British Armored Car Unit, I was only able to find a few bits of information, but no postal items, they certainly must exist.

After being organized in the autumn of 1915, this unit left England, under the command of Colonel Locker-Lampson, they reached Archangel by ship, however at that time of the year everything was frozen solid, and the ship remained ice-bound for six months off Alexandrowsk. The officers of the unit consisted not only British, but also Irish, Scots, Canadians, Australians and New Zealanders. All the men had served on the Belgian Front, previous to their transfer to this Unit.

Before concluding the story, it may be well to give an explanation of the "Mot du Soldat" contained in address, which may often be found on those items (also on other Belgian Army mail of WW-I).

Mr. Barry in his article terms this as "Soldier-paper and welfare organization", but this is not correct, rather it was a code name for a secret organization! It all started in the German occupied part of Belgium, where the group was organized secretly for the purpose of sending important mail from the occupied territory to Belgian soldiers in the remaining free Belgian and France and vice-versa. The central office of this organization was installed at the Belgian Enclave Baarle-Duc in the Netherlands. If someone in the German occupied territory wished to write to a soldier on the front-line, he entered one of the secret offices, (they were located in different parts of the country) and asked for a formula called "Mot du Soldat". The risk was great, for if one were caught receiving it or distributing it, it would mean that they would be held as spies. This formula had a detachable part, the top part was used for the address of addressee, the lower part "No 1 (or also No 2 or 3) showed "OEUVRE DU MOT DU SOLDAT" below this a patriotic saying, under this "Distribution Gratiute" (there are 12 different types in existence).

When the agent of the secret office handed the formula over to the applicant, he made two marks on this: the code sign of the respective office as well as a number under which the sender (applicant) was covered. On the detachable part the soldier's address was inserted.

The agent then utilized a trusted messenger to carry these "Mot's" to Holland. None of the people engaged in this traffic knew each other, so that if one was caught he could not divulge the name or names of the others. The formulas

Заказ

Hlle Grimes Hotel
Tufinier belg.
Capital militaire belg.

R Честка
№ 607.

Заказ

Франция
Командир Броневой автомобильной
Дивизии
Бельгийской Армии
114 Крестов

Service militaire

Monsieur J. Ten...
Commandant ambulancier

Ames... en...
Belgique

Белгия



Service militaire
Belgique

Notre Soldat
Belgique

БЕЛГІЙСКАЯ АРМІЯ ВЪ РОССІИ

had only the name of the receiver.

In the central office at Baarle Duc all the formulas when received were sorted and before transmitting the answer in another "Mot" (this was No 2) as well as others which the receiver could distribute to interested comrades (those had No 3) and a rose colored envelope with the address of "Mr. Peyman, Mot du Soldat, Baarle Hertog, Belgique" had been added. The letter was the answer to the original one sent and returned the same way.

These envelopes show a large double-oval rubber-stamp, in violet, with text above: "SOLDATS LA PATRIE EST FIERE DE VOUS"; below: "SERVICE GRATUITE"; in the center: "OEUVRE DU / Cross with rays / "MOT DU SOLDAT". Besides the above mentioned address, there also appears "OUVRE DU MOT DU SOLDAT / BELGIQUE", both had been stamped on the envelope by means of rubber-type-set stamps.

Of the 27 items mentioned in my collection, only No 18, 19 and 20 have the large cachet of the "Mot Du Soldat".

On June 29th 1915 an Army order stated that the use of the "mot" was forbidden, also that the transmission of ciphered letters (addresses) could lead to a charge of espionage. However, on August 1st 1915, the organization was rehabilitated by a telegram of the Ministre-of-War to the central office. This was also publicized in the Army with an order of August 17th, 1915 and the usage herewith further on authorized.

Readers who wish additional information on this subject should consult *Rossica Journal* No. 64, Page 43, article by E. Marcovitch and *British Journal of Russian Philately*, Page 645, article by John Barry. THE EDITOR

THE PERFORATIONS OF EARLY SOVIET AIR MAIL STAMPS

Dr. C. de Stackelberg

I decided to write this note after reading with interest the excellent article by Mr. Fred W. Speers on Soviet Air Mail Stamps 1922-1944 in Number 71 of Rossica and after comparing his findings with the stamps in my collection.

Mr. Speers in his article not only deals in detail with the history, peculiarities and varieties of each issue, but, having painstakingly measured the perforations of his stamps, lists these in quarter sizes and compares them with those listed by Scott and Sinabria.

It is the perforations of these stamps I would like to discuss.

Why are exact perforations important to collectors and especially to specialists? Is it not to know the exact size of perforations made at the time of printing, by machines which at that time were available at the printing office? To understand perforations better it is also important to know by what method they were perforated, i.e. whether they are line, comb, or box perforated, when the whole

sheet is perforated at one stroke. Genuine varieties or errors, i.e. those different from the original perforation can only arise, when they have been made by some other method or size, by a perforating machine which at that time was available at the printing office. All other perforations are fakes.

To illustrate the above I would like to refer our readers to the perforations of the North Pole Issued, Scott #C30-33. Originally they were issued comb perforated $12 \times 12\frac{1}{4}$ or $12\frac{1}{4}$, usually described in catalogs by full half sizes as $12 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ or $12\frac{1}{2}$.

However, a large stamp dealer in Berlin having sold in advance to his distributors and clients perforated and imperforate sets of this issue, on obtaining from Moscow only imperforate sheets, "to save his reputation" had these sheets perforated in Berlin $11\frac{1}{2}$, a perforation which at that time could not have been made in Moscow, as no $11\frac{1}{2}$ perforation machines were at that time in use at the Soviet Printing Office. Thus the stamps are genuine, but the $11\frac{1}{2}$ perforation is a fake, even if some catalogs list such a perforation among the varieties.

But to distinguish genuine from fake perforations is much more complicated than it would seem at first sight.

First of all most of the popular catalogs, such as Scott or Sinabria and even specialized catalogs, such as Romeko 1927 and 1956, as well as the very detailed Soviet Catalog of 1955 only give the size in half perforations, as 11 and $11\frac{1}{2}$, whereas a specialist prefers to have the perforations measured in the more exact quarter perforations, as 11, $11\frac{1}{4}$, $11\frac{1}{2}$ and $11\frac{3}{4}$.

Luckily for us specialists, Mr. C. Manshaley published in No. 10 of the old Rossica in 1932, with an addenda in No. 16 of 1934, a fundamental study on the perforations of Russian Imperial, Kerenski, R.S.F.S.R. and U.S.S.R. stamps up to 1932. This study, which he undertook with two friends is based on the perforations measurements of hundreds of stamps. He lists not only the method of perforation for each issue, whether line, comb or box, but also the size of the hole, whether large or small and the exact size of the perforation in $\frac{1}{4}$ sizes.

In the introduction to his study he states that an initial error of listing a perforation in a catalog is then repeated every year and this error is often copied by other catalogs. The other difficulty he points out is the inexactness of many perforation gauges, many collectors use. Those printed on cardboard or on some thin metal strip should not be used. The cardboard ones are affected by humidity and the metal ones expand with heat, changing their reading from one day to the other. I discovered this long ago, when one hot day I was unable to understand what was wrong with my stamps! Since then I have been using a good gauge made of plastic. The most accurate gauge I have seen, but which is very expensive, was one, I think, made in Sweden, where the perforations were engraved on a piece of square crystal.

But let us revert to the perforations. The next complication is the paper on which the stamps are printed, and this is the main point of this note.

So far as I know there are no problems about the exact perforations of Imperial Russian stamps, as the paper used by the Imperial Printing Office must have

been of a very high quality, it has not been affected by climatic changes, i.e. the stamps did not shrink or expand. Thus, for instance, the first perforated Russian stamps of 1858 after a hundred years of exposure to humidity or dryness still show exactly their original perforation of $11\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{3}{4}$. The gum on mint stamps did not change their size and thus neither the size of the perforations. But, how different it is with the paper used for Soviet stamps. Take as an example the first R.S.F.S.R. stamp printed on watermarked paper, the Scott #187 with Wmk #109. Most catalogs list this stamp as existing in two types or sizes: of $37\frac{1}{2} \times 23\frac{1}{2}$ mm and of $38\frac{1}{2} \times 23\frac{3}{4}$ mm. Their size depends on how the square lozenges watermarked sheet probably when humid was fed into the printing machine i.e. vertically or horizontally. The size of the original cliché of the stamps was in each case the same, but when drying after printing those sheets with horizontal watermark (shaded triangles pointing up or down) shrank to $37\frac{1}{2}$, whereas the sheets with the watermark pointing vertically to the right or to the left finally became $38\frac{1}{2}$ mm long. These stamps were of course issued imperforate, but had they been perforated at the time of printing, their perforations would have shown a difference of at least $\frac{1}{4}$ mm a perforation.¹

To my mind, what is important to collectors is to know what was the exact size of the perforation at the time they were made at the Soviet Printing Office and not the present size of the perforation.

After reading Mr. Speers article I have remeasured many stamps in my collection and I came to quite different results than those listed by him. Probably my stamps shrank or expanded in a different way than Mr. Speers' owing to the different climatic conditions his and my stamps had been exposed to.

I have also compared the perforations of the Air Post Congress Set, Scott #C10 & 11, the Zeppelin issue, Scott #C12 & 13 and the Airship Construction set, Scott #C16-23 as listed by Manshaley (M), the Soviet Catalog of 1955 (SO), Romeko 1956 (RO) and Scott (SC) with the perforations listed by Mr. Speers (SP). The results appear in the table below:

SET #	M	SO	RO	SC	SP
C10-11	Comb $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12$ ¹	Comb $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12$	$12\frac{1}{2} \times 12$	13×12	$12\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$, $12\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{3}{4}$
C12-13	Line $12\frac{1}{4}$	Line $12\frac{1}{2}$	$12\frac{1}{2}$	$12\frac{1}{2}$	$12 \times 11\frac{3}{4}$
	Line $10\frac{3}{4}$	Line $10\frac{1}{2}$	$10\frac{1}{2}$	$10\frac{1}{2}$	$10\frac{1}{2}$
C16-23	Line $12\frac{1}{4}$	Line $12\frac{1}{2}$	$12\frac{1}{2}$	$12\frac{1}{2}$	12
	Comb- $12 \times 12\frac{1}{4}$	Comb $12 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$		$12 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$	
	or $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12$	or $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12$		or 12	
	Comb ² $10\frac{1}{2} \times 12$	Comb $10\frac{1}{2} \times 12$		$12\frac{1}{2} \times 12$	
	Line $10\frac{3}{4}$	Line $10\frac{1}{2}$	$10\frac{1}{2} \times 12$	$10\frac{1}{2} \times 12$	$10\frac{1}{2} \times 12$, $10\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$
	N/A	Line $10\frac{1}{2}$	$10\frac{1}{2}$	$10\frac{1}{2}$	$10\frac{1}{2} \times 10\frac{1}{4}$
		11	11	11	13 $\frac{3}{4}$

$11\frac{1}{2}$ -which is a
fake perf.

¹Wide perforation with small teeth

²Large teeth

Mr. Manshaley explains that his $12\frac{1}{4}$ perforation can be expressed in half perforations as being $12\frac{1}{2}$, but the $10\frac{3}{4}$ perforation he equals to $10\frac{1}{2}$.

As I already said, genuine perforation varieties could only be produced by perforation machines which at the time of printing were available at the Soviet Printing Office. But how do we know or can presume what machines were available at a certain time? Well, the Soviet Catalog of 1955 prints many appendix tables, which show not only the layout of the stamps on each sheet, but also lists by type of printing and watermark, if any, the perforation of each stamp in $\frac{1}{2}$ perforations, as well as all the known perforation varieties.

From this data, one can conclude what perforation machines were at a given period in use or available at the Soviet Printing Office, which could have produced these varieties. It must also be remembered that compound perforations could only be produced by two or more line perforating machines or on one of the horizontal sides of a comb perforated stamp by an additional line perforation.

Between 1927 and 1944 it seems that no $11\frac{1}{2}$ (or $11\frac{3}{4}$) perforating machines were available, which could have produced such a perforation, a size often listed by Mr. Speers, as appearing on his stamps. Therefore, these stamps must have originally been perforated 12 or even $12\frac{1}{4}$.

To sum up: the importance for collectors is to know the exact size his stamps were originally perforated, as well as what kind of machines were available at the Soviet Printing Office, which could have produced genuine varieties. Other perforation sizes show that the stamp has either shrunk or expanded, usually by not more than $\frac{1}{4}$ of a perforation, or that the perforation is a fake.

"STAMPOMANIA" AND RUSSIAN ZEMSTVO STAMPS

From the preface to his "Description of the Russian Zemstvo Postage Stamps, Envelopes and Wrappers" by Dmitrii Nikolaevich - Chudovskii, Kiev, 1888.

Translated from the original Russian by Boris Shishkin.

TRANSLATOR'S NOTE:

This excerpt from the first descriptive Handbook of the Russian Zemstvo Stamps by D. N. Chudovskii, published in 1888, is notable not only for the useful and accurate information it provides about the rural post in Russia, and the light it sheds on the contemporary interest in collecting Zemstvo stamps. It is remarkable also for the diatribe against philately, mounted by Chudovskii in the course of this preface. Here is a collector, a student of his chosen

specialty and a meticulous compiler of all pertinent data about the stamps he lovingly describes, who goes out of the way to inveigh against the hobby to which he himself is obviously devoted, not to say addicted - a term he, no doubt would prefer.
- B.S.

Stampomania is undoubtedly a psychic disease of our age. The passion for collecting various things has always persisted in the human race. People have formed collections of books, engravings, coins, animals, plants, arms, clothes, etc., etc. But they began to collect postage stamps of all countries and of all specimens, with their minutest varieties, only some twenty years ago.

Collecting of books, engravings, etc., can be explained, apart from being a passion, by its scientific purpose. But none of the stampomaniacs I have had occasion to meet, could explain the aim of their passion. And I have seen solid and respectable people who, once infected by stampomania, were ready to forget their direct human responsibilities. Several hundred thousand people are by now afflicted by this disease on this earth. The Germans even had the idea of raising this passion, this disease, to the level of a science, giving it the technical name of "philately".

Fortunately, in Russia the number of stampomaniacs is relatively small, compared with England, Germany and France, but in St. Petersburg and Moscow, societies of stamp collectors have already been formed.

Foreigners collect all postage stamps without exception, including the postal issues of the Russian Zemstvos, which even they prize quite highly, because these stamps are relatively hard to find. There are even several very good studies of Russian Zemstvo postage stamps in French and in German. In Russian, however, so far as I know, not a word has been printed about them.

Interest in my publication would have been enhanced had the description been accompanied by illustrations. But even the most unpretentious pictorial presentation would have so greatly increased the cost of publication, that it would have been hopeless to find a market for it. Expecting a complete fiasco in this enterprise even in the present form of publication, I can at least console myself with the knowledge that I have not invested any large capital in it.

In their appearance Zemstvo stamps present a variety that cannot be matched by stamps of the entire world. They can be grouped in 8 forms: square, vertical or horizontal rectangle, similarly placed rhomb, ellipse (oval), and, finally, circle. Their **sizes** range from large and ugly pieces of paper more than an inch and a half in size, to mere petals, smaller than our government postage stamp. Such are the delights which a markomaniac must encounter in the area of Russian Zemstvo stamps.

In their execution, like the handicrafts of our homegrown country whittlers, they range from the gaudiest pictures to the most exquisite ones, such as, for example, all the stamps of Morshansk county. Some among them have peculiarities not encountered among foreign stamps - stamps with coupons attached. When a letter is posted, let us say in a volost office, a stamp is affixed, from which a coupon is detached, on which is written the number of the affixed stamp, date, month and year, and finally the signature of the official

accepting the letter. Some Zemstvos, instead of using coupons, simply had numbers placed on stamps themselves, so that the sender could ascertain whether his letter, with the numbered stamp on it, had reached its destination.

The size of some of these stamps also makes their use quite convenient taking the place of wax in sealing the envelope. Some of the Zemstvo offices, when they issued their postage stamps, at the same time also issued postal stamped envelopes, and some even issued stamped envelopes only. One who is familiar with our rural life will appreciate the practicality of the Zemstvo postal envelopes. In the remote rural countryside, it is sometimes impossible to find a scrap of paper, to say nothing of obtaining an envelope. And if you find one in the country store, you will be sure to have to pay three times over for it. But now, all you have to do is to write your inviolable fatherly blessing on a scrap of paper, send Vanka to the volost office, where the scribe, for five kopecks, will give him a stamped envelope and will address it, and your blessing will be sure to reach its intended destination. One Zemstvo - and only one - also issued its own newspaper wrappers. I am referring to a narrow strip of paper with a postage stamp printed on it, used to seal around printed items and dispatch them by mail. We do not have such wrappers issued by the government but abroad they are widely used.

There is another type peculiar to Zemstvo postage - this consists of stamps or envelopes for unpaid letters. Some landowners living far from postoffices arrange to receive or send all of their correspondence by way of the local Zemstvo post. Since in such cases the recipients cannot prepay the cost of handling of their correspondence by the Zemstvo office, some Zemstvos have introduced the postage due, or "unpaid letter" stamps and envelopes. Recipients of such mail either remit the postal tax due on it when the mail reaches them, or settle their accounts with the Zemstvo office periodically.

To make this even more convenient, one Zemstvo - Lubensk - introduced such stamps on an annual subscription.

Unpaid letter stamps are also used by some of the postal systems abroad, where they are known as "Timbres-Taxe" or "Nachportomarken".

A great variety of paper has been used for Zemstvo stamps and envelopes, ranging from the common coarse grey, to the highest quality, the so-called "Czarskaya", from the thickest, to the finest. It is unlikely that any of the Zemstvo offices ever placed special orders for paper to be used for their stamps - they used whatever paper they had on hand. Only this can explain the fact that some stamps of one and the same issue can be found printed on very different kinds of paper, notably the stamps printed on colored paper. Everyone familiar with the printing trade knows that not only in a stack of colored paper, but sometimes in just a quire of it, one often finds sheets which, although they are of the same basic color, have very distinct different shades. That is why it seems to me to be aimless to collect stamps according to shades of the color of the paper.

In the description of stamps one finds notations; "so many varieties". But sometimes these variations are so minute that it is impossible to describe them. They may be the result of liberties taken by the engraver or lithographer in transmitting to paper the specimen he had at hand, or in setting the type or parts of the design from the typographic components at his disposal.

Denominations for Zemstvo postage stamps are: $\frac{1}{2}$, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10 and 25 kopecks.

Stamps of the $\frac{1}{2}$ kopeck denomination are used for dispatch of newspapers or magazines to their destination. The 25 kopeck denomination, used in Novo-Ladoga, is probably intended for correspondence of great weight. The average cost of a Zemstvo stamp may be taken to be 4 kopecks, although in many counties, quite large in their extent, the cost of a Zemstvo postage stamp is only 2 kopecks.

At the beginning, some Zemstvos issued stamps and even envelopes without specifying their denomination. Their denomination was stipulated and their use was short-lived.

The cost of unused Zemstvo stamps sold by dealers varies a great deal. For a stamp of the latest issues one must pay from 3 to 5 times its face value. Prices for stamps of the more remote issues increase in geometric proportion to the distance, while prices for stamps of the earliest issues reach fabulous heights. Used stamps are much cheaper, although stamps of the first issues are also high priced. Incidentally, it may be noted that these stamps do not have a fixed definite price. Every dealer has his own price list which depends on the quantity of material he has on hand.

High prices for unused stamps of the early issues can be explained by the fact that twenty years ago nobody in Russia ever thought of collecting Zemstvo postage stamps. Demand for them developed only quite recently. It was then that dealers began, through specially commissioned agents, to search and ferret around the Zemstvo administrations to buy up the remainders of stamps no longer in use. Some of the stamps, of course, they could not find at all and these began to turn up only occasionally. Because there are so many hunters of these stamps, their prices are disgusting. No one will believe that there are Zemstvo stamps for which dealers are asking 400 rubles and more.

These are the reasons why I have refrained from stating the market prices for these stamps. Same considerations have kept me from stating the degree of their rarity. Postage stamps are the kind of goods that wind up in stoves and in sewage dumps. From these they cannot be retrieved. It follows that treasure troves of Zemstvo postage stamps cannot be found. It could, of course, happen that the rarest of these stamps will turn up in the desk drawer of some old Zemstvo official, who liked to hide his correspondence, and then the rarest stamp may become common.

I must warn stampomaniacs that lately there have appeared not only forgeries of Zemstvo stamps, but even fantasies - stamps that have never been in circulation. This trade is plied and will be plied with impunity, because it is not being punished by law. And it is unlikely that any Zemstvo administration would pursue a forger who has falsified a stamp no longer in circulation, or a fantasy of a non-existent Zemstvo stamp.

This publication describes all Zemstvo stamps whose existence has been verified. Forgeries and fantasies are not described.

I cannot vouch for the lack of omissions in my listing. Nor can I vouch for the accuracy of every year of issue. I would, therefore, be extremely grateful for any information in this regard from experienced people and, especially from Zemstvo administrations, some of which have already been kind enough to respond to my questions.

TRANSLATOR'S NOTE:

We are indebted to Ed Wolski, Treasurer of the Washington Chapter of Rossica, for spotting this extremely rare volume in the famous Yudin Collection in the Library of Congress.

ADDITIONAL NOTE ON THE MYSTERIOUS "K P" HANDSTAMP USED IN RIGA
IN 1816-1857

by Dr. C. de Stackelberg

It may be recalled, that in the Rossica #69, pages 29-30, I discussed "The Mysterious K P Handstamp used in Riga in 1816-1857".

Supported by the opinions of our experts, I came at that time to the conclusion that these cyrillic letters meant "Konnaja Potchta" or "Horse Mail", i.e. that letters bearing that handstamp were forwarded by special messengers on horseback, instead by ordinary mail, carried by Yamshtiks in carriages or sleds.

However, now Mr. H von Hofmann of Hamburg, Germany, was kind enough to send me a reproduction of a handstamp, he has discovered (and which is illustrated below), which seems to prove that "K P" of the Riga and Mitau letters mean, as he always has maintained "Kasennaja Pochta", i.e. Government or Official Mail. The handstamp was affixed in Moscow in 1859 and shows at the bottom of the circle the cyrillic letters "KAS P", which could be the abbreviation for "Kasennaja Pochta" or Government Mail.

When checking this further with our experts, our Honored Member, Mr. Kurt Adler, of New York, drew my attention to a later Railway P. O. cancellation from Moscow, he has in his collection, showing in a circle, above the date line, the letters "MOCKBA M.A." and below "KA3B", meaning: "Moscow, Railway" and abbreviated "Kasan Railway Station". We have not been able to ascertain whether in 1859 there was a special postoffice or poststation in Moscow, from which the mail was forwarded to Kasan i.e. whether the "KAS. P." on Mr. von Hofmann's stamp did not refer to that Kasan P.O. in Moscow.

By all appearances, the "K P" on the Riga and Mitau letters now seems to mean "Government or Official Mail", but if it is so, how was it handled and forwarded by the postoffices, as no such class of mail was ever known to have existed in Russia.

Illustration of Dr. C. de Stackelberg's note on the mysterious "K P" stamp of Riga.



THE RUSSIAN POSTS IN RUMANIA

by D. N. Minchev

INTRODUCTION

The steadily growing political and economic relations between Tsarist Russia and the Ottoman Empire, which had already manifested themselves from the second half of the 18th Century onwards, made necessary the establishment of regular communications between these countries. This development was also facilitated by the general decay of the Ottoman State and the disastrous results of the wars conducted by it, mainly against Austria and Russia, forcing it to conclude rather humiliating treaty conditions, which were known under the name of "capitulations".

The Russian drive was directed upon overland postal routes, without, however, neglecting those by sea, and these became longer and more regular as time went on. The overland routes foreshadowed for the two Danubian principalities of Moldavia and Wallachia a noticeable and important role. At this time, they were both vassal states of Turkey. In 1859, these two countries became known as the "United Principalities", and later on as Rumania. The territories of these two principalities served for almost a whole century as the main and direct route for Russian overland connections with the Ottoman Empire.

Quite a lot has been written in several countries in the form of monographs, articles, notes, etc., on the work of the Russian postal services in Rumania and the corresponding principalities of Moldavia and Wallachia. A leading place among such studies is taken by the following:- the work of S. V. Prigara, the valuable six-volume series by Stephen and Tchilinghirian, as well as the articles by N. I. Sokolov, published in the files of the Postal and Telegraphic Journal (Unofficial Section), a publication which was issued at St. Petersburg (Leningrad) until W.W.I. Material published in the Rossica Journal, the BJRP, the "Philatelen Pregled" of Sofia and the magazine "Filatelia" of Bucharest should also not be overlooked, if we are to deal with the most important sources of information. Much new data on the activities of the Russian Posts in the two Danubian principalities have been revealed in their pages. In our present investigation, we shall attempt to give, as far as possible, a fuller and more comprehensive picture of the general activities of the Russian postal agencies in Moldavia and Wallachia. With this view in mind, we have utilized not only the existing literature at our disposal but also new documents which we have had the opportunity to locate recently.

It should be noted that two distinct features may be distinguished in the activities of the Russian postal service: the work of the Consular Posts and that of the Fieldpost Agencies. In conjunction with the above, five different and important periods may be discerned. The first of these, which we would like to call the Early Period, cover the years from 1774 to 1828, when a Russo-Turkish War was declared, lasting to 1829. The Second Period which followed, ran from 1830 to the outbreak of the Crimean War. The Third Phase started in 1857, after the signing of the Treaty of Paris, which put an end to the Crimean War of 1853-1856; this phase lasted until 1868, when the activities of the Russian Consular Posts were wound up on Rumanian soil, in accordance with the agreement of 25 November 1867 between the two relevant countries. The Fourth Period includes the work of the Russian Fieldpost during the Russo-Turkish War of 1877-1878, and the Fifth and final Phase encompasses the activities of the Russian navigation companies from 1878-1910.

THE INITIAL STAGES

The establishment of regular diplomatic relations between Russia and Turkey goes back to 1496-1497, when the first official Russian mission was opened at Constantinople. This gave rise to the obvious need for the maintenance of courier services between the capitals of the two above-named countries. Starting from the middle of the 17th Century, Russia gradually began to play an increasingly important role, both in the Levant and in the Balkans. Because of this, its connections with the Ottoman Empire became of necessity more vital and intimate. The 13th article of the treaty concluded at Constantinople on 13 June 1700 obliged the Turks to guarantee the free and unhindered passage of Russian diplomatic couriers across the then broad expanse of Turkish territory. To ensure this guarantee, the couriers were provided by the Sultan with special "fermans" (Turkish edicts), and, being accompanied by janissaries, their safety was assured.

Later on, with the well-known peace treaty signed on 10 July 1774 at Kuçuk Kainarca, a village near the city of Silistra in the Dobrudja, putting an end to the Russo-Turkish War of 1768-1774, Russia was guaranteed once again important political, territorial and commercial concessions. The Turks once again were obliged to make available regular lines of communication between the two countries. Turkey expressly guaranteed the dispatch and receipt of written correspondence between the contracting countries. From this, it appears that the reference is to the mail of private citizens, and not diplomatic correspondence. On the basis of the Treaty of Kuçuk Kainarca, Russia almost immediately began to open a post office at its embassy in Constantinople. In their work, the Russian couriers mainly utilized the routes which went by land from Constantinople, through Bulgaria (then under Turkish rule), Wallachia and Moldavia and finally towards Russia. In fact, from the beginning of the activities of the Russian Consular Posts, the names of the two Rumanian principalities are linked with this service until its termination at the end of 1867.

THE EARLY PERIOD (1774-1828)

According to official sources, the regular Russian mail for Constantinople was dispatched from St. Petersburg for the first time on 1 January 1782. During the month of February of the same year, a Russian diplomatic mission was opened at Bucharest. This was the first foreign consulate to be opened in Wallachia. A post office was attached to the consulate and it was known as the "Bucharest Postal Service". We would be inclined to fix the establishment of a Russian postal agency at Giurgiu (Gyurgevo, opposite Rushchuk in Bularia) at a little later on. It existed until 1 March 1859 and it had a forwarding function. At the city of Iași (Jassy), the capital of Moldavia, the post office came into being at the same time as the opening of the Russian consulate there, possibly during 1782, or even perhaps at the end of 1781. It is known that the establishment of diplomatic missions calls for a lot of preparatory time, and the vagueness of the exact dates of the opening of Russian postal agencies in these two capitals was due in part to the rather imprecise nature of the laws then in force there in 1782. It appears that during the first 20 years of the 19th Century, another postal agency was opened in the city of Focșani, an important town and communications junction, situated on the border between Moldavia and Wallachia.

On the basis of the 76th article of the convention for trade and navigation, concluded on 10/21 June 1783 between Turkey and Russia, the previous rights of Russia were guaranteed anew. In this article, it is expressly stated that as the facilitation of commercial ties between the subjects of the relevant two countries and their mutual correspondence was envisaged, the Sublime Porte (i.e. the Imperial Turkish Government) was obliged to take measures to guarantee the security and rapidity of the mails and couriers. The Russian Posts began to serve the inhabited places along their routes regularly and at an increased scale. It can be assumed that from 1783 onwards, additional Russian postal agencies were opened at Galatz in Moldavia and Braila in Wallachia.

Only thus can be explained the fact that while, at the end of 1781, the route of the Russian postal couriers followed the road from Constantinople across Bularia and via Giurgiu, Bucharest, Focşani, Jassy and Soroka onto Bratslav, for the route utilized in 1783, a second way was taken, as follows:- from Bucharest to Braila, Galatz, Kishinev, Bendery (Tighina) and then on to Olviopol', a Russian border village on the Bug River. In May 1792, the town of Dubossary cropped up, together with Olviopol', as a Russian postal point on the Dniester. In 1812, on the grounds of the Treaty of Bucharest, the Russian border post office was moved to the hamlet of Skulyany in Bessarabia, on the Pruth River to the north of Jassy. The distance between Constantinople and Skulyany, with 41 intermediate stations, was covered in 230 hours. During 1846, an ordinary letter sent from the Turkish capital to Bucharest took only 8 days. In its 30 to 35 years of activity, the prestige of the Russian Posts became so great that it achieved wide popularity. As such, it was utilized with preference by the public.

Two interesting facts will round off the importance and vitality of the Russian postal service in this its early period. During the summer of 1782, Nikola Karadzha, the Phanariote "hospodar" or Lord of Wallachia, expressly forbade the dispatch of letters to Constantinople by the Russian mail because of internal political considerations. Later on, this prohibition was lifted. Four years later, during the summer of 1786, the "hospodar" of Wallachia, now another Phanariote named N. Mavrogenis, feeling that his position was threatened forbade his boyars (nobles), upon pain of hanging, to send their correspondence through the Russian postal service. Please see Rossica No. 66, pages 50-51 for further details.

In accordance with an understanding reached with the Turks, the Russian mail normally went to Constantinople and back twice a month. During 1806, the mails went twice weekly between Bucharest and the Russian border post office at Dubossary. On one particular occasion in 1795, three mails arrived from the same direction in the interior of Russia and were gathered simultaneously in Jassy for forwarding to the Turkish capital.

The conveyance of the mails along Moldavian and Wallachian routes was performed with cards. Later on, the couriers utilized covered carts, which were called "brashovanki", referring to a type of quite large covered vehicles, by which merchants transported their stocks from the city of Braşov (Brashov or Kronstadt in Transylvania). The means of transportation were the property of the corresponding local Moldavian or Wallachian postal authorities, and they were paid for their services. By a ukase of January 1810, the work of the Russian Posts was officially sanctioned by the Principality of Wallachia. As a matter of fact, it actually legalized what had already been the situation for some time. It may be assumed that the same step was also taken by the Moldavian authorities.

The passage of Russian couriers across Moldavia and Wallachia, as well as on Bulgarian soil, was accompanied by difficulties and risks. When the means of transportation arrived at rivers or other natural obstacles, which were impassable, they stopped and waited until favorable weather set in, or found another opportunity to cross over.

The postal rates for the transmission of correspondence were quite high. For instance, in 1782, a letter from Olviopol' to Jassy cost 5 kopecks, and from Olviopol' to Bucharest almost twice as much (9 kopecks). Later on, between 1786-1787, the tariff was calculated on a per lot ($\frac{1}{2}$ oz.) basis. Thus, the rates were 16 kopecks from Olviopol' to Jassy and 13 kopecks from Olviopol' to Bucharest. From 1792 onwards, the rate was increased by 4 kopecks on a per lot basis.

During the last years of this early period of its activities in Moldavia and Wallachia, the Russian Postal Service used a single-line cachet, showing the name of the office, to mark the letters handed in for transmission. Originally, the marking was applied on the backs of the letters, confirming that such mail was accepted by the Postal Service and that it was in perfect order. The letter sent on 15 January 1826 from Bucharest to Kishinev, recently found in the Kurt Adler collection, bears such a marking inscribed "Bukharest" (Bucharest).

Markings similar to that provided for Bucharest were assigned to the postal agencies at Jassy and Focşani. It appears that this type of marking was the first postal cachet used by the Russian Posts in the Rumanian principalities, and as such was applied only from about 1820 onwards.

It should be noted here that during the entire length of time of its existence on Rumanian soil, the Russian Postal Service maintained regular communications with Turkey, and these were interrupted only during the Russo-Turkish wars.

EDITORIAL COMMENT: Mr. Minchev's erudite study will be continued in our next number. In the meantime, we hope that our specialists in this area will keep a sharp lookout for any prestamp covers emanating from the Rumanian principalities, especially before 1820, so that we may be able to ascertain whether any earlier types of postal markings were applied on mail conveyed by the Russian Posts.

PUSHKIN'S BOW TIE

by V. A. Karlinskii

Translated from "Filateliya SSSR", No. 1 for July 1966.

Upon the occasion of the centenary in 1937 of the death of Aleksander Sergeevich Pushkin, a special set of six stamps was issued. Three of these stamps showed a portrait of the poet and the other three depicted a memorial to Pushkin in Moscow, which was the work of the sculptor A. Opekushin. The purpose of this article is to ascertain the name of the artist who did Pushkin's portrait.

In the catalog of Soviet stamps issued in 1955, this portrait was ascribed to the artist V. Tropinin. The inaccuracy of this reference was immediately apparent to collectors. The stamp design definitely had nothing in common with the well-known portrait of the poet, done by the artist V. Tropinin in 1826. Therefore, in the following issue of the catalog in 1958, the reference to the creator of the portrait was changed and now ascribed to O. Kiprenskii. And indeed, on a superficial basis, the stamp design and the portrait of A. S. Pushkin, executed by O. Kiprenskii in 1827, are quite similar. In fact, it would be possible to agree with the catalog, were it not for the cravat tied around Pushkin's neck.

In the portrait by Kiprenskii, the cravat is loosely tied and its ends droop onto the poet's chest. In the portrait on the stamp, the cravat is tied into a fine bow. It would be impossible to surmise, in any case, that the artist designing the stamp could have arbitrarily changed the details of the portrait by Kiprenskii. Thus, only one explanation can be presented; the portrait depicted on the stamp was from another source and thus not by either Tropinin or Kiprenskii. But who could this have been? The following shows how it was possible to find out.

The last apartment used by the poet is located in Leningrad at No. 12 on the Moika Embankment. It is now a branch of the All-Union Museum of A. S. Pushkin. On the window of one of the rooms, a portrait in a modest rectangular frame may be seen. Its historical value is great, and, in fact, this is the last portrait done during the poet's lifetime.

It was drawn and then engraved on steel by Thomas Wright, an English engraver popular at that time. Wright worked on the portrait of Pushkin for almost two years. In spite of the remote influence of Kiprenskii (Wright chose for his portrait the same pose of Pushkin's head), the engraving by Wright is a completely independent production. According to the opinion of his contemporaries, the engraving was received with great success, and Wright's portrait was dubbed by them as "the best likeness". The famous Russian painter, I. E. Repin, knew Wright's portrait well and once said about it: "Notice how an Englishman created the likeness of Pushkin. The head of an ordinary man, the brow of a thinker. He had a first-class mind" (quoted from "A. S. Pushkin in the Illustrative Arts", OGIZ Publishing House, Leningrad, 1937).

Thus, it was precisely this last portrait of the great Russian poet, done during his lifetime, that was also depicted on the commemorative postage stamps dedicated to the centenary of his death.

Postage stamps have been issued on several occasions since 1937 in honor of A. S. Pushkin. But never again was the same portrait repeated on them, the story about which likeness the series of 1937 prompted us to investigate.

WANTED - Ottoman Turkish and Offices in Turkey material; Balkan Wars, and Aegean Island material; used only. Stamps, covers, locals, samples, etc.

Gordon Torrey

3065 Porter Street, N. W.

Washington 8, D. C.

1941 SARNY CONTROL STAMPS

by R. Polchaninoff

I would like to share with readers of ROSSIKA the exact data about the Sarny Control Stamps received by me from Eng. N. K. Hadziacky, a recognized specialist on this issue. He is registered by "Ukraine Philatelisten Verband" and has the right to place his guarantee seal on the Control Stamps. The Sarny Control Stamps, like the local German occupation issues, are listed in the Michel catalog, as well as in the Borek and Zumstein catalogs.

The Michel-Deutschland 1967 catalog, on page 356, mentions the following about the Sarny Control Stamps:

Sarny District

The Ukrainian Civil Post operated under the control of the local German civilian authorities from October 1 to December 4, 1941. Special Control Stamps have been used to guarantee the control of the monies received for postal franking. The German Official Post ("Dienstpost") took over the postal service December 5, 1941, from which date the Control Stamps ceased to be valid for postal franking. Stamps Nos. 1 - 6 were used in the districts (subdivisions of counties - CPB) of Sarny, Dombrovitsa, Klesov, Rafalovka and Rokitno.

1941. 18 Oct. Auxiliary Issue. Control stamps, black, typographic hand-set on shiny colored paper. No. 3 has the text on the reverse side obliterated with heavy black lines. Watermark - wavy lines. "A" - partial line perforation ll. "B" - imperforate. No gum.

	"A"		"B"	
1. 50 kop. black on dark blue paper	150.00	180.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
2. 1.50 krb (karbovanetz), black on:				
a. dark brown ordinary paper with horiz. lines			450.00	500.00
b. light brown thin paper with horiz. lines	60.00	110.00		
3. 3.00 krb. black on light gray paper	320.00	420.00		

Issued: 1 A = 800; 1 B = 25; 2 A = 1300; 2 B = 250; 3 = 260 each.
In use until Oct. 28, 1941.

1941. 28 Oct. Auxiliary Issue. Nos. 1 - 3 with red horizontal overprint in German: "GK.-Ssarny." "A" - partial perf. ll. "B" - imperforate. No.gum.

4. 50 kop. black on dark blue paper (invert. overprints known)	90.00	120.00		
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	"A"	"B"
5. 1.50 krb. black on:		
a. dark brown paper		
x. ordinary paper		
with horiz. lines		110.00 155.00
y. thick paper with		
vertical lines	380.00	480.00
b. light brown thin		
paper with horiz.		
lines	65.00	95.00
6. 3.00 krb. black on		
light gray paper	420.00	550.00

Stamps on cover 200% higher.

Issued: 4 = 2,361; 5 ax = 544; 5 ay = 125; 5 b = 3087; 6 = 671 each.
In use until Dec. 5, 1941.

Behind the dry lines of type of the catalog is hidden a brief, but very interesting history for philatelists and non-philatelists alike.

After the German "liberators" came to Sarny early in July 1941, the local inhabitants, who believed the German propaganda, organized their own self-government which started with energy to rebuild what was destroyed by the war.

Mr. Pudlovsky, the postmaster of Sarny district, who regarded as most important the reconstruction of communications, (and not Hadziacky as was erroneously shown in E. Keiler's article), reestablished telephone communication with all 11 post offices of the district, notwithstanding the demolitions of the retreating Red Army. (The post offices of Rokitno and Klesov were completely burned.)

Since Mr. Pudlovsky had been in charge of about 60 postal-telegraph employees, as well as being responsible for paying their wages and for covering other expenses, it was decided to charge for the mailing of letters, whether belonging to the self-government institutions or to private individuals, according to the following tariff:

Post card	50 kop.
20 grams letter within the limits of the city	50 kop.
20 grams letter outside the limits of the city	1.50 krb.
(50 kop. for each additional 20 grams)	
Registered letter up to 20 grams	3.00 krb.

The charges for the mailing of letters were paid in cash with a corresponding annotation on the letter itself. The earliest preserved letter bears the date of 1 Oct. 41, although such covers were first used in September.

With such a system it was not possible to control income from the mailing of letters; therefore, with the permission of the German district commissioner ("Gebietscommissar"), who arrived at Sarny, I believe, toward the end of Aug. there was accepted the proposition of Eng. N. K. Hadziacky to issue the Control Stamps patterned after the ones issued by the Tenth German Army in Minsk in 1918. Moreover, it would be easier for the "Gebietscommissar" to obtain from the high authorities a permit to issue the control stamps, having a precedent from the 1918 war, than a permit to issue postage stamps. The use of the Control Stamps was also obligatory for the German institutions. The

number of Soviet postage stamps that remained in the post offices was insignificantly small--even if overprinted in some manner--so it was imperative to think about issuing new stamps for postal franking.

The printing of the Control Stamps was entrusted to the only typographer in Sarny. Because of the shortage of paper in the areas occupied by the Germans, the entire stock of paper in the cooperative store was used, as follows: dark blue wrapping paper, the so-called solid one, manufactured by the paper factory in the village of Mokvin of the Sarny district. The 50 kop. Control stamps were printed on this paper. The largest issue was contemplated for the 1.50 krb. Control Stamps for which there was used brown paper of three kinds: thin, light brown with horizontal watermark lines; average-thickness brown; and the thick one with vertical watermark lines. Such brown paper was used in Polish times to pack tobacco products. For the 3.00 krb. Control Stamps, use was made of the reverse side of Soviet stationery of "Voluntary Collective Life Insurance of the Workmen". The text of the forms was obliterated with thick black lines. Apart from the text, these forms had a green frame and two green stars in the lower corners. From each form two sheets of Control Stamps were produced; and the ones with the green frame and, especially those with the stars on the reverse, are exceptionally rare. The paper of the forms was of good quality with wavy lines watermark.

The Control Stamps were not printed from plates but were set by hand, 25 stamps to a sheet. (The size of sheets is 12 x 16 cms. and 10.8 x 15.5 cms. imperf.)

While setting the stamps, it was found that the printer was 9 capital letters "K" short, which were replaced by the Cyrillic letters. Speaking frankly, there were other, not casual, errors, for example: The idea of the typesetter (a Jew who ran away from the Nazis from Warsaw but who got stuck in Sarny) was to so compose the interior frames of the stamps with different combinations of dots that they were known only to him so as to avoid forging of these "valuable papers" as he termed the Control Stamps. In other words, each stamp of the sheet is different from the others in some detail.

According to the authoritative opinion of Eng. N. K. Hadziacky, the difficulty of forging consists also in the kind of paper, which is not produced any more. In any case, from 1941 to date, nobody has tried to forge the Sarny Control Stamps.

The Control Stamps were affixed to the envelopes with common glue and their cancellation was by means of the old Soviet cancellation stamps from which the hammer and sickle were removed. Covers exist with the cancellation of the following post offices: Sarny (large and small); Dombrovitza, Rafalovka, Volodimiretz (used the canceller of the village of Cepcevitze which had no post office in 1941); Rokitno (rubber stamp with the two-line German inscription "ROKITNO - GK SARNY" and date; and Klesov where, instead of the stamp, there was a hand pen cancellation and date. As far as the postal agencies are concerned, there exist cancellation stamps of Bereznitza and Khinocki. There were also postal agencies in Antonovka, Tomashgorod and Staraya Rafalovka, but no stamped covers exist.

Sale of the Control Stamps started on 18 October, but on 19 October the Germans abolished the local self-government and ordered the stamps overprinted in red with "GK - Ssarny" in German. Nine days later, i.e. Oct.

28, the post office received the overprinted Control Stamps, while the post offices delivered to Sarny their stocks of stamps without overprints to be returned to the printer. Due to technical delays, some of the postal agencies distant from Sarny used the Control Stamps without the overprints for another three days, i.e., to the end of October. According to the Michel Catalog, the post offices and agencies received the following Control Stamps without the overprint:

No.	1A	50 kop.	1100	(Sold: 800; returned: 300)
	1B	50 kop.	25	(Sold: 25; returned: 0)
	2bA	1.50 krb.	1600	(Sold: 1300; returned: 300)
	2aB	1.50 krb.	300	(Sold: 250; returned: 50)
	3A	3.00 krb.	350	(Sold: 260; returned: 90)

According to the Michel Catalog, the post offices and agencies received the following Control Stamps with the overprint:

No.	4A	50 kop.	17,400	(Sold: 2,361; returned: 15,039)
	5ayA	1.50 krb.	125	(Sold: 125; returned: 0)
	5bA	1.50 krb.	23,275	(Sold: 3,087; returned: 20,188)
	5axB	1.50 krb.	4,700	(Sold: 544; returned: 4,156)
	6A	3.00 krb.	2,150	(Sold: 671; returned: 1,479)

The Control Stamps were delivered to the Germans on December 5, 1941, after which they were forwarded to Rovno where they were incinerated.

As already mentioned, the Control Stamps were set by hand, and one would expect that with the changing of the value, it would be sufficient to change the figures only. But, due to the whim of the printer, when the 1.50 krb. Control Stamps were printed, the places with the Cyrillic "K" in German text were changed. The other errors remained as they were on their places on the other three values of the Control Stamps.

The Michel catalog mentions only one inverted overprint on No. 4 without setting any value. E. Keiler in his article in "Michel Nachtrage 1951-1954" which was translated into English and published in the "German Philatelic Review", Vol. 3, No. 2 (14), March 1955, permitted numerous erroneous notes about the errors and varieties of the Sarny Control Stamps. The following list is published for the first time. It is complete and correct. The Control Stamps were printed in sheets of 5 x 5. Each Control Stamp is followed by its serial number, counting horizontally from left to right from the top row to the bottom one.

LIST OF THE ERRORS AND VARIETIES, COMMON TO ALL THREE VALUES

Stamp #	9	Letters nn instead of ni in the word Kontrolniy
	10	Thick i " " " "
	11	" n " " znak
	13	" n " " Kontrolniy
	14	The dot on top after word krb.

On the sheets with the overprinting "GK. - Ssarny", stamp No. 5 has a Polish "S" similar to a French "S".

OTHER ERRORS AND VARIETIES

(Michel Catalog)

- No. 1A 50 kop. 11 sheets with 275 stamps printed on the dull (reverse) side of paper. Stamps 14, 15, 19-25 have Cyrillic capital "K" in the German text (also on 50 kop. and 3 krb. #1B, 3A, 4A & 6A). On one of the sheets the 16-20 row of stamps is not separated by perforations from lowest row 21-25.
- No. 1B 50 kop. There is one sheet of 25 stamps which was not perforated by error and which is noted in catalogs as a rarity. (Cyrillic "K" in German text as in No. 1A.)
- No. 2bA 1.50 krb. 10 sheets, by mistake, have no perforation above stamps 1-5 and below stamps 20-25.
- Stamps 11, 12, 15, 16, 21-25 of the sheets have Cyrillic capital "K" in German text, the same as all the others of 1.50 krb., 2aB, 5ayA.
- No. 3A Due to the shortage of figures "3" and "0" of proper thickness, thinner ones were used.
- No. 10 Thin "3".
- No. 12 & 14 Thin first "0".
- No. 14 A 50 kop. Inverted overprints on one sheet on glossy side (25 stamps) and one sheet on dull side (25 stamps).
- No. 18 Thin first "0" and letter "b" is filled with red ink due to speck of dust that got inside of the letter. Cyrillic "K" in German text as on 50 kop. values.
- No. 5ayA 1.50 krb On thick paper with vertical lines. Five sheets without perforation above stamps 1-5.

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

To add something significant to this excellent article of Mr. Polchaninoff will be very difficult. Perhaps some covers, sheets and stamps from my collection will illustrate varieties described by Mr. Polchaninoff.

I would only mention that stamps No. 2a, 2b, 5ax, 5ay, 5b were printed on horizontally or vertically laid paper and not on watermarked paper.

One variety not mentioned by Mr. Polchaninoff and not listed in Michel Catalog is double overprint on stamp No. 5ay. It could be very well "printer's waste" which got into hands of collectors unlawfully. There are few more informations in Michel Germany Specialized Catalog 1967/68, especially prices and types: Type I (-normal stamp-) price as in Michel Germany Catalog 1967, type II (cyrillic K) 20%, type III (cyrillic K and dot on top after kop*) 30%, type IV (normal K and dot on top after krb*) 30% higher than that of type I.

Also stamp No. 4 with inverted overprint (125 copies known) is priced 600.00 M for mint and 800.00 M for used copy.

J. S. Terlecky

RUSSIA

Armenia to Ukraine and Wenden.

Broke up 27 volumes including airs, covers, semi-postals, special delivery, postage due, etc. Many duplicates of singles, sets, broken sets, mint and used. Must sell.

Dr. Louis A. Sorokin
2600 So. Franklin Street
Philadelphia, Pa. 19148



Original sheet of 25 stamps #2b
imperforated on top and bottom,
showing all types and varieties.



Original sheet of 25 stamps #6,
showing all types and varieties.

SARNY.

Зарядок

Kontrollzeichen
3.00 KPO
6x
3H1

В

Генеральному Районному Комиссару

в Сарни

№ 1.
KHINOCZ

Ваш

Телеграмм

Сарни

Registered letter from KHINOCZ to SARNY
Dec. 1941 and backstamped SARNY Dec. 4, 1941.
franked with #6, type I. variety "thin o".

Ан ден

Генеральному Районному Комиссару 92

в Сарни.

Kontrollzeichen
KPO
5x
3H1

РАЙОННА УПРАВА
КЛЕСОВИ

№ 77 KLESIV to SARNY, pen canceled, Dec. 3, 1942
(error: should be : 1941.)
franked with #5 ax, type I.

SARNY.

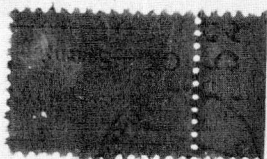
СЕРЬОЗКА УНЬЗВО

В ТИННОМУ

ПОШТА САРНИ.



SARNY to TYNNE, Oct. 28, 1941
franked with one #1, type II
and two #1, imperf. between.



Herrn

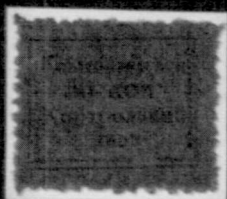


SARNY
=====

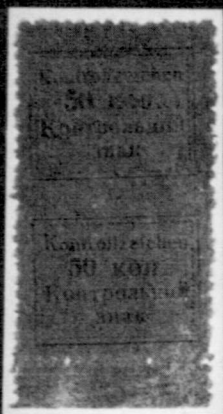


Local Letter SARNY, express, Oct. 30, 1941.
franked with #4, type II, inverted
overprint on dull side of paper, and #6,
type 1, variety "thin 0".

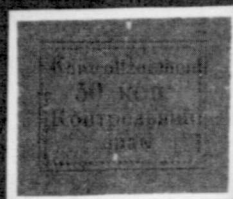
SARNY.



1A. Type III.



1A. Pair
Imperf. between



1B. Type III.



2b. Type III



2a. Type III.



3. Type III.



5b. Type IV.



4. Type IV.



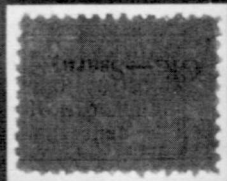
5a. Type IV.



5ax. Type IV.



6. Type III.



4. Inverted
overprint.



2ay. Double
overprint.

SARNY.

ROKITNO
18-XI-1941
Kontrollzeichen
3.00 крб.
СЕРІЙНИЙ
ВІСІК
СРК
SARNY

До

п. Районою і Прокоша

в Києві

поштою Києв

Postfachnummer | Номер інспектора
SARNY | РОКИТНО

725/II

ROKITNO to SARNY, Nov. 18, 1941,
franked with #6, type I, variety "nn".

м. Саями

До Івана

Окружного Комісару

№ 684, 685, 686, 687, 688
DOMBROVICA 4K
4.11.41
Kontrollzeichen
1.00 крб.
СЕРІЙНИЙ
ВІСІК

МІСЬКА УПРАВА

в Довбровиці

Відділ _____

DOMBROVICA to SARNY, Nov. 4, 1941,
franked with #4, type II, and #5b,
type II, variety "thick n".

AN EXCELLENT EXPERTIZATION

by Kurt Adler

When I found what looked like a World War I Field Post cover in a bunch of more or less ordinary Russian covers I sent it to the Romanian Philatelic Society for expertization. This Society, under the presidency of the very erudite and charming General (ret.) Smirnoff is very active in research and has given me an expertise which I would deem classical as to historical and philatelic background and analysis. I would like our "Rossica" readers to see for themselves how an expertise of this kind should be written. The cover in question is illustrated elsewhere in this issue.

OBSERVATIONS ABOUT THE COVER STAMPED WITH TWO ROMANOFF STAMPS OF RUS-SIA AND ONE RUSSIAN LEVANT STAMP OF THE SAME ISSUE, CANCELLED "ARMATA DE OPERATIUNI--TULCEA--25.XII. 1917.

From the Historical Point of View:

1. In 1916, Romania declared war on the Central Powers by aligning itself with France, England, Russia, etc. The superiority of the enemy forced Romania to relinquish part of her territory to the army of occupation. Among the occupied regions was also the Dobrudja (Dobrogea) province, situated between the buckle created by the Danube River and the Black Sea. On 10th December 1916, the Russian army that defended the Dobrudja (under the command of Gen. Syrelius) traversed the Danube at Tulcea and at Isaccea and retired towards the North in the direction of Russian territory. On 11th December 1916 the Bulgarian troops entered Tulcea.
2. On 24th December 1917, the Romanian troops occupied Bessarabia.
3. On 24th January 1918 Bessarabia (situated between the Northern Dobrudja, the Pruth and Dniester (Nistru) rivers) an ancient Moldavian province, annexed by Russia in 1812 declared her autonomy.
4. On 27th March 1918 Bessarabia and Romania were united.
5. During November and December 1918, the Dobrudja was re-occupied by the Romanian army.

In attentively considering the sequence of the above mentioned dates it follows clearly:

- A. That on 25th December 1917 (the date on the cover in question) there could not have been in operation a Romanian post office in Tulcea since this town found itself already for over a year under the occupation of Bulgarian troops (the enemy).
- B. On the same date, Bessarabia (comprising also the town of Orhei, the point of destination of the examined cover) was not part of Romania, the re-attachment of Bessarabia to Romania taking place a year later.

From the Philatelic Point of View:

1. The above mentioned historical data exclude any possibility that in the absence of a Romanian post office in Tulcea there could have been a Russian post office which would sell Russian stamps, and even less Russian Levant stamps.
2. Even in admitting the possibility (which we exclude) that a military post office operated attached to a Romania Corps of operation, such a post office would have used military postcards and would have accepted letters franked only with Romanian stamps. Under these circumstances Russian stamps, affixed to a letter with sender and destination point in the realm of the Romanian postal service could not have constituted a valid interior franking.
3. Research material formed by a great number of letters and postcards gone through the Romanian military post at the period in question shows --it is true--cachets bearing the inscription "Armata de Operatiuni" (Army of Operations). But, in general, these cachets also contain an indication of the divisional or regimental unit as the source of mailing. None of these cachets (which are in the great majority round) corresponds to the type examined on the submitted cover.
4. The cover also shows a cachet formed by the initials C.M. It is to be presumed that this is supposed to indicate "Censura Militara". All cachets of the research material, including the ones quoted in the literature, have these words written out. One does not know cachets with the initials only. The great majority of genuine covers also shows distinctive marks of the censorship units.
5. The address seems to be in Romanian. Although the word "D-lui" corresponds with Domnului (to Mister) and "Orasul" (the town) is spelled correctly, the address bears a grave mistake of language because the name of the country "Rowmania" does not correspond to the correct spelling "Romania".

One cannot assume that a person who speaks Romanian and spelled the other words correctly (including the Romanian way of putting the article as a suffix) could have spelled the name of the country with English orthography. At the same time, apart from these considerations, there is no plausible explanation for the necessity to add the name of the country on an interior letter. This apart from the fact that at the time the town of Orhei was not part of Romanian territory and the town of Tulcea was still occupied by the Bulgarians.

6. The mixed franking of Russian and Russian Levant stamps carry with it another element which serves to consider the cover as a fabrication, meant to attract philatelists.

In our opinion it is a document fraudulently fabricated, flagrantly contradicting the historical circumstances and the postal and philatelic research material, available for comparison.



D. L.

25 XII 1917

Israel 000000

Strada Basarabia N. 107

M. Masul Orhei
Basarabia
Roumania

AN UNUSUAL SIZE

by V. A. Karlinskii

(Translated from the magazine "Filateliya SSSR", No. 1 for July 1966.)

In January 1925, an interesting set of Soviet postage stamps was placed in use. On four differently colored miniatures with face values of 7, 14, 20 and 40 kop., there was depicted the Lenin Mausoleum. Of course, the mausoleum was still made of wood and stood in Red Square until the present granite structure was erected in 1930. This commemorative set, which was devoted to the first anniversary of the death of Lenin, was originally issued imperforate on 15 January 1925. A little later on, namely in the middle of March, all four stamps appeared at postal windows in a perforated state.

Here is how the 1958 Soviet catalog describes the set: "Design by the artist V. Zav'yalov. Photogravure print on paper with 'carpet' watermark. Imperf. and line-perf. 1 3/4". On one occasion when I was carefully examining the set, I could not believe my eyes; the perforation on the stamps clearly did not look like line! It was more like comb or harrow perforation, which was certainly not what was stated in the catalog.

Line perforation is the commonest of all types of separation applied in the production of postage stamps. This type of perforation has only one line of pins, which, when bearing down on the sheet of stamps, gives a uniform row of holes. To perforate the sheet completely, this operation must be carried out several times. First of all, one after another of the horizontal lines of perforation is punched out; the vertical lines are then done after turning the sheet 90 degrees. Line perforation is a laborious job. Moreover, because of the way that each line falls arbitrarily on the sheet, the intersections of the horizontal and vertical rows of separation are not uniform and the stamps show irregular and torn corners.

Both comb and harrow perforations are set up beforehand to conform with specific stamp sizes. In the former process, an entire horizontal row of stamps is perforated at one operation, while in the latter, all the stamps on the sheet are done at one stroke. The corners of the stamps all show perfect quarter-circles.

By using these criteria, it was possible to establish that the perforation on the Mausoleum stamps was not as stated. There were neat and distinct arcs at all four corners - a sign that line perforation was not used. A thought then flashed through my mind. Both comb and harrow perforations are arranged to give specific stamp sizes, and so, were there other Soviet postage stamps in the same size? It appeared at this point that the perforation was peculiar to this particular set.

In any case, I patiently compared each stamp. I started investigating the issues of the last few years, but there were no similar stamps. I went back further and looked at every stamp issued over the last 10, 15 and 20 years. The result was always the same; no other Soviet stamps in this particular size were discovered!

"Yes", Vladimir Georgievich confirmed. "The size is actually unique. This is an unusual situation. By the way, did you try to measure the perforation? Perhaps that would lead to something."

I armed myself with a perforation gauge and checked the perfs. For the top and bottom sides I got perf. $1\frac{3}{4}$, and at left and right $1\frac{1}{2}$. Now there was no doubt; no other Soviet stamps were ever issued with such a perforation. But, all the same, there seemed to me to be something familiar about this $1\frac{3}{4} \times 1\frac{1}{2}$ combination. Actually, I had already run across such a perforation. Yes, of course, but where?

It was back in 1919. The Civil War was raging. But even under such conditions, the Commissariat of Posts and Telegraphs of the RSFSR was obliged to see that the work of the Soviet postal service went on smoothly and that there was an uninterrupted flow of stamps to the post offices. In 1918, Savings and Control stamps were made valid for postage as a temporary measure, and in October of the same year, the first Soviet revolutionary stamps of 35 and 70 kop. were issued in large printings, depicting a hand with sword. But there were still not sufficient stamps, especially of the ruble values. It was then decided to reissue the large sized pre-revolutionary stamps in the high face values of 1 r., 3 r. 50 k. and 7 r. The designer of these stamps was Richards Zarinš (Richard Sarrinsch), an artist on the staff of the EZGB (State Printing Office at Petrograd). This same artist did the "hand with sword" design, which was utilized in 1918 for the first Soviet revolutionary stamps.

The need to economize resources when reissuing the 1 r., 3 r. 50 k. and 7 r. stamps lead to the reconsideration of their arrangement on the sheets. In the pre-revolutionary period, eight horizontal rows of seven stamps, or 56 stamps (7x8) of each value were printed on the sheets. But to simplify accounts, as it was difficult to take sheets with such an awkward quantity of stamps into consideration, six positions were filled with colored decorative "Vs", so as to bring the quantity of actual stamps down to fifty. The perforation utilized was line and this made the process of preparing the stamps even more troublesome.

For the Soviet reissues, the sheet was turned around 90 degrees. It was not possible to place ten stamps in a horizontal row. Of course, they were now placed closer together than before, but this was not important. There were five horizontal rows on the new sheets. The quantity of stamps remained the same (50), but the size of the sheet was reduced and thus paper could be saved. Of no smaller importance was another improvement: for economic reasons, a more suitable harrow perforator was constructed. Now the perforator could do the whole sheet at one operation of the machine. In other words, the Soviet technicians rose to their responsibilities. And the gauge of the new harrow perforator was $1\frac{3}{2}$ x $1\frac{3}{4}$, for stamps in a vertical format.

I placed a stamp from the Mausoleum set on top of a pre-revolutionary ruble stamp of the Soviet reissues and they coincided tooth by tooth. It was, in fact, the same gauge!

But still, everything was not quite clear. Why was it that in 1925, that is, six years later, the Goznak organization (State Printing Office at Moscow) saw fit to remember about the 1919 harrow perforator and utilized it again when issuing the Mausoleum commemorative set?

If the investigations of Soviet stamps were carried out on a solitary basis, I am convinced that we would not have at our disposal one tenth of the range of information we know now. Only with the collaboration of minds concentrated on a common task, only with the resources of many investigators can the alluring history of Soviet postage stamps be reconstructed in all its details. And that has turned out to be the case this time also. A Saratov collector, N. N. Shchegolev, stretched out a helping hand. He informed me about a curious characteristic; the design of the ornamental frame on the 1925 stamps depicting the Mausoleum had actually been done ten years earlier!

Back in the pre-revolutionary era, Richards Zarrinš had begun work on a set of seven stamps, devoted to the history of the posts. The artist chose as subjects for the designs some methods of conveying correspondence, such as by postal troika, by steamer and by camel. Specifically, the 15 kop. stamps depicted a mailman of the northern regions of the country. He is seen being whisked away on a sled, to which a reindeer has been harnessed. Each design was provided with an ornamental frame.

However, in pre-revolutionary days, only portraits of the tsars, or the state coat of arms, showing the two-headed eagle with a sceptre held in its left leg, were permitted to be shown on the postage stamps of the country. It is therefore not surprising that the set designed by Zarrinš was not issued. However, the essays of these stamps remained at the disposal of Goznak. Later on, they were reproduced in the magazine "Soviet Collector", combined issue 10-12 for 1929, where Mr. Shchegolev discovered them.

Any investigator with an alert eye cannot help but notice that the frame on the 15 kop. stamp by Zarrinš was repeated on the 1925 set depicting the Mausoleum. Evidently, the order to prepare the commemorative stamps was of an urgent nature and, to speed up production, the previously executed ornamentation was supplied at Goznak to the skillfully created design showing the Mausoleum on Red Square, as done then by the young artist V. Zav'yalov.

Thus, Zarrins prepared this frame in the same size as his own ruble value stamps, and hence, the frame fixed the size of the design. Moreover, those same values for the Soviet reissues of 1919 were also instrumental in the construction of a new harrow perforator.

EDITORIAL COMMENT: Actually, the problem, posed by Mr. Karlinskii, had already been solved as far back as 1932 by an old Rossica member, the late Mr. S. Manzhelei (Manzelej) of Belgrade, Yugoslavia. Writing in No. 10 of our own Journalm Mr. Manzhelei pointed out in an installment of a study devoted to Russian and Soviet perforations that the following stamps exist in this unusual harrow perforation:-

Vertical format ($1\frac{1}{2} \times 1\frac{1}{4}$): 5 r. Romanov stamp of 1913; 1 r., 3 r. 50 k. and 7 r. Soviet reissues of 1919.

Horizontal format ($1\frac{1}{4} \times 1\frac{1}{2}$): 1 r., 2 r. and 3 r. Romanov stamps of 1913; Lenin Mausoleum set of 1925.

This information is significant, because it proves that the harrow perforator must have been constructed at least as far back as the end of 1912, in time to complete the ruble values of the 1913 Romanov Tercentenary set. Thus, the machine was not set up in 1919, during the Civil War, as assumed by Mr. Karlinskii.

However, this does not detract from Mr. Karlinskii's article published above, as his study is a model of patient and persistent investigation. His information on the "History of the Posts" essays, designed by the famous Latvian artist, Richards Zarrinš, is especially noteworthy and they are reproduced herewith from an article entitled "Time to get out of the rut", by K. O. Pengagen, on pp. 52-53 of the issue of the "Soviet Collector" noted above. He suggested, among other things, that these fine designs be utilized for Soviet postage stamps. Judging from the illustrations, it appears that the subjects were as follows:-

- 10 kop.: A troika or team of three horses, harnessed to a postal telega (Russian four-wheeled cart) carrying a driver and passenger.
- 14 kop.: A troika harnessed to a postal sled driven by a mailman.
- 15 kop.: A reindeer harnessed to a postal sled driven by a mailman.
- 20 kop.: A laden camel and mailmen, facing left.
- 20 Kop.: A laden camel and mailmen, facing right.
- 35 kop.: A postal steamer.
- 35 kop.: Unloading correspondence from a mail train.

According to the article, these essays were housed in 1929 at the Postal Museum at Leningrad. It would be interesting to know if they still exist today.

THE "HISTORY OF THE POSTS" ESSAYS BY RICHARDS ZARRINS.



See the article "A Strange Size", by V. A. Karlinskii.

WANTED

USED POSTAL STATIONERY ENVELOPES AND LETTER SHEETS OF IMPERIAL RUSSIA
KINGDOM of POLAND and GRAND DUCHY of FINLAND

Please send list, condition and price first letter. All mail answered.

Use Ascher Numbers if possible.

Also interested in used stationery envelopes and letter
sheets of the world of Classical Period.

Dr. Heinz A. von Hungen

Box 17

Salida, Calif., USA

Rossica #538

EARLY RUSSIAN PERIODICALS AT THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

By Leo Gordon

Museum Technician, Division of Philately and Postal History

Nineteenth century periodicals of Russian origin hold a special fascination for collectors of Russian philatelic memorabilia. Recently, a number of these came to light at the Division of Philately and Postal History, Smithsonian Institution. It has been my pleasure, as coordinator of publications in the Division's extensive library, to be the agent of this "discovery". Of course, these journals have been here for a considerable time but their true identity was made safe from detection by a former library worker, who, in testimony of his unfamiliarity with the Cyrillic alphabet, had entered them on library index cards as MAPKN. A book-by-book examination of unshelved material disclosed that the Smithsonian had in its possession, not anything intriguingly titled MAPKN, but nineteen issues of the stamp magazine MARKI, published in Kiev between 1896 and 1899. I shall attempt to describe these magazines to Rossica readers.

Roughly ninety percent of Marki's contents consists of articles translated from the Western philatelic press that add little to our store of philatelic knowledge. Of the remainder, excerpts from government decrees relating to postal affairs, penalties for counterfeiting, and descriptions of zemstvo issues provide some useful supplementary information. A few articles and editorial comments permit us to gain insight into the true state of philately in Russia at that period. I will confine this description to features that are peculiar to Russian philately and Russian philatelic journalism.

The first issue of Marki is dated 12/24 March 1896, in deference to the dual calendar systems (Julian and Gregorian) prevailing at the time. It is tabloid style, 9 in. by 12 in. in size, and contains twenty-six pages (pages five and six, a note from the publisher states, were not ready at the time of mailing and will be forwarded later!).

The masthead of the newspaper proclaims that it is the first Russian illustrated monthly for collectors of postage and other stamps; that it is bilingual, using French and Russian for text and advertisements; that it is published by one S. D. Solomkin of Kiev. Later editions carry the legend that it is the official organ of the Moscow Stamp Collectors Society.

The illustrations are chiefly cuts of stamps such as are used by catalogue compilers. The French text is quietly abandoned after the first few issues. Soon after the turn of the year 1897 Marki is reduced in size to 6 in. x 9 in. and as few as four or six pages. Finally, the new century brings new ownership. Marki's new proprietor, in his first issue dated May 1900 (the final one in our collection) makes an editorial appeal to his newly acquired readership for support of his plans to continue publication of his stamp magazine for the followers of this "widespread sport". But that is running ahead of our tale.

Volume 1, Number 1 of Marki is well endowed with advertisements. They range from offerings of dealers in St. Peterburg, Moscow, Pskov, Vyborg and Narva to half-page and full-page advertisements by French, German and other foreign stamp merchants. However, the most consistent user of the magazine's advertising space is, as is generally the case, its publisher, Mr. Solomkin. His

advertisements identify him as a prominent dealer in stamps, philatelic supplies and literature, foreign stamp catalogues and albums, and picture-card views of the city of Kiev.

Number 1 reports His Majesty's approval of a State Council regulation defining sentences for criminal counterfeiting of postal paper. The penalties include fines and exile to distant provinces "except Siberia" of persons found guilty.

This issue also contains a report of a meeting of the Moscow Stamp Collectors Society, to which a list of the society's members is appended. Because it is important to our understanding of Russian philatelic activities of the period, this complete list is reproduced below:

RESIDENTS OF MOSCOW

Beck, Von der (President)
Berlein, J.
Block, V.
Brass, M.
Buell, J.
Walter, L.
Warman, H.
Wenig, G.
Werkmeister, T.
Winkman, G.
Witte, A.
Hamburger, A.
Harnes, L.
Henert, O.
Hensel, P.
Hornung, O.

Zeligson, Dr. Ed.
Ziwert, I.
Klinhert, G.
Moser, A.
Peterson, V.
Reimer, V.
Rode, V.
Friss, K.
Shevelev, A. (sole Russian!)
Steidel, A.
Jacobson, A.

RESIDENTS IN OTHER CITIES

Herzenberg, L. (Vitebsk)
Marinier, L. (Lodz)
Muller, A. (Warsaw)

It seems quite evident that persons most active in Russian philatelic circles were foreigners stationed in Russia for one reason or another. Most of them can be identified by their addresses as business agents, trade representatives, engineers and professionals. They relied on foreign periodicals for philatelic news and information. Most native Russians, fully absorbed in the elemental task of earning a living in that land of political uncertainty, had neither the means nor the leisure hours for frivolities and hobbies. Most stamp collecting was done by students whose meager allowances permitted purchases of the cheapest varieties only. Such a market did not attract consistent advertising by reliable dealers. This lack of advertising support cancelled all attempts to establish a Russian philatelic press. A market for Russian stamps periodicals simply did not exist. This, perhaps, explains why their life span was so short, in spite of the publishers' efforts to gain benefit from the traffic in philatelic literature. The holocaust that consumed the established Russian society may be responsible for the scarcity of this material at the present time. During the reign of terror that followed the revolution some collectors succeeded in sending their holdings abroad but no thought was given to salvaging anything as patently worthless as outdated periodicals. And so the little that existed was destroyed.

Numbers 2 and 5 of the year 1896 (3 and 4, regretably, are missing) contain little of special interest, except a few columns describing zemstvo issues.

The chess column added at this time became a regular feature of all subsequent editions. Also notable is the inclusion of advertisements soliciting subscriptions for magazines of non-philatelic character such as The Bulgarian Woman, a "magazine for mothers", The School Revue, a monthly for educators, and several others.

Number 6-7 has a front-page lead editorial decrying the prevalence of swindling practices among stamp dealers. Deceptive advertising, obtaining money under false pretenses, sending trash or, as often as not, sending nothing at all for money entrusted to a supposedly reliable advertiser are common occurrences. Both small and large dealers are guilty, states the writer. Examples of swindles perpetrated by dishonest dealers are cited in detail. This issue also contains an unusual "open letter" addressed to a Kiev dealer whose sudden departure for parts unknown with the stamp collection entrusted to the solicitors care was given as the reason for this unique manner of communication. "The stamps", the man writes, "as you know, are not my property and I shall have to make good. I hope that you shall not make me pay so dearly for my confidence...".

In number 8 is a detailed description of the re-issued 100-ruble postal savings stamp, and an account of a questionnaire circulated to governors concerning zemstvo posts within their provinces. Several zemstvo stamps are also described and illustrated.

Number 9's editorial, written in a sort of fireside-chat style, speaks of Mr. Solomkin's selflessness in continuing publication for the sole purpose of improving the state of Russian philately, in spite of lack of profit. It also points out the inadequacies of the then-current method of postal and telegraph use for transfer of funds. The bonds used in Bulgaria are cited as an example of a more sensible and fool-proof system and a Bulgarian money order blank is reproduced. This edition also contains statistics compiled by an official Department of Posts and Telegraph publication quoting the number of stamps, stamped envelopes, letter sheets and newspaper covers sold in Russia in the year 1894, listing the denominations and amounts received. An article describing the zemstvo stamps of Bogorodsk, Moscow province, for the year 1896 is included. These are suspected of being issued by an unscrupulous zemstvo official for speculative purposes.

A review of Russian stamps from Russian's Number 1 to the issues current at the time of writing occupies much of Marki's number 10, November, 1896. Design, color, watermarks and perforations are discussed in detail. Some errors are also noted. In addition, a supplement handbook of Russian state and zemstvo stamps showing some current prices is appended to this issue.

A letter from a Tiflis (now Tblisi) correspondent enlivens the pages of Number 11. "When I arrived here seventeen years ago", the man writes, "I already found some six or eight stamp collectors. None of the stores sold stamps then. Today, nearly all office supply shops display stock pages of stamps left on consignment by big city dealers or local collectors. Most of the buying is done by the local school youths who, confining their purchases to the most common specimens (from one to forty kopecks per piece) go about it unsystematically. They are attracted chiefly by colorful stamps such as those of Borneo, Labuan, Guatemala and other exotic places. Recently, a lively trade in postage stamps of Persia began, mainly by local

Persian merchants whose correspondence with their native land was quite voluminous. A market for these was found as far afield as Austria and Germany and, as a consequence, the price of these stamps has advanced considerably..". This edition is notable for the large number of advertisements for non-philatelic periodicals. Among these are the satirical-political Entertainment (Moscow), The Echo (St. Peterburg), a journal devoted to social and political writings, the St. Peterburg, an illustrated weekly of scientific writings, the weekly Nature and People (St. Peterburg), a magazine of general interest devoted to stories of travel and discovery, and many, many others not even remotely related to philately. One is tempted to conclude that these advertisements (all full-page or half-page) were inserted on a courtesy basis with an exchange arrangement that provided Mr. Solomkin with gratuitous copies that could be sold in his shop.

Marki Number 12 (December 31, 1896) contains an illustration and description of the new postal money order blank which will be introduced January 1, 1897.

The first issue of the new year, 1897, is perhaps the most inexplicable of all. It contains absolutely nothing but advertisements. Four sheets, eight pages of advertisements -- and nothing else!

The following edition (Number 14, January 14, 1897) is hardly more informative. It does have a brief editorial by the publisher who extolls the virtues of consistency of advertising in the same magazine. The good man's earlier declarations of selflessness and dedication to philately are not mentioned.

Shortly after this issue the beginning of the end of Mr. Solomkin's dream of emulating successful Western publishers is apparent. From Number 15 to number 19 (all that we have of the issues of 1897) Marki appears in its greatly diminished format. The advertisements are mostly Mr. Solomkin's own offerings and the little pamphlet resembles a stamp dealers house organ with a few news items thrown in.

We learn from Number 15 that, besides the Moscow Stamp Collectors Society, there are similar groups in St. Peterburg, Riga, Odessa and Helsingfors. More Zemstov stamps are described in this issue.

New postal savings stamps are described and illustrated in Number 17. The government order establishing the new values is cited and the history of the entire issue is reviewed. Also in this edition is a reprint of official reports indicating the increase of postal correspondence in the Amur (Far East) district since 1890. The number of packages, telegrams and registered mail handled is compared with earlier records.

In Number 19 Mr. Solomkin suggests the formation of the first all-Russian Stamp Society and devotes two pages to a proposed list of statutes for such an organization. This proposal ends with an appeal for readers' comments. Nothing further is mentioned of this in later editions.

We have only two issues published in 1899 -- volume 4, numbers 1 and 2. The first contains new postal regulations pertaining to mailing albums, manuscripts and printed matter, samples of merchandise sent abroad, dried plants and objects of natural science, and procedures for reporting non-receipt of

registered mail matter. Also recorded in this issue is the introduction of a four-piece stamped letter sheet with two sheets bearing advertisements of various merchants. Profits from the advertising were used for the benefit of the Empress Maria Charitable Institution. The face (address) side bears the usual seven-kopeck stamp in the right-hand corner. The Institution's seal (a pelican protecting its young) occupies the left-hand corner.

An editorial in the last issue of the year 1899 in our possession comments on the increase in the number of congratulatory New Year cards mailed in recent years. The main St. Petersburg post office reports more than 2½ million cards bearing one-kopeck stamps and 70,000 cards bearing five-kopeck stamps were delivered by letter carriers in the first three days of the new year. This mailing of greeting cards promises to replace the age-old Russian custom of personal visits during holidays and is welcomed as an additional source of revenue for the post office department.

It is interesting to note that the last two issues of Marki contain no advertising whatever.

This brings us to the end. The last issue, published in 1900 by Marki's new proprietor, has already been mentioned at the beginning of this article. One last item from this issue is noteworthy: it concerns the number of versts (a verst is approximately 7/10th of a mile) traveled by letter carriers making their rounds in the city of Smolensk. The first round, from 9 A.M. to 3 P.M., embraces 22 versts. The second, from 4 to 8 P.M. is 1¼ versts. The third round, completed after 9 P.M. is 6 versts -- a total of 42 versts. The average weight of a mail bag is 3 lbs. When trains are delayed, which happens very frequently, a letter carrier's hours of rest are reduced to five in each twenty-four hour period. Letter carriers' salaries ranged from 18 rubles per month for third-class men to 23 rubles per month for first-class carriers. Small wonder, the writer comments, that our letter carriers are incapable of work after they reach forty!

These curios of philatelic journalism are available for examination at any time during regular visiting hours in the reference area of the Division of Philately and Postal History in the Museum of History and Technology, Smithsonian Institution. Members of the Rossica Society and all interested persons are welcome to inspect them at first hand on their next visit to Washington.

TRIDENTS TRIUMPHED AT SIPEX

Boris Shishkin

It is not too late to report that the showing of Ukraine, an area of special interest to ROSSICA members, scored a unique triumph at the Sixth International Philatelic Exhibition held in Washington in May, 1966.

Three distinguished exhibits of the stamps of Ukraine shown at SIPEX not only received wide acclaim, but all three were medal winners.

Eugene R. Kotyk of Jersey City, N. J., displayed four frames of the postal district of Podolia. His collection presented various types and subtypes of the trident overprints of Podolia, including the unique Type IIIa on 1 Ruble imperforate and covered a range of overprinting irregularities, covers and cancellations. Kotyk won a Silver Medal.

Another medal-winning display of Podolia was presented by our friend C. W. Roberts of Ilminster, England. He received a Bronze-Silver Medal for his showing of the many types of handstamps applied in Podolia in the 1918-21 period, including both used and unused specimens as well as covers.

A Bronze-Silver Medal was also awarded to Paul Wolansky of Parma Heights, Ohio, for his four-frame showing of Ukraine, which included the Shahiv and Hryven issues, as well as the trident and the abbreviated overprints of the Hetman State and issues of the People's Republic.

That all three displays of Ukraine were medal winners at this international exhibition is a tremendous triumph for the trident specialists.

INTRODUCTION FROM "DIE POSTWERTZEICHEN DER RUSSISCHEN LANDSCHAFTSAEMTER",

by C. Schmidt
Edited by C. P. Bulak

CONTINUED

The decrees of the years 1713 and 1714 granted for the first time the right to private persons to use the mail coach.

Peter the Great transferred the postal arrangements, in those days used in Germany over to the Russian conditions; all post officials were of German origin, the official language used was German and all names were taken from the German, which are preserved even up to this day. In the year 1716, the first Post Office building was erected in St. Petersburg on the river side of the Neva, containing at the same time numerous rooms and assembly halls for the stay of travellers, as, at that time, no other inns or hotels were in existence.

The signature of the first postmaster is still available in a very old report, signed by Gottlieb Kraus, postmaster on the St. Petersburg-Riga Post-Street. The first official civil service, however, was created only in the year 1724.

Owing to his premature death, Peter the Great was prevented from carrying through all the planned reforms in the sphere of the postal service. However, he created the basis on which the postal service could develop itself in such a manner as to respond to the economic and cultural requirements of Russia. His intention to replace the foreign element gradually with Russians was not carried out by his successors.

The Postmaster, Baron Ostermann, who was appointed by the Queen, Catherin I, and who already operated under the short reign of Peter II, promoted the German element still further. Under his management, the development of the

postal service made a useful progress. Baron Ostermann advanced everywhere the letterpost of private people by reducing the postage fees by one third. He created also the postal connection between St. Petersburg and Archangelsk, built a Post Office in Wiborg in 1727, and took special care of his employees, whom he protected against violence and insults, a reform which the coachmen on the roads found so necessary.

Queen Anna Ioannovna promoted the development of the post principally in Est and Livland; in addition, postal connections were opened to the far distant frontiers of Asia. Also the mining districts in the Ural and the town of Perm were connected by separate postal roads with Moscow. In the year 1733, the connection of the city Tobolsk in Siberia with Moscow was established via Yekaterininsk, Kungur, Sarapul and Kazan, and two years later the town of Ufa was connected by a postal road with Moscow. Above all things, postal connections were created in such parts where either war was expected or mining was started. In the latter case, the Director of the mines in Siberia, Tatischev, earned distinction in the development of the postal roads. A postal connection with several towns in the district of Don Cossacks was established in the year 1730, exclusively for military purposes.

Under the reign of Queen Elisabeth, the complaints of the coachmen and drivers increased again about the atrocious treatment by officials and travellers. Owing to these complaints, several proclamations for their protection were issued by the Czars. The Government tried to deal with other difficulties in this way, and they transferred the responsibility for the regular postal services to others. In this way, the newly opened postal connections with the Ukraine was entrusted to the Army of the Cossacks, and the one between Reval and Hapsal to the Baltic Knights, the latter by the decree of the 6th July 1743.

New postal roads were established from Sanchursk to Werchoturys, a distance of 1114 Verst, and from Moscow to Saratov via Murom, 1751 Verst. Of great importance for the home trade or inland commerce, was the decree that the postage for letters on the postal roads to Orenburg, Astrakhan, Siberia, Belgorod, Kiev and Smolensk had to be accepted at the rate of 1 Kopek per Zolotnik.

About the middle of the XVIII Century, postal roads from Moscow were 10,434 verst long, apart from those which led from St. Petersburg to Moscow, Archangelsk, Wiborg and via Narva, Pleskau, Velikie Luki to Smolensk. On all those postal roads, the mail left regularly on certain days of the week from Moscow and from St. Petersburg. Up to this time, however, the postal service developed completely without plan; only certain casual influences issued then-and-there orders for the building of postal roads. This situation was changed only when Prince Bezborodko worked out a carefully studied plan, according to which the further extension of the postal roads was commenced.

With the beginning of the reign of Queen Catherine II commenced the second and most important era of the development of the post in Russia. The reforms of Peter I, which were only partially commenced by him, were completed and thereby an organization was created which was retained up to the 19th century. Count Chernyshov was entrusted with the carrying out of all these reforms in the year 1763. The official state of the postal administrations,

with all their rights and obligations, was finally organized and the whole system of the mail coach itself was essentially altered. In place of the life-long bound coachmen and post boys, who formed a forced and inherited caste-like profession, from now on freely enlisted people were engaged. The whole postal service was made into a complete, united system. The difference previously known between post mails of the nobility and the merchant or businessman was suspended and a single postage fee introduced in the whole of Russia. The new postage charges were for one letter of 1 Lot or 3 Zolotnik for each 100 Verst, one Kopek each. Also the travelling fare for the travellers was altered to a uniform rate. Since 1778, one Kopek was levied for each Verst, and each horse for the distance between the two towns, on all other postal roads, however, 6 Kopeks for each 10 Verst, which was twice as much as the previous fee charged. Owing to the cheaper letter rates, the income of the post increased in a very short time. Whereas in the year 1782, 138,672 Rubles, 31,235 Albert-Thaler (coins), and 94 Groschen (silver coins) were taken, the income after two years increased to 210,945.65 Rubles and 33,910 Albert-Thaler, 81 Groschen.

Since the year 1783, the post started to accept money also in coins and paper, against a fee of one-half of one percent of its value for insurance. The law of the 13th July 1756 decreed finally that parcels containing value could be sent through the post at the same postage fees as the money letters.

The planned modification of all decrees could not be carried out owing to the death of the Queen, but the whole postal service was now safely consolidated in the independent authorities "The General Post Office" and the "Chief Postal Department". To begin at the 19th century, Russia possessed 458 postal divisions, with about 5,000 officials, which were taken over on the 8th September 1802 by the Ministry of the Interior.

No essential progress regarding the development of the postal services under the rule of the Czar Paul could be recorded. On the contrary, the freer movement in the organization of the coach mail was again tied up, and in the year 1799 the old system again restored. The other alterations were immaterial and related more or less to external affairs, until the establishment of six Post Offices in the two capitals, in the Ukraine, in Vilna, Tambov and Kazan, and one in Siberia, all the remaining Post Offices, post expeditions and field post establishments were subjected to them.

In the course, of the 19th century, the postal service developed itself on the normal basis, about in the same way as in all other European countries. About the middle of the previous century, the building of railways was started, gradually many of the frequently used postal roads were deserted and only those connecting roads, which were not contacted by the railway network remained open. However, these also were transferred in the administration with the organization of the Zemstvos. In this way the Imperial Government got rid of the responsibility of the care of the postal roads, whose upkeep created the greatest difficulties for them, especially in the most remote districts.

Before we turn toward the post connections under the administration of the Zemstvos, it will not be uninteresting to see in what manner the Government itself tried to solve this problem in the organization of the post connections, and after trying to find the most suitable by drawing together the different systems for a practical solution of the mail coach establishments.

B. THE DIFFERENT SYSTEMS OF THE MAIL COACH

The very earliest system as already mentioned at the beginning, consisted therein that a special class of the population was compelled to travel over the postal roads their whole life long, and this employment was handed down from father to son. They had certain privileges and tax reliefs; on the other hand, they received only a very small payment or compensation from the travellers, and, generally speaking, they led such a bad life that everyone tried to get away from such a vocation. The complaints about the deeds of violence of the travellers, of the impossibility to earn enough under the circumstances to keep body and soul together, never ended in the course of the centuries. One Imperial decree after another was issued for the protection of the coachmen, without altering much at all their unprotected existence. Not only did the Government increase the fares or taxes of the mail coach continuously, but they also passed extra allowances which were also increasing all the time. Nevertheless, the people employed were not in a position to do justice to the daily increasing requirements of the population, and the actual position of these people was altered very little by the well-meant measures taken by the Government. These untenable conditions influenced not only the speed but also the reliability of the postal connections in a perceptible manner, and even such an important connection as the one between the two capitals had to suffer. From the year 1802 to 1841, different committees examined very carefully the state of the profession and the whole system as such; in the year 1770, experiments were made in some parts of the country to run the postal dispatch by means of a tender for three to fifteen years, whereby the applicants had the right to collect an agreed fee for the delivery of the post and for the transport of the travellers. As the Government, however, had no basis for the individual parts of the country, either as regards the maximum expenses or for the income, this system was a lucrative source of speculation and despotism, so that the system was also dropped at the proposal of the Post Department in the year 1847.

The third experiment consisted of the so-called "free system". The Government paid nothing towards it, but left it to the postmasters to levy a corresponding payment for the dispatch of the post and transport of the travellers. This system was adopted in the year 1788 to 1796 in the Western Governments and also in St. Petersburg, but was, however, given up again at the end of the 18th century because it met with too many difficulties.

A further system was the so-called "Prussian System". First the income and the expenses were estimated approximately, to the figures was added about 12%, and the postal service was contracted for $9\frac{1}{2}$ years. Every three years, the fees for the dispatch was again examined and altered according to the prices for oats and hay. This system was adopted, used on the line from Kowno to Dunaburg from the 1st July 1836, and from Tavrogi to Shavli from the 1st January 1840. From this system the so-called "valuing or estimate system" was introduced, and introduced in about 46 governments. It did not prove satisfactory, however, as the expenses of the postal administration since 1853 increased by about $1\frac{1}{2}$ million Rubles.

As transition to the administration of the postal connections through the Zemstvos, the so-called "economic system" has to be considered. This formed a variation to the "submission" system, with the difference that the postal service was not handed over to the highest offer but to the most reliable undertaking. In addition to the fees, additional contributions were always

made on the part of the State. Simultaneously with the above-mentioned systems, the so-called "land post" or country post developed itself since the year 1805, and tried to satisfy the most urgent requirements in some of the places, according to regular postal conditions.

Through the mediation of the Post Office in Kazan, a few large metallic factories in the Urals and also private persons suggested that it would be possible for the Government to send messengers from the nearest postal departments to deliver the incoming mail in closed post bags, and take away at the same time the outgoing mail. The persons applying to be messengers requested payment according to the weight of the postbags. This request was granted, and it was directed that other postal departments where the same requirements existed and the granting of them would pay for itself, should also start such connections. In this way such secondary connections began under the name "land post", mostly only near the largest factories or the larger commercial centers. In the year 1840, of the 897 postal departments 159 land post connections were established, which, in that year, brought an income amounting to 10,398 Rubles to the Imperial Post.

Generally speaking, the Directors of the Post Offices remained very reserved towards such arrangements because they could not obtain from their Government the necessary means for the upkeep of the land post. Only on the 31st March 1842 a decree of the Imperial Commission reserved the necessary means for the upkeep of the land post in the budget. These land post connections were gradually included in the Zemstvo post; its activity, however, influenced the postal establishments of the Zemstvo post for a long time afterwards, and even now many postage stamps issued by the latter bear the old description "land post".

C. THE ZEMSTVO POST

With the introduction of the Zemstvo Post commences an entirely new chapter in the history of the post in Russia, which is the most important one. Only the activity of the body of self-administrators in all cultural fields, under which the postal administration played a very important role, has awakened Russia from its winter sleep and lifted it up to the state of culture which it possessed before the beginning of the World War.

The Zemstvo Post formed a necessary supplement to the Imperial Post, whose main connections extended to the most distant villages in the large, wide Empire. The Imperial Post could only extend its sphere of activity very gradually over the whole Empire as, on the one hand, the means required were missing and, on the other hand, because of the insurmountable difficulties caused by the bad condition of the roads, the scarce population of distant districts and the colossal distances to be covered.

The first beginnings of the Zemstvo post date back to the year 1837. In all County Court authorities, messenger offices were organized for the inner communication between the officials and the police authorities of the detached districts, which met once a week on the day when the post arrived from the Government cities. From the year 1862, this messenger service was placed under the care of the police officials. The population now used this opportunity, set up solely for administrative purposes, to send their letters to the Imperial postal departments of the nearest counties, from which the

letters were brought to the Court officials. These letters were left there at times for months, and occasionally, when a Court or police messenger was on the way, the letters were forwarded to the villages and finally reached the addressees. The discontent with those conditions increased on both sides, as the police and Court officials also considered the forwarding of the local population's correspondence as extra work which they should not have to do, and found it burdensome.

Since the year 1840, a beginning was made to work out reforms in the postal department, whilst proposals on behalf of the population arrived from the county administrations and the local population, pressing to solve the justified demands. In the year 1864, the law regarding the organization of the self-administration or Zemstvos, and one year later the care for the dispatch of the correspondence in the reach of its activity circle, was already transferred to those self-administrations. To this was attached the condition that the Zemstvos take over the coach mail in their county, and the Government officials were allowed to travel without charge. Since the year 1866, the postal stations gradually went over to the administration of the Zemstvo offices in the outlying counties, for which the Government granted a supplement which was usually increased every third year. For the dispatch of the Imperial mail through the streets running through the counties, the Government paid the same fees to the Zemstvos as the remaining postmasters, but was relieved of a great anxiety. The Zemstvos were, naturally, able to create, because of their knowledge of the conditions, a much more regular and profitable postal condition than the central administration for the whole Empire could hope for. In this way, the Zemstvos took care of the post of the Empire on those connecting roads which already connected the post offices of the Empire, against payment on behalf of the Government. These postal roads connected, with very few exceptions, only the Government cities amongst themselves; the county cities were only contacted when they happened to be on a connecting road. The internal population in the districts, however, did not feel much of the benefit of the blessings of this orderly postal communications. This drawback was only remedied as the Zemstvos, from the year 1865 onward, gradually commenced to organize the postal service also in the interior of the county, which, in the successive decades, served a territory which in its extension was much larger than the Imperial Post itself.

The first permission for this was received by the Vetluga Zemstvo in March 1865, in reply to their petition. The post office there received the order to accept the incoming mail from the Zemstvo office for dispatch, and at the same time to hand it over to the addressee, against his authority to the Zemstvo office. This condition formed a strong obstacle for the further development of the postal intercourse in the interior of the county. As a result of this permission, further petitions were received from all sides so that, up to the 1st January 1867, already in twenty counties either the Zemstvo Post was established or permission for it was already granted. In the course of the year 1867, another sixteen Zemstvo Post Offices were opened, in the next year another nine, and, finally, in the year 1869, another seventeen. At the start, the sphere of activity was very limited; they only dealt with the dispatch of the ordinary correspondence, as the demand to produce an authority every time could not be carried through. This demand was later alleviated, so that not only single persons had to produce an authority but the whole parish could issue an authority. Only in the year 1888 was the request to produce an authority given up entirely.

It took many years before both postal establishments, the Zemstvo post and the Imperial post, worked together without friction. The Imperial post guarded its rights with jealousy and tried again and again to gag or bind the Zemstvos. Only when it was seen and appreciated that it would be in the interests of both parties, when the Zemstvos would receive complete freedom regarding the questions of the inside organization of their postal establishments and also in their administration, began a useful activity of the Zemstvo post for the benefit not only of the local population but also of the Imperial post, whose income increased very considerably by the correspondence which they handled from the Zemstvo post. Gradually the Zemstvo post offices accepted also the dispatch of money. The first permission to send letters containing money by the Zemstvo post was granted to the government of the Samara Government Post Office on the 31st May 1866, under No. 7846. In most of the cases, the Zemstvo posts took over the full guarantee for the letters containing money which were entrusted to them.

The first official permission to use their own postage stamps was given to the Novgorod Zemstvo offices on the 5th May 1867, under the condition, however, that, as far as their appearance was concerned, they must have nothing in common with the Imperial postage stamps.

Different questions of dispute between the Imperial postal administration and Zemstvo post offices -- for instance, the use of the common postal roads or the postal communication from one district into the other by a roundabout way -- were only finally solved through circular No. 12725 of the 3rd September 1870, by which the Zemstvo posts were acknowledged as a necessary supplement to the Imperial post, and the conditions for their intercourse were laid down by law. There were, however, still some points in this circular not quite clear, which gave cause to a number of misunderstandings; the conditions, therefore, were altered, completed and finally included in the circular No. 15649 of the 31st October 1871, in agreement with the new issued conditions with the Imperial Post establishment just issued.

The wording of the circular is as follows:

1. The Zemstvo Post is founded for
 - a. the dispatch to the addressee of ordinary correspondence such as postcards, ordinary and registered letters, book posts and parcels without value declaration, periodical magazines, posters, for the reception of correspondence with declared value and such registered letters which could only be handed over against the production of post advices, from the post department of the Imperial post to the interior of the counties where no post offices existed.
 - b. for the reception of any kind of correspondence from the local population of the county, where no Imperial Post Offices existed, for further dispatch to the nearest Imperial Postal department.
 - c. for the dispatch of any kind of correspondence to the addressee between the various places in the county which had no connection through the Imperial post.
2. The responsibility for a regular delivery of the Imperial post to the Zemstvo post of the correspondence handed over is the duty of the Zemstvo

offices, whose duty it is in the case of the loss of registered letters handed over by the Imperial Post Office, to pay on demand a compensation to the addressee of 10 Rubles for each letter, as fixed in Para. 13 of the Provisional Acts of the Postal district.

3. The Zemstvo offices were released from the production of annual cards for the reception of correspondence from the Imperial Post departments, but were obliged to pay the amount laid down in Para. 97 of 2 Kop. each for such letters, parcels, etc., which were handed out by the Imperial Postal departments and subject to this tax, which amount, however, the Zemstvo offices could claim back again from the addressee when handing over the correspondence to him.
4. Such persons and officials who did not like to receive their correspondence through the Zemstvo post could obtain cards for receiving their correspondence through authorized persons, as provided for in Para. 80 of the Provisional Acts.
5. The Zemstvo post could only carry on the coach service on such roads which were not postal roads, meaning roads where the Imperial Post did not ply. Where the postal dispatch must necessarily go from one postal department into another, the Zemstvo post was allowed to cross the Imperial Postal roads or use them in order to get from one landway into the other.

(Remarks: The correspondence of the Zemstvo offices with one another, also with private persons and officials who had their residence on the Imperial postal roads, also the correspondence of all private people with the Crown and private institutes, also with private persons, who resided on such streets, was not allowed to be dispatched except through the Imperial post only, and any deviation from this rule was in contradiction of the decree of the 1st May 1870, confirmed by the Committee of Ministers.)

6. The Zemstvo offices were allowed to issue their own stamps but only on the essential condition that their design had nothing in common with the stamps used by the Imperial mail.
7. The postman or letter carrier of the Zemstvos was allowed to attach to his letter bag the arms of his province or county, but always only without the two posthorns.
8. Those Zemstvo offices which have the intention to establish a Zemstvo Post on the basis laid down above, must inform the local Government Post authorities so that they can make the necessary preparation. Further, it is necessary that the Zemstvo offices provide those persons who are authorized by them to accept correspondence from the Imperial post in the district, with books, which contain the necessary signatures and the seal of the Zemstvo office. These books have to be used for the entry by the post officials, showing the number of any sort of correspondence handed over by the Imperial post, and also the total sum of the 2 Kopek fees and the postage for letters not sufficiently stamped. Such letters which according to their destination had to be dispatched to distant places, registered letters, parcels without value declaration, private and official, and post notices for the receipt of such registered letters and letters containing money, which could only be handed over against an order, and also official letters must be receipted from the authorized

persons of the Zemstvo office in the corresponding books of the Imperial postal department.

At the same time, the chiefs of the Government Post officials received the necessary instructions through the circular No. 15745 as of the 2nd November 1871.

Attached to same the committee of ministers laid down on the deliberations of this matter the following opinion or view in the protocol of the session:

"Passing over to the general question of the Zemstvo Posts, the Committee of the Ministers acknowledges that in principle the Imperial Post must remain undivided under the administration of the Government. In consideration of the circumstance, that the extension of the sphere of activity of the Imperial Post meets with difficulties owing to the small income of the posts, which are very difficult to overcome, the large extension of the territory, the scarce population and the inaccessible roads, the Committee of Ministers has come to the opinion that the Zemstvo Post must be assisted as much as possible as the supplementary organ of the Imperial Post."

"Further, the Committee of Ministers is of the opinion that the Zemstvo Post will absolutely contribute to the economic and cultural flourish of the country, when the requirements of the local population are satisfied, in that they establish a connection between the Imperial Post departments in the far distances and also between the villages between. At the same time, the amount of correspondence will be increased thereby, the upkeep of the coach mail will be alleviated, as they are bound by law to maintain it."

Further, the text of No. 8732 of the Ministry of the Interior, dated the 23rd May 1872, reads as follows:

"The Committee of Ministers is of the opinion that the Ministry, under consideration of the circumstance that the local requirements of the Zemstvos are better known to them, abstain from any interference in matters of organization and the roads they are using, for the useful development of the Zemstvo posts, and, in this connection, concede the greatest possible freedom under the condition that they do not curtail the rights of the Imperial Post."

With this, the Zemstvo Post was acknowledged as a necessary assisting organ of the Imperial Post. Since then, there commenced a frictionless working together of both postal establishments, without competing with one another. The Zemstvo offices considered their care for the dispatch of the post only as their own duty, in order to further the interests of their voters, but never as the source of an income. In very many counties, the Zemstvo offices forwarded the post completely free of charge, or dispensed with the postage, when the population found itself in a difficult position owing to bad harvest. Many Zemstvo offices levied by stamps a smaller fee whose proceeds were handed over partially or wholly to the county seniors or secretaries of the parishes in the villages, as (their) compensation for their trouble. Nowhere, however, were the expenses of the Zemstvo Post covered by the income through the sales of stamps. Therefore, the stamps of the Zemstvo offices form such a rare and gratifying picture that, with their issue, every

kind of speculation was excluded.

An especially large expansion was attained by the Zemstvo Posts in the Governments of Kazan, Novgorod, Perm, Samara, Ufa, Vologda and, finally, Viatka. In the districts of those Governments, there was hardly a difference between the Zemstvo Posts and the postal departments of the Imperial Post. They accepted correspondence of every kind, dispatched it, also parcels of value whereby the weight and insurance fees were practically the same as those of the Imperial Post; the postage for ordinary letters, however, was essentially lower.

The central post administration has a few statistical details about the Zemstvo Posts:

<u>NAME OF PROVINCE</u>	<u>NO. OF COUNTIES</u>	<u>ORDINARY LETTERS PAID</u>	<u>ORDINARY LETTERS UNPAID</u>	<u>NEWSPAPERS</u>	<u>POST NOTICES</u>	<u>PARCELS WITHOUT VALUE</u>
Kursk	11	162,970	131,924	177,152	65,403	1,225
Kharkov	7	160,575	262,258	218,475	31,033	275
Moscow	1	8,679	31,692	10,986	1,032	102
Riazan	7	93,139	69,566	109,144	37,327	42
Vologda & Kostroma	11	179,325	233,042	250,359	37,012	6,531
Nizhny Novgorod	4	50,632	95,610	56,735	16,267	988
St. Petersburg & Pskov	8	57,803	78,511	88,093	23,157	728
Samara	7	340,540	542,711	439,682	38,356	5,773
Orel & Tula	7	164,841	256,270	201,116	82,010	276
Poltava	8	201,264	322,253	176,273	29,847	3,881
Novgorod	11	54,119	64,266	123,695	17,754	2,000
Saratov	8	103,299	125,656	156,660	15,565	1,829
Tver	5	5,911	57,960	47,967	15,406	1,822
Viatka	11	206,792	265,195	315,448	32,129	13,084
Kazan	12	210,143	196,517	360,797	36,812	4,153
Taurida & Kherson	9	194,206	154,335	142,294	13,571	5,206

The inner organization of the Zemstvo post establishments showed a very manifold picture which depended naturally on the habits and on the geographical position of each district, also from the historical development of same. For all that, the common or joint character was more or less the same, the first stipulated through the common conditions laid down by law, and the second mainly through the unanimous endeavors on the part of all Zemstvo offices to give or provide the population with a complete, secure, cheap and regular service for the dispatch of the mail and their correspondence.

The following picture is typical of the art and manner of the receipt and delivery of the correspondence in the Zemstvo Post establishments:

In each Zemstvo office of the county existed a so-called Post Office, and the whole Zemstvo Post in the county was placed under same. The manager of this post office was either a member of the Zemstvo office or, if he did not have the necessary time at his disposal, a man employed specially. In the county itself, the postal departments were usually established under control of the county officials, where the senior of the county or the secretary took over the duties of the post official. Besides which, schools, hospitals of the Zemstvos, also factory offices and in the mine districts were used for the reception and dispatch of the post, whereby, in the latter case, the whole

work connected with same had to be taken over by the administration of the factory. Quite apart from that, also the owners of the stopping places of the mail coach had to receive and deliver the correspondence.

The mail coach of the Zemstvo offices took such a route that they contacted as much as possible all such county officials who were without connection to the Imperial mail. In order to obtain this, the county was divided up in 2-5 sections, and each one had its own postal road called "Tract". Such roads were usually laid out in circles in order to avoid the post contacting the same postal department twice. In this way, the post left the county town on one road and returned after contacting all postal departments in its section, back to the city by another road. In doing so, the Zemstvo Post covered this circle alternatively, now in one direction, now in another.

The Zemstvo made this journey usually twice a week, according to a carefully fixed plan by the Zemstvo office which was published for the common knowledge. The days and hours of departure and arrival of the post were fixed for each individual county office; also, the time of changing the horses and, if the journey took longer than one day, also the stay overnight. For the control of this, the manager of the postal department had to enter in the trip book the time of the arrival and departure and also any delay with its cause. In case the fault was due to the postman, he was fined accordingly.

The Zemstvo Post used coaches with one or two horses, accompanied by a Zemstvo postillion who was responsible for the security of the correspondence during the journey. "Postillion" had to be very reliable men who could read and write, and they were specially selected. Often they had to deposit a security. In such counties only one coachman was used for the dispatch of the ordinary mail. Other counties used postmen on horses and others again had to walk the distance. Practically all Zemstvos used for the dispatch of the mail their own coach mail establishments which they had to maintain by law for the transport of government officials and private persons. The upkeep of the horse post stations was tendered for by contract; the postmaster was compelled to supply the necessary horses according to the timetable of the Zemstvo office. Only in a very few districts did the Zemstvo handle the dispatch of the mail on their own. In other districts, on the other hand, use was made of the railways and waterways for the dispatch and transport of the mail.

In the Zemstvo, the reception and delivery of the mail took place at the same time as in the Imperial mail. The franking of the letters took place either in cash or in the sticking on of the stamps, where such were in existence. For the most part, a postbox could be found for ordinary franked letters. On the other hand, the payment of the postage of letters taken over from the Imperial post took place before the delivery of same. For the sake of control, many Zemstvos introduced stamps in two shades or colors, the one for the stamping of the letters by the sender, the other for those which were paid by the addressee ("porto" stamp). The latter were used for private letters which the Zemstvo took over from the Imperial mail, and only cancelled on the delivery to the addressee after payment of the postage. The correspondence was treated in the same way in all postal departments of the county.

Before the dispatch of the Zemstvo post, a list for the entire correspondence was made out for each postal department separately and then parcelled up and sealed. The parcel post was also entered up on a list, packed together with

the parcels in a trunk or postbag which was closed with a lock and, in addition, sealed up. Each county official had a key for same. The whole procedure took place in the presence of the coachman or "postillion" who had to sign for the whole correspondence. He was then issued with a coach ticket which entitled him to be provided with coach horses on all postal stations without delay.

On arrival of the post in any county, the senior official or secretary convinced himself first of all that the seals were intact; he opened the postbag with his key, took out the letters addressed to his office, opened same in the presence of the postillion, signed for the receipt in his list or register after having examined the number of letters entered up in same. After this, he collected the correspondence handed to him in parcels, one for the Zemstvo office itself and one each for the county offices, including a list of the letters, and sealed the parcels. They were then put back in the postbag, which was locked and sealed. This procedure was repeated in the next post department. A few of the Zemstvos preferred not to include in the postbag such letters which contained money but handed them over separately to the postillion so that it would be easier to save them in case of an accident during the journey.

In many county seats the Zemstvo post delivered the mail by postmen to the inhabitants of the town which was especially useful for the authorities and their institutions.

Delivery was also effected to other sparsely inhabited territories of each county. The residences of the President of the Gentry Assembly, the County Administrator, the judges, police, doctors, etc., were included as far as possible in the circuit routes. To deliver and collect the mail, the postillion had to call on such places even if it meant going a kilometer or more from the established route. Into the timetable were included various county offices which were situated far from the route and who had to send their authorized messenger to the road in order to exchange the correspondence.

In the Provincial Zemstvo Office, just as in all Zemstvo postal branches of each county, Imperial postage stamps were sold for the franking of letters that would go through the Imperial Post, as were Zemstvo postage stamps to frank letters within each county limits. The Imperial stamps were sold to Zemstvos for cash and then sent by each Zemstvo to their county branch post offices which also had to pay for them in cash upon receipt. Thus, all the mails which were meant to be sent via the Imperial Post had to be franked with Imperial stamps plus the franking by Zemstvo stamps of the mails to be handled by the Zemstvo post within the limits of the county.

The construction of the new railroad lines made it possible for the Imperial post to extend its service to some localities, with the resulting termination of the Zemstvo post activities. In fact, the Zemstvos were discontinuing their postal service wherever the Imperial post was in a position to take over. On the other hand, the Zemstvos endeavored to extend their postal services further and further, right up to the time of the Revolution of 1917, thus providing the most distant corners of the counties with the full advantages of the postal service.

In addition to this description of the Zemstvo post, special attention is drawn to the fact that many millions of inhabitants of the great Russian

Empire were dependent on the Zemstvo postal service which connected their territories with the outside world, these territories having been about five times the size of the whole of Germany. To get an idea of the extent of these territories, one should compare the size of such provinces which were traversed only moderately by the rail lines and therefore had to depend mostly on the Zemstvo postal service. The Province of Vologda has an area of 402, 125 sq. kilometers; that is, about four-fifths the size of the whole of Germany of the pre-First World War days. The Viatka province is 153,107 sq. kms., and the Perm province 330,224 sq. kms., the first being twice as large and the second about 4 and one-half times as large as Bavaria.

These gigantic territories were served over a half century exclusively by the Zemstvo post which had created in each county its individual postal establishments and whose employees gradually adapted themselves to the needs of the local population, thus creating a more or less harmonious whole. The Imperial post helped itself to these auxiliary organs which consisted of more than 1,000 post offices, to its own advantage and without disbursing anything for their upkeep and supervision.

From the above mentioned, it can be seen that the Zemstvo posts were not private posts in the ordinary sense of the word, but lawfully established and protected auxiliary organizations of the Imperial post, whose government was compelled by force to abandon their rights because they were not in the position to give everywhere to their subjects the advantages of postal connections, and therefore left to them a sphere of activity which, was far more extensive than their own.

When one, therefore, bans the stamps of these postal establishments from the catalogs, which up to now has unfortunately been the case, this cannot be justified either in the history of the post or from a philatelic point of view. The only stamps of this kind which have received the goodwill in the eyes of editors of the catalogs were those of the Wenden County. The postal conditions, however, are in this case exactly the same as in all other remaining counties of the Russian Empire. Whether the lawful right to issue their own stamps can be traced back to a circular issued by the Ministry of the Interior or to special privileges which were enjoyed at that time by the Baltic provinces, or whether the local self-administration of the Zemstvo office or the Knights were mentioned, does not alter in the least the character of the stamps. The stamps of Wenden County are positively equal to those of the other Zemstvos.

5. THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF THE ZEMSTVOS

The moment when the Zemstvos took over the handling of the letters of private persons coincides pretty nearly with the issue of the first stamps. According to very old documents and to such stamps, which show a clear and distinct date of cancellation, it can be established with certainty that stamps and envelopes or wrappers were introduced for the franking of letters already many years before the official permission was granted. As an example, in the year 1866 in the counties of Borovichi, Shlisselburg and Verkhne-Dneprovsk, in the year 1867 in the counties of Cherson, Melitopol and Riazan, in the year 1868 in Novgorod and in the year 1869 in the counties of Malmych, Pavlograd and Tikhvin, the Zemstvo postal service already existed.

Before we deal with the stamps themselves, a few words should be said about the method of their usage. The Imperial post delivered correspondence only up to their last post office which frequently did not extend beyond its Province Seat. Those letters addressed to more distant places in the county were handed over to the Zemstvo offices which had to dispatch same with or without postage charges further into the county. The same way or method was applied to postal matters from the county into the Empire or foreign countries. Often a letter had to be dispatched first of all with the Zemstvo post, then further with the Imperial mail and finally into the interior of a second county again with the Zemstvo post. Such letters had, therefore, three entirely different stamps: one Imperial postage stamp and two different Zemstvo post stamps. When a letter arrived at the county post office to be delivered somewhere in that same county, it had to be franked by the officials of that Zemstvo office, the fee collected from the addressee. The letter sent from the county was franked by the sender, that is to say, with one Zemstvo stamp and one of the Empire postage stamps.

After the decree of the law for the dispatch of the correspondence with the Zemstvo post, the postal department demanded from the Zemstvo offices the sending in of their stamps and covers for the examination and approval of their design and color, in order to prevent confusion with the stamps of the Imperial mail. In the stamp collections of the Post Museum in St. Petersburg, only stamps of the Zemstvo editions from their first years existed, as it was probably later overlooked to demand samples of the stamps. Among them existed stamps which were only preserved through this circumstance, because no further stamps could be traced or found anywhere.

Only two cases are known where Zemstvo stamps were objected to owing to their similarity with the Imperial postage stamps. This objection related to the stamp No. 3 from Melitopol, which happened to be in circulation at that time, owing to the eagle in the middle (which was, moreover, the Coat of Arms of the Government of Kherson) and the two posthorns beneath it, and further, the stamp No. 9 from Morshank, which was too much like the Imperial postage stamp 8 Kop.

Concerning the design and color of the stamp, the Zemstvo officials left the details for the most part to the opinion of the printers, who received the order for the printing of the stamps. The drawings of these stamps give a clear picture of the artistic and cultural levels in the provinces, which hardly showed forth in any other country unless one compares them with the stamps of the postmasters and the private stamps of North America and the United States.

One can see here a variety of forms and drawings, and at times a wild combination of colors and shades which could already point to the Asiatic taste. Many stamps show touching representations, others again that the designer was not familiar with the most primitive demands of his art, for instance, that the letters had to be inverted so that the print reproduced the correct picture, as shown in No. 11 Tikhvin. Also the ornamental Russian style tried to find its way at times, as shown by the stamps of Kazan, Morshansk No. 28 and Perm No. 5, and, in one case, also the Ukrainian style, as shown on the stamps of Lokhvitsa. Only such stamps which were printed in the Government Printing Office and the later editions from the larger printing works of the principal cities showed some care was taken in the execution and, now and then, in good taste. Those, however, which were produced in the provinces and the counties give a true picture of the style and taste of their time and the country.

As, on most of the stamps, the Coat of Arms of the counties had to be included, the designers were often in difficulties to reproduce all the animals and other symbols which were so plentiful in the Coats of Arms, and this explains why, in the description of the stamps in the philatelic publications, not only foxes were taken for dogs, sheep and even horses, but also Saint George, who slew the dragon, was considered as a harmless gondolier (Gadiatch) or even the Archangel Gabriel as a witch riding on a broom stick.

As the printers mostly pleased themselves in the execution of their orders, the ordered editions of stamps were usually very small. It can often be observed that they used for the printing of same colors and shades of inks which were left over. Therefore, stamps of one and the same value were printed in different colors, or black on different colored paper, without fulfilling thereby any certain purpose other than to use up what just happened to be left over from other work. It simply did not pay to use fresh colors for such small orders, or break into a large stock of paper. It so happened, for example, that one edition of the stamps from Griazowetz was printed in eight different colors, together with wrapper sheets for different kinds of Teas, either to use up the printing stone or the size of the sheet of paper. Owing to ignorance of the local conditions, such appearances were always used by the philatelic press for speculation, whereas here only chance and discretion or economic points of view played a role. The sphere of collection, however, is for the philatelist of enormous interest and the work of the investigators very exciting, when all the backgrounds of the published stamps have been cleared up. Although not only the color of the stamps, but also their designs were left completely in the hands of the designers in the printing works, unless the Coat of Arms of the county was demanded to be absolutely necessary in the design of the stamp, it happened that sketches or designs and proofs in different colors were submitted to some of the Zemstvos for their choice and approval. This, however, only took place in the later years.

Of the submitted hand drawings, the following have become known: Morshansk for No. 22, Shadrinsk for the three stamps Nos. 33, 34 and 35, Starobielsk for Nos. 29 and 30, and Tver for the first two editions. Of the later editions, various proof impressions, not only in different designs but also in numerous undertones and printed on various kinds of paper are known, which have already been described in detail. All these stamps have for the most part only a few specimens in existence or known as "Unika". We have the collectors to thank, those into whose hands they came; otherwise, nothing would have been left of them. The Zemstvos themselves or their postmasters did not consider them of any value at all, either for their archives or in any other relation or connection.

One must mention here also the samples of stamps which enterprising printers sent out for advertising purposes, in order to obtain orders for stamps from the Zemstvo offices. To this group belong the sample stamps of Lebedian and Nolinsk, and further two stamps of the Province of Volyn in different designs, none of which ever issued any stamps themselves.

The domain of the Zemstvo stamps has fortunately so far not been frequented very much by forgers; dangerous forgeries do not exist at all. The few falsifications known up to now are very primitive and badly executed, and could be recognized by the first glance.

The so-called "Phantasie" stamps are, however, an entirely different matter.

Ingenious heads used the dark conditions of the first editions of stamps and manufactured on their own "old stamps" which were sold for high sums as rarities. A number of such stamps were also found in the large auctioned collection of Ferrari in Paris. However, it was always possible to prove then and there that such stamps did not exist at all; furthermore, that those products were of foreign origin, as more often than not mistakes in the Russian inscriptions were detected.

Nevertheless, even today stamps are in existence whose origin cannot be proved. Of course, this was connected with very large difficulties as no acts or documents were available which could serve as a clarification, nor the confused statements of the old employees based on their memories. Only very reliable discoveries of such stamps on covers would produce an undoubted evidence of the genuine stamp. It is to be regretted that such discoveries are very rare and only attributed to a happy coincidence.

The Zemstvos also used locking seals for their envelopes, the same as the State officials, in order to secure the official correspondence, not only in the county itself, but also with the Imperial post the free postage. Those seals were impressed upon the closing flap of the cover or envelope, either with seals or with sealing wax, or with a hand stamp. Further, such seals were also used like stamps adhered to the different closing flaps of the covers, or with the latter when they were un gummed. Such seals were looked upon in foreign countries as official stamps (service stamps) or simply as ordinary stamps. They will be found in many of the leading catalogs, as, for instance, Ananiev and others. They are naturally useless even if the borderline between them and a few of the Zemstvos are practically fused together.

At the time when postage stamps were introduced and the stamps ordered were not ready at the proper time, or were not ordered in time, the seals were used instead as postage stamps. Sometimes the value was written with pen and ink on same, as is shown by the first editions of Maloarchangelsk and Tula, or was left without any description of the value as was the case with the first editions of Atkarsk. These seals which were in use for quite a long time served as a pattern in their outer shape for the first postal stamps of many counties, such as the circular shape for the stamps of Aleksandria, Ananiev, Borisoglebsk, Dmitriev, Pereyaslave, etc., and the rhombic for the stamps of Bobrov, Kasimov, Jegorjevsk and Riazan.

In addition, the hand stamp must be mentioned, which produced in the many Zemstvo offices stamps and covers according to the demand. Such hand stamps were used by the Zemstvos of Novgorod, Staraja Russa and Tchern, Demiansk, Griazevetz, Yeletz, Kadnikov, Krapivna, Maloarchangelsk. Further, the Orgeev Zemstvo possessed such a hand stamp in case of need, but had never used it except for the producing of the printing for collectors. These stamps were frequently used for the new prints of stamps out of circulation when the demand for the stamps on behalf of the collectors and dealers had to be satisfied. These new prints are in no way dangerous, and can easily be distinguished from the originals as, on the part of the Zemstvos, neither the shade nor color, nor the kind of paper used received any consideration in their production. But there are also new prints in existence which were issued by private sources without the knowledge of the Zemstvos, such as the new prints of Wasilsursk or those requested by the collectors, for instance, the new prints of Cherson and others, the subsequent surcharges of Bielozersk and Pskov, etc.

Also, reprints and secondary or rejects were put on the market, for example, from the Zemstvos of Kherson and Dneprovsk and from the printing works of Kuschnarev in Moscow, stamps from Belebei, Pskov, Solikamsk and others, which got into the hands of collectors in unlawful ways and without the knowledge of the Zemstvos concerned as reprints on different colored papers so obvious, in unperforated condition. All these stamps are accurately described so that no collector can be in any doubt about their value.

With the revolution, issuance of stamps stopped entirely. Only in very few Zemstvo offices, which escaped the common ordeal, were a few stamps in circulation up to the years 1919 and 1920. The postal establishments then ceased to exist and the stamps of the Zemstvos were a closed sphere.

In some of the districts, the Soviet deputies who were the successors to the Zemstvo offices, issued a few stamps such as Luga, Perm and Tcherdyn, but soon afterwards these issues were also withdrawn on demand of the Central Government and the local editions or issues were stopped altogether.

6. THE ACQUISITION OF THE ZEMSTVO POSTAL STAMPS

The attraction which the acquisition of Zemstvo postal stamps has for the collector is incomparably greater than the one experienced with most of the remaining stamps issued by the State. Whereas these can be bought, either from one dealer or the other for good money, and only the desired quality or the price demanded for them offers an obstruction, many of the Zemstvo stamps can very rarely be bought from a dealer, even if one has a full moneybag. This circumstance increased the attraction of the search for many rarities, and the pleasures and satisfaction of a happy chase after the acquired treasures. This the writer has not only experienced himself but also through the unrestrained confirmations of his opinion on the part of the largest general collectors.

But not only the rarities were very difficult to obtain, but also very often even those stamps which were actually in circulation. The discovery of very old and rare stamps is for the most part a matter of chance, and the search after further such stamps had for the most part, only little success.

But the acquisition of new issues should not meet with such large difficulties, as it is possible to obtain stamps in use from the most distant isles in the ocean without difficulty. It is however an entirely different matter when trying to obtain Zemstvo stamps. But very few men took any trouble to keep records of the stamps of the Zemstvos. Consequently the merit of their work for philatelists in this very interesting sphere is extremely valuable. This work demanded infinite time and patience, created much ill-feeling, whereas the results were generally very slight and often caused considerable loss. One had to take into consideration the fact that, in Russia, not only in the offices of the Zemstvos but also in the larger provincial offices, the employees had little or no inkling about the collection of stamps. The assumption from this would therefore be that the collection of these stamps would be rendered much easier, whereas exactly the reverse was the case.

Especially, following the appearance of a first issue of stamps in any Zemstvo district, this lack of comprehension often led to lengthy and useless correspondence. Orders for trial purchases were simply ignored, the money

remitted was lost, repeated reminders and complaints to officials brought no result. Only personal relations with influential persons or some other official pressure compelled a reply from the Zemstvo offices.

The reply however, was often not what the enquirer expected. After copious excuses for the long delay in replying, they frequently returned the money after deduction of the return postage, explaining that the Zemstvo stamps were only legal and valid in the district concerned and could have no value where the enquirer came from. Such replies naturally led to further explanations and correspondence and arguments. Finally when the stamps were received, sometimes after many months, they were often of a second or a third issue, the original ones ordered having been used up long before. Or it might be that the buyer might be informed that, at the moment, the stock of the stamps ordered was so low that none could be spared but that a new delivery was shortly expected from the printers, and the order would be filled on receipt of the new delivery. One can readily realize the trouble and expense incurred in order to eventually obtain some stamps, often not what was wanted at all.

The acquisition of complete sheets of stamps so important for research and for specialists presented further difficulties. Often after weeks of waiting, the sheets would arrive but broken into blocks of a convenient size to fit the envelopes or covers. Sometimes sheet margins were torn off, either to save postage or kept for use as gummed paper. This happened at most Zemstvo offices. Further, in some cases only half sheets could be found as the other halves had been dispatched to the sub-offices. This explains why, for example, of the Bogorodsk 1884 issues, the one K. stamp is only known in bottom half sheets, and the 5K. stamp in upper half sheets. Others, again, were cut off in single stamps as soon as they arrived from the printers; for example, Kungur No. 14/15, of which on the whole not a single stamp joined together is known. Owing to the insurmountable difficulties, much therefore had to be left unexplored.

Of no little interest is the case in which the almighty police was drawn in to advise with regard to the purchase of postage stamps. Conditions in the '80s gave rise to suspicion everywhere. The people feared political activities as soon as a matter was considered as something very unusual. One of the Zemstvos which for the first time received an order for some Zemstvo stamps, could not solve this puzzle in any other way except by presuming that behind all this there must be a political plot. In order to save their skin, the matter was submitted to the local police, who of course showed complete understanding and therefore got in touch with the police officials where the person who ordered the stamps lived. Instead of the arrival of the stamps and, to the great astonishment of the buyer, the police called at his home and started an investigation as to why he wanted Zemstvo stamps at all, for what purpose and what he intended to do with so many stamps. Only after a whole collection of stamps was shown to the officials, together with catalogs and periodicals containing further explanations as regards stamp collections, did the gradually and slowly understand the whole matter. They left then, shaking their heads very doubtfully over such a naive occupation and waste of time as the collecting of stamps. They set up a corresponding harmless protocol, which again after months reached the local police who had started the whole inquiry. After the permission had been granted by the police, the Zemstvo thought it possible to deal with the order. Whether the required

U E B E R S I C H T S K A R T E
 der Kreise
 deren Landschaftsämtter
 Postwertzeichen
 herausgegeben haben.

- I. Olónezskhes Gouv.
- II. Petersburger Gouv.
- III. Pskowsches Gouv.
- IV. Nowgoródsches Gouv.
- V. Wologdasches Gouv.
- VI. Twersches Gouv.
- VII. Jaroslawsches Gouv.
- VIII. Kostromasches Gouv.
- IX. Wjatkasches Gouv.
- X. Permsches Gouv.
- XI. Smolénsksches Gouv.
- XII. Moskausches Gouv.
- XIII. Wladimirsches Gouv.
- XIV. Gouv. Nishnij Nowgorod.
- XV. Kasansches Gouv.
- XVI. Ufasches Gouv.
- XVII. Kalugasches Gouv.
- XVIII. Tulasches Gouv.
- XIX. Rjasansches Gouv.
- XX. Tambowsches Gouv.
- XXI. Pensasches Gouv.
- XXII. Ssimbirskisches Gouv.
- XXIII. Ssamarasches Gouv.
- XXIV. Tschernigowsches Gouv.
- XXV. Orelskhes Gouv.
- XXVI. Kursksches Gouv.
- XXVII. WORONESHSCHE GOUV.
- XXVIII. Ssaratowsches Gouv.
- XXIX. Poltawasches Gouv.
- XXX. Charkowsches Gouv.
- XXXI. Gouv. Bessarabien.
- XXXII. Chersonsches Gouv.
- XXXIII. Jekaterinoslawskhes Gouv.
- XXXIV. Taurisches Gouv.
- XXXV. Gebiet d. Donschen Kosaken.
- XXXVI. Livländisches Gouv.

- Grenzen der Gouvernements.
 - - - - - Grenzen der Kreise.
 ⊙ Hauptstädte d. Gouvernements.
 • Hauptstädte der Kreise mit
 d. Sitz d. Landschaftsamtes. -



stamps could be supplied or whether other editions were already in existence, was entirely dependent on the available stock or on how brisk the postal traffic was in the particular county.

Only a very few Zemstvos dealt with the incoming orders for stamps at once. Most of them considered this as a burdensome, extra job that they had to do and which they tried to shirk at all costs. Only then, when the request was repeated year after year, the postmasters gradually got used to the hobby of stamp collecting and were then more willing to deal with orders for same, partly because they gained a small personal advantage thereby and partly also because they themselves began to deal privately in a small way in used stamps and tried to keep their connections up. This explains why so often no end of time was lost before the desired stamps could be obtained; their very existence could only be known when by chance they were found on covers, so that many Zemstvo stamps, which at that time were in use and circulating, could only be obtained in mint condition. In collector circles such stamps were known as stamps which "slipped (or filtered) through" and were mostly known only in used condition.

When one considers all the aggravated difficulties which stood in the way of the collectors of unused stamps, the want of intelligence about the interests of collectors, the dishonesty, and the neglect shown in the answering of their letters, and finally the categorical refusal to dispatch any stamps whatsoever--as was the case for decades in Kremenchug--one must admire the great patience and the trouble taken by those men who sacrificed their free time for same, and also their great love as collectors of stamps.

As regards the question of speculation, insofar as filling the pockets of collectors is concerned this is practically quite out of the question where Zemstvos are concerned. At the beginning, they were so far removed from reality that many of their stamps were given away at half of their nominal value, after they had convinced themselves that they could no longer be used for pre-payment. Only in the later periods did the postmasters take a certain advantage of the collectors, insofar as a certain stamp whose issue was nearing its end was held back in order that later on the stamp, when the demand for same increased, could be sold at higher (but not excessive) prices. One could only speak of speculation during the much later periods--as regards filling the pockets of collectors--when stamp collectors themselves became heads of Zemstvo offices or in some manner managed to have a closer contact with same.

Speaking generally, the ignorance as regards the demands and understanding of the requirements of collectors existed throughout Russia. To prove this, there are numerous letters in existence in which the presidents or the Post Directors replied to letters received by them from collectors about the many editions of their stamps. This refers mostly to the older issues and the stamps which were called "filtered-through" issues. While the details of those stamps, which were actually in use, were for the most part very reliable, others relating to these stamps were less satisfactory. It was simply useless to rely on correct replies in connection with the older issues of stamps from the Zemstvos as they either were entirely unknown to them, or they made a statement which obviously did not correspond with the actual facts. This is not to be wondered at all. Archives existed only during the last 10 years as the older documents were either destroyed or lost in the numerous fires

which were so prevalent in Russia. On the other hand, the order or the classification in the archives was mostly such that it was very difficult, indeed, if not entirely impossible, to discover any stamps at all, as, in their opinion, stamps were an entirely unimportant and indifferent matter. Owing to this, the search in the archives was completely excluded in dealing with Zemstvo stamps in the same way, as the research into the issues of stamps produced by the State established exact and reliable facts.

The above relates only to the purchase of unused stamps which were directly obtainable from the Zemstvo Post Offices. It may be of interest to study the situation as to the acquisition of used stamps. Naturally, intercourse in the various districts varied very considerably. Such counties which had industrial undertakings with a large number of working people had a postal service which was a very lively one. In the other counties, however, where only farmers and peasants lived in villages, the turnover was insignificant and quite unimportant, and counties like the latter belong to those from which the used stamps are very rare indeed, or entirely unknown. Not only the unimportant communication was the direct cause why no such used stamps could be discovered, but, in addition, the peculiarity of conditions in Russia. It was completely foreign and unknown to the farmer that he might keep and preserve very carefully the covers of the letters received by him, or the stamped wrappers. The culture at that time had not advanced very far to the point where the necessary interest for the collecting of stamps or a suitable place for same actually existed. Also, various circumstances played a major part in the destruction of all matters of correspondence. In the first place, the numerous fires in the villages were responsible for stamps, casually laid aside and kept, being lost. Another reason is the habit of the farmer or peasant to use any small piece of paper for the rolling of his cigarettes. Even the Zemstvo offices at that time complained vigorously that even popular books, presented to the villages, disappeared in a very short time and instead of being used for the enlightenment and entertainment of the population, simply went up in smoke. Everything which might conceivably be called paper and could be used for the rolling of cigarettes went the same way. One can therefore take it for granted, and this with certainty, that it would be impossible even in the future to discover any of the older issues of stamps in the villages. Those counties where older stamps were at that time in circulation were long ago visited by lovers and collectors of stamps, sometimes with success, but mostly without.

Without shrinking from the expense and the long troublesome journeys, collectors of stamps visited and called on village after village in search of old stamps. This however was done in such a way that the peasants soon understood what it was all about. For this, the most eloquent and persuasive language used in talks with the farmers or peasants was a language called vodka, for which they were quite willing to give away everything in their possession. In this way, collectors arriving in a certain village called the elders together, showed them the stamps they were after, and promised them for every such stamp discovered a specific measure of vodka. This news naturally spread like wild fire throughout the village, an extensive search was begun for such treasures, which for the peasant represented such a surprisingly large value. Only very seldom was such a search crowned with success; in any case, it always concluded with a "treat" for the peasants and the village elders. In this manner, many stamps were saved which would have been otherwise lost forever. This type of "collecting" stamps ended, for all practical purposes, about 50 years ago, whereas at present no one can hope or expect new discoveries from such sources.

Further sources of discovery were the documents and acts of courts of justice, where many rare stamps were discovered and, it is hoped, further discoveries will be made.

In those counties which had a lively postal connection, circumstances were more favorable, as not only the farmers and peasants received letters, etc., but also the offices of the industrial plants residing there, and the more intelligent circles in such small towns. Very often connections could be formed through which one could obtain many used stamps of current issues, whereas older used stamps were very rarely obtainable. On the whole, the number of such stamps was so small that dealers in Government stamps did not bother with them at all.

After the second year of World War I, the possibility of obtaining stamps from the Zemstvo offices disappeared altogether. Most letters were left unanswered and the money remitted from them was lost. Letters containing stamps and which were registered were simply lost in transit and the compensation which the post office finally paid out for the loss had no relation at all to the great and material damage suffered, nor could the irreplaceable value of the stamps be made good. Other Zemstvo offices were so much engaged with the conduct of the war and with the care of the armies, that the postal connection could no longer be kept up. And, after this, the revolution broke out and soon afterward the shutting down of the Zemstvos took place.

The following descriptions of the postage stamps issued by the Zemstvos are the result of eager collecting and an exhaustive study of all the larger stamp collections over a period of about 40 years which were put at my disposal, not only those which were at the time in Russia but also of those collections which were available to me in Russia, Amsterdam, London, Munich, New York, Paris and Vienna. Every rare stamp was recorded and cataloged, as many as possible were photographically reproduced and collected together in a "Kartothek".

In this way the degree of rarity of each better known stamp could be more or less precisely determined. Not only those stamps contained in collections were dealt with; dealers' stocks were gladly put at my disposal for perusal and research.

I must express here my very great thanks to all the collectors and dealers in stamps for the kindness shown me.

The prices mentioned at the end of this work form in this manner a very objective scale for the valuation of these stamps which, according to the demand by multiplication with a coefficient, will always give in some way the correct proportion in the valuation of the stamps amongst one another.

The outer form of this work of mine has been dictated by the existing economic conditions at present in Germany.

Contributions to the knowledge of Zemstvo postage stamps, collected by C. Schmidt, Architect in Berline-Charlottenburg.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The reader should refer to the explanations and brief glossary by C. Bulak on page 30, No. 69, ROSSICA, 1965. This will make clearer the governmental administrative divisions of "Gubernia" (Government), or PROVINCE as translated and used by Bulak since then.

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RARE RUSSIAN CLASSICS BRING HIGH PRICES AT AUCTION

Joseph F. Chudoba

The auction sale held by H. R. Harmer, Inc., of New York City on December 8th 1966, of sections of the famous "Alfred F. Lichtenstein" collection of European Countries, resulted in some record prices realized for rare Russian classic stamps and covers. The following are some of the prices realized. Many of the items were from the famous Faberge collection.

<u>SCOTT #</u>		<u>CONDITION</u>	<u>CAT. VALUE</u>	<u>REALIZED</u>
* 1	10 Kop. Unused:	Tiny thin, Age stain, Lge Marg.	\$ 800.00	\$ 700.00
* 1	"	Used: "9" Taurogen Cancel, Large Margins	90.00	210.00
* 1	"	" " "1" Nikolai R.R. Cancel. (St. P'bg. Station) Lge Marg. except B.R. Cor.	90.00	77.50
* 1	"	" " "2" Nikolai R.R. Cancel. (Moscow Station) Lge. Marg. Tiny thin.	90.00	100.00
* 1	"	" " "11" Dotted Circle "Grodno" cancel. Margins all around. Close at T.L.	90.00	85.00
* 1	"	" " "18" Dotted Circle "Kiev" on piece. Margins all around. Faulty B.L. corner	90.00	190.00
* 1	"	" " "19" Dotted Circle "Kovno" on piece. B.R. corner copy. Close at L.	90.00	270.00
* 1	"	" " "21" Dotted Circle "Kursk" cancel. Large even mar- gins all around.	90.00	125.00
1	"	" " "239" Rectangle of Dots "Libava" on piece. Margins all around. Close B.L.	90.00	85.00
1	"	" " "374" Rectangle of Dots "Horol" cancel. Touching at top. Close at right.	90.00	47.50
* 1	"	" " "451" Rectangle of Dots "Melitopol" Small to Lge Marg. Partly close T.R.	90.00	67.50
* 1	"	" " "528" Rectangle of Dots "Chern" Cancel. Margins all around. Large nick at L.	90.00	30.00

1	"	"	Straight line dated "Libava" cancel on piece. Large margins all around.	90.00	180.00
1	"	"	Straight line dated "Rovno" on piece. Small tear T. margin. Scratch at B.	90.00	62.50
* 1	"	"	Red boxed "St. P. Burg" dated cancel. Margins all around. Close at T. Soiled. Pen Cancel removed.	90.00	85.00
1	"	"	Boxed dated "Taurogen" cancel on piece. Margins all around. Part oval pmk.	90.00	130.00
* 1	"	"	Straight line "Lublin" cancel with pen strokes. Margins all around, touching B.	45.00	45.00
1	"	"	Fancy Circular "Pskov" cancel on piece. T.L. corner copy. Close or touch at B & R.	90.00	105.00
* 1	"	"	Single-line Circular dated "Dinaburg" on piece, in Red. Margins all around.	90.00	575.00
* 1	"	"	Double circle "Vindava" on cover. Dated. Small to large margins.	90.00	450.00
1	"	"	Part Circular "Warszawa" Cancel in Red. Pen Canc. removed. Tear B.	90.00	60.00
1	"	"	Pair. Polish 4-ring "70" Sokolov cancel. Margins all around. Pen cancel removed.	180.00	525.00
* 1	"	"	Single-line "Granica" on cover to Warsaw in Red. Margins all around. Pen cancel removed and PM Touched up.	90.00	850.00
2	"	"	Two 4-ring "176" Dabrowa in Black & "245" Osieciny in Blue. Sl. faded	10.00	160.00

15	"	"	Single-line "Myszkow" Circular cancel on piece. Tiny age stains.	1.25	50.00
15	"	"	Four-ring "109" and straight line "Staszow" in Red on cover. Warsaw arrival pmk on reverse.	1.25	600.00
23	"	"	Circular dated "Lomza" on piece. Fresh and fine.	.20	60.00
3	20 Kop.	Unused	Repaired. Fine appearance. Good.	450.00	50.00
* 3	"	Used	Rectangular dated "69" Glazov cancel. Well cen- tered, V.F. copy.	125.00	140.00
3	"	"	Portion dotted pmk. Well centered.	125.00	120.00
10	30 Kop.	"	Dotted "121" Taganrog can- cel on cover. Transit & arrival pmks on Rev.	15.00	32.00
11	5 Kop.	"	Double-circle "Moscow" town cancel. Warszawa arr. in Red on reverse. Short perfs at T. Slightly stained.	18.00	75.00
* 23b	10 Kop.	"	2 Copies on piece with single-line circular dated "Kibatry" cancel. Perfs cut into frame-line at T. Slight horizontal crease.	3000.00	2600.00
26b	2 Kop.	"	Centered to L. Perfs. clear. Trifle heavy can- cel.	1500.00	1850.00
30b	20 Kop.	"	Well centered. Brill- iant color. Light can- cel. Superb.	1750.00	2650.00
<u>WENDEN</u>					
L3b	4 Kop.	"	Bisect with inverted net- work, tied on cover front with Russia 10 k (23) to Riga. Circular dated Wen- den pmk.	unpr.	625.00

* L4c	2 Kop.	Unused	Tete-beche Horizontal pair. Margins all around. Ex- tremely fine.	unpr.	575.00
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OFFICES IN TURKEY - FORERUNNERS - RUSSIAN STAMPS USED IN TURKEY

* 3	20 Kop.	Used	Blue "Franco Porto" can- cel in fancy frame. Split thin, tied to piece. V.F. appearance	125.00	170.00
* 8	10 Kop.	"	Block of 4, with single- line dated circular "Con- stantinopol" cancel. Few clipped perfs at B. and fold between stamps. On piece.	_____	120.00

All items marked (*) Ex-Faberge.

Continued from page 4

The May meeting, held on Saturday 20th, featured the hospitality of Ed Wolski and the fabulous Ukraine collection of member J. Terlecky who showed slides and album sheets of great interest.

* * *

A. Cronin, Box 806, New York, N. Y. 10008

Referring back to the review I did in Rossica No. 65, pp. 63-64 of the rare Mongolian catalog-album, of which only 5000 copies were printed, I have just managed to get hold of the remaining 9 copies.

May I suggest that you consider putting in a note in Rossica No. 72 about the availability of a limited number of copies of this little album, postpaid at \$5.00 per copy, which is still very reasonable for Mongolian specialists, as it is a rarity.

"TANNA-TUVA: Wanted covers, cards, cancels, unusual items. Write in any language to A. Cronin, Box 806, New York, N. Y. 10008, USA."

SOCIETY NOTICE

Members are urged to pay their annual dues in January of each year without reminders. Failure to do so adds extra work for the treasurer and the secretary, likewise creates a question - is the individual still a member, does he wish to remain as one, should he receive the journals?

One can always determine the dues owed by examining the membership card, and its notations.

Please examine your cards, note your membership number and state it in your correspondence with the Rossica office.

Several members owe dues for 2-3 years. We urge you to pay your debts or to inform us if you are no longer interested in membership. This will eliminate misunderstandings and hurt feelings.

NOTES FROM COLLECTORS

Kurt Adler, New York, N. Y.

I would like to give some details of the Soviet postal arrangements on the island of Spitzbergen within the Arctic Circle. In the first place, this and the nearby islands are a Norwegian possession and are referred to by them as Svalbard.

For quite a few years, Norway has permitted the USSR to mine coal on Spitzbergen at the settlement and port of Barentsburg, situated on the west coast at 10 miles WSW of Longyearbyen. During W.W.II, the settlement was destroyed in attacks made by the German Navy in July 1943. The town and mines were restored after the war and there were 600 Russians working there during the winter of 1948-49.

Please see the illustration herewith (Fig. 1) of a registered airmail cover to Moscow, showing that mail from the Soviet communities on Spitzbergen was handled at the Murmansk-28 post office. Note the Murmansk-28 cancel dated 28 July 1962, the registry cachet of the same office at upper center and the sender's address at bottom right. This is an unusual postal arrangement and I would like to hear if other collectors have further material in this field.

* * *

Kurt Freyman, Capetown, South Africa

Referring back to the article "Additional Data on the Russian Post in China 1910-1916" by V. Popov, in Rossica No. 65, p. 14, I would like to state that I also have the same 1 ruble value perf. 12 / 2, with the same cancel and date as his copy, but this time in a pair! Further, a 1 ruble Arms type of Russia, cancelled "VIL'NO - 3, 2.9.10" with center doubled, an uncatalogued and unknown variety. On this last stamp, the net of varnish lozenges is badly out of alignment and the stamp looks like printers' waste, but yet it genuinely went through the mails.

EDITORIAL COMMENT: This double center variety described by Mr. Freyman is very noteworthy, since printing and checking controls at the Imperial Printing Office in St. Petersburg were very strict in the pre-W.W. I period.

* * *

Dr. R. J. Ceresa, Caxton, England

In the "Notes from Collectors" section of Rossica No. 71, Mr. Cronin describes a cover with mixed frankings of the 1923 ruble currency and the gold kopek issue. A similar cover in my collection, also from Moscow, 18 Oct. 1923, to Toronto, Canada, arriving in New York on 3 Nov. 1923, taking 16 days, is franked with 5 copies of the 3 gold kopeks and 15 copies of the one gold kopek, i.e. 30 gold kopeks in all, together with six 5-rubles and three 10 rubles of the 1923 issue. Thus, on the basis of 40 gold kopeks for a registered foreign letter, 60 rubles of 1923 were equivalent to 10 gold kopeks. If the letter is correctly franked, this represents an equivalent of 600 rubles of 1923 to 1 gold ruble on 18 Oct. 1923. The total franking of the letter in 1923 would therefore have been 240 rubles.

A registered cover from Moscow to New York, posted on the previous day, is franked with stamps to a total of 65 rubles of 1923, and in addition 36 copies of the 70 rubles 1922 issue i.e. an additional 25.2 rubles, giving a grand total of 90.2 rubles 1923 money. This, of course, corresponds to the official rate of 90 million old rubles, or 28 gold kopeks, which came into force on 2 Oct. 1923 (see article by M. Liphchutz and C. Godard, France-USSR No. 9, - 49 - Jan. 1966).

The flap of the first cover is "sealed" with a 250 ruble Philatelic Tax (35 kop. Kerensky with red surcharge displaced sideways) cancelled with a violet handstamp with date 16.X.23 inserted in manuscript. If the tax paid was in fact 250 rubles of 1923, the contents may have been insured for more than the standard rate (whatever that was) and part of the 240 rubles franking may represent the higher registration fee.

An alternative explanation of the high franking would be that the contents, namely postage stamps as it is incidentally addressed to the Marks Stamp Co. of Toronto, make the letter overweight, but then according to Mr. G. White (see Rossica No. 69, p. 60), the rate would have been 60 gold kopeks, and therefore 10 gold kopeks would have been equivalent to 20 rubles of 1923, or one gold ruble would have equalled 200 rubles of 1923, as of 18 Oct. 1923. From the exchange rates quoted in Rossica No. 69, a rate of 600 rubles of 1923 to one gold ruble seems more likely, although either would be feasible.

The cover depicted in the note by V. Popov, in the same issue of Rossica, is wrongly described, as the 100 rubles "soldier" stamp is of the 1922 issue, and the sixteen copies total 16 rubles of 1923, which, with an additional 10 rubles of 1923 gives a total of 26 rubles. Thus, on 31 Oct. 1923, this represents an exchange rate of 650 rubles of 1923 to one gold ruble, i.e. 26 rubles of 1923 are equal to 4 gold kopeks, making the correct rate for the Popov cover.

In summary, the exchange rates based on White's data and the four covers reported so far were:-

15 July 1923:	85	rubles	1923	currency	to	1	gold	ruble	(White)
17 Oct. 1923:	} 600	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	(R.J.Ceresa cover)
18 Oct. 1923:		"	"	"	"	"	"	"	(R.J.Ceresa cover)
31 Oct. 1923:	650	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	(V. Popov cover)
1 Nov. 1923:	910	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	(A. Cronin cover)
10 Nov. 1923:	800	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	(White)
10 Dec. 1923:	1700	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	(White) etc.

EDITORIAL COMMENT: We are most grateful to Dr. Ceresa for solving the rate problem posed by Mr. Popov's cover by reminding us that the 16 copies of 100 r. stamps represented values in 1922 money. It took 100 rubles 1922 currency to equal one 1923 ruble. The interesting result of the investigation spurred by the publication of Mr. Popov's notes in Rossica No. 69 is that his cover, as well as the Moscow one of 17 Oct. 1923 held by Dr. Ceresa, are, in fact, triple combinations of 1922 and 1923 paper money and 1923 gold currency. No one would have envied the harrassed postal officials in those days! We would like to hear if other members have examples of such unusual frankings.

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Andrew Cronin, New York, N. Y.

(1): An unusual advertising card is shown in Fig. 2. This is one of a series of 12 known subjects, issued by James S. Kirk and Co. of Chicago, Ill., manufacturers of fine quality soaps and issued during the latter part of the 19th Century. These cards featured reproductions of postage stamps of various countries.

Mr. Charles L. Clark of Bellows Falls, Vt., brought this series to the notice of readers of "Linn's Weekly Stamp News" in the issue of 23 August 1965 and he illustrated examples for Austria and France.

Each card has a white border and gold background, with a girl in national costume supporting the standard of her country in one hand, and holding in the other a reproduction in natural colors of a stamp of that country. For Russia, this was the 3 kop. Arms stamp in black and green, obliterated with crossed double lines, one pair of which contained the French word "RUSSIE"(Russia). This defacement was done to comply with U.S. Treasury regulations.

An interesting collection can be made of such a sideline, including examples of illustrated postcards with facsimiles of postage stamps of various countries, which were much in vogue during the early part of this century. Perhaps other members have details of such items, pertaining to Russia.

(2): Referring back to the "Taken out of a letter box" markings recorded in Rossica No. 68, p. 52 and No. 69, pgs.61-62, three more types may now be recorded, as follows:-

- (a) An unframed single-line marking, struck in violet and reading "from a box". Applied in St. Petersburg on the back of a registered cover dated 2. Apr. 1902, it measures 45 x 9 mm. (Fig. 3).
- (b) A framed two-line cachet in black, reading "taken out of a letter-box" and with an unusual usage, apparently as a "mute". Measuring 37 x 12 mm., it was struck on a 4 kop. Romanov card, dated 1 Sept. 1914, Old style and sent from Lodz, Russian Poland. The town name was imcompletely crossed out as a security measure, due to the outbreak of W.W. I. The card reached Novo-Borisov four days later. Please see figure 4.
- (c) Fig. 5 shows a cachet measuring 52 x 13 mm., applied in black on the back of a registered cover from Kharkov, Ukraine to Geneva, Switzerland and sent on 23 Jan. 1925. There is a signature in

blue at the bottom right of the marking. This cachet has the old spelling for "POCHTOVAGO", while the rest of the inscription appears to be in the new orthography. It reads "taken out of a letter-box".

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Viktor Indra, Olomouc, Czechoslovakia

Enclosed are illustrations of Denikin revenues with postal cancels. The pair of 2 rubles is cancelled "KERCH', 2 Oct. 20" and the 10-ruble value "YALTA TAVR. 4 Oct. 20" with subscript "k". Both these towns are in the Crimea and as the dates are within the last days of the Civil War in European Russia, it would be interesting to know under whose authority these particular stamps were used for postal purposes in these localities. Please see fig. 6.

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J. Lee Schneidman, Ph.D., New York, N. Y.

I am enclosing a translation of an article which appeared in UKRAINA a Weekly periodical published in Kiev. The issue was No. 52, of 1966. The article was by Oleksandr Pilat of Simferopol' and appeared on what appears to be a hobby page because it (the page) also included a "Krosword" puzzle.

"In 1923 the First Ukrainian Socialist Peoples Republic issued a series of original stamps. These were stamps with a surcharge - the additional charge went to the account of the Commission for the help to the starving which was under the all Ukrainian Central Committee. On the stamp value 20 + 20 karb. orange brown and chocolate color was the portrait of Taras Shevchenko. The gray blue and black stamp 10 + 10 karb. symbolizes Ukraina in conflict with Hunger. The yellow-bluish and black 90 + 30 karb. symbolizes the Peasants struggle with Death. The last one in the series depicts a peasant woman doling out bread to the hungry ones. The stamps were issued to two variations - with and without perforation. The 90 + 30 value was on cream paper, the others were on white. Also some of the stamps were on watermarked paper. There are four such miniatures with perforation. Imperf. there is only one - the Taras Shevchenko portrait. There are very few of these and the philatelic price is very high."

The author's comments on the value of the watermarked stamps seem to indicate that Scott and Minkus' prices are way out of line, while on the other hand, it would seem that the imperf. variety was a normal issue. The author also indicates that the stamps were used---Scott does not list a used price and I only have the Bl used...I have seen no imperf. used and none of the watermarked issues used. Has there been a study of Ukraina Bl-8?

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Fig.1: A Spitzbergen cover from the Kurt Adler Collection.

Box markings: A. Cronin.

ИЗЪ ЯЩИКА.

Fig. 3.

ВЫНУТО ИЗЪ
ПОЧ: ЯЩИКА

Fig. 4.

ВЫНУТО ИЗ
ПОЧТОВАГО ЯЩИКА А

Fig. 5.

Handwritten signature



Fig. 6: Denikin revenues with postal markings (Viktor Indra).



Fig.2: Stamp reproduction on card (A. Cronin).

Notes from Collectors.

G. P. Bulak, El Paso, Texas

Here is a slightly enlarged photo (both obverse and reverse sides) of 30 kop. 22 x 31 mm., perf. 12, Simbisk Zemstvo Stamp to illustrate the article of E. Markovitch, Esquire, on ZEMSTVOS OF SIMBIRSK, (Rossika No. 65, page 62.)



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Col. Eugene Prince, Rowayton, Conn.

Re: ROSSICA No. 71 1966

Page 83 - Dr. Vasil Stoyanov. Bulgaria.

I have a similar envelope two 7/10 Levant long 7 in the left hand upper corner, same cancellor 18 Dec. 1879. Recommandee in ink. Addressed to "Monsieur le docteur D.Dallas, etc. etc. a ODESSA. Reverse: Odessa 24 December 1879 Registry number: 23603 / U.... The latter letters are similar to initial in illustrated "Doplatit" it was included in a mass of postal stationery from Kent Stamp Co. in 1955.

page 39 The Boxed "P" Numbers.

I have a P41 8 May 1959 Taganrog with oval "Sig.M. Delaporte Taganrog" 'Odessa Rhomboid, Breslau-Berlin" Boxed "AUS RUSSLAND" Porto, (script) black, "Prusse par Valenciennes" circular blue. Addressed to Genoa, has no other route marks.

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Michael Carson, Arcola, Illinois

I have an example of Scott #2416, typographed, perf. 12, with the upper per-

forations displaced upward $1\frac{1}{2}$ mm. The righthand perforations are also displaced about $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. to the right. I have not seen this variety listed anywhere in the Journal or elsewhere.

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Dr. C. de Stackelberg, Washington, D. C.

With reference to Mr. M. Kessler's interesting article on the Nikolaevsk-on-Amour Provisional issue of 1921 in the last issue of the Rossica, I would like to draw his and our readers attention to the description of this issue, as printed on page 29 of ROMEKO's Catalog of 1927. About cancellations they state, (as translated from French):

"The postal canceller, having been lost during the first evacuation of the town, the stamps were only cancelled on arrival in Vladivostok."

The "evacuation" probably refers to Trapitzin's occupation of Nikolaevsk in late 1920 and explains why practically no covers or stamps of the Provisional Issue are known with the cancellation "Nikolaevsk".

This, of course, raises the problem of the two cancelled stamps in Mr. Kessler's collection. Were they cancelled later for Philatelic purposes or was a new canceller issued to the Nikolaevsk Post Office in March - May 1922, which was also used after May 25, 1922, on stamps of the Commemorative Issue of that date?

It would be interesting to compare the cancellations in Mr. Kessler's collection with those appearing on later covers or stamps.

Romeko also warns: "Attention, fakes exist", but unfortunately I have never been able to acquire any fakes and thus cannot compare them with a genuine stamp. Finally, it might be of interest to note that the elusive Scott #67A (20 kop. on 5 kop.), which was not listed by Mr. Pappadopulo, is also not listed by Romeko. I therefore wonder whether this stamp actually exists with a genuine surcharge.

Lt. Col. A. Prado in his "Notes and Questions" on pages 57/58 of the Rossica #71 describes three Arms Type kopek stamps in his collection, of which the 1 and 2 kopek stamps are only perforated horizontally $11\frac{1}{2}$, whereas vertically they are imperforate.

It must be remembered that all the kopek values of the Arms Type stamps are comb perforated $11\frac{1}{4}:11\frac{1}{2}$, which means that the vertical perforation was applied at the same time as the horizontal. Col. Prado's stamps therefore belong to that group of unofficially or privately perforated stamps, which were perforated by various means, including sewing machines, from imperforate sheets.

Such perforations were made by private individuals or firms or even by postal officials, which stamps were then sold at their post offices. But this did not make these stamps "officially" perforate.

Such private perforations are well known in perf. $9\frac{3}{4}$ and $11\frac{1}{2}$ and are mentioned in my Check-List of the Arms Type stamps in the Rossica #57/61. But, $11\frac{1}{2}$ horizontally perforate stamps are new to me and represent an interesting discovery.

Concerning the forged Lenin Mourning stamps of 1924, which Col. Prado also describes in his "Notes and Questions", I would like to refer him to Mr. R. Sklarevski's article dealing with such forged stamps, which appeared in Rossica #67 of 1964, as Col. Prado only mentions an article by the same author, which appeared in the Russian American Philatelist as far back as 1943.

In his Rossica article Mr. Sklarevski describes three types of forged or as he calls them counterfeit stamps of this issue. It is unfortunate that Col. Prado does not indicate the width of the spacing between the stamps of his block of four. He only states that the upper row of his block contains the 3 and 6 kop. and the lower row the 12 and 20 kopek values, whereas Mr. Sklarevski's counterfeit Type III in strips of two show se tenant vertically the 3 with the 20 kop. and the 12 with the 6 kop. Thus the fakes in Col. Prado's block and those of Mr. Sklarevski's strips of Type III were printed in a completely different lay-out and should be called counterfeit Type IV. Can anybody add any additional Types?

With reference to Mr. Kurt Adler's "Note from a Collector" about a cover of the Swedish Corps in Estonia in No. 71 of the Rossica, the following historical background might be of interest to our readers.

In November 1918, after the end of World War I, the German troops occupying Estonia commenced their withdrawal to the South and were followed by Bolshevik detachments. The frontier town Narwa was taken on November 28 and by the end of December 1918 about half of Estonia was already occupied.

On January 4th, 1919 however the Red advance was broken thanks to the resolute stand and counterattacks of the small anti-bolshevik forces, which were opposing them.

On January 1st, 1919, they were composed of the following detachments: The Baltic Regiment, formed three weeks earlier and made up of about 350 volunteers of German ethnic origin. I had the honor to serve in its cavalry detachment. This regiment was deployed at strategic points along the railway line, which connects the stations Taps on the Reval (Tallin)-Narwa-Petrograd Railway with the South i.e. Dorpat and Riga. Col. Laidoner, the later General and Commander in Chief of the Estonian Army, with his Estonian Regiments, which were originally formed in 1917, protected the center near the above-mentioned station Taps. On his left flank up to the Finnish Gulf were the Finnish Volunteers, who had arrived only a few days earlier as well as a detachment of Swedish Volunteers, called the "Swedish Corps".

During the month of January 1919 the Reds were pushed back Eastward across the Narowa and the front was stabilized along that river. In February/March field post operations were established for the Estonian armed forces and the envelope described by Mr. Adler refers to the Fieldpost of the Swedish Volunteer Detachment.

Mr. V. Eichenthal in his Special Catalog of Estonian stamps, published in Canada in 1962 lists on pages 150/151 about 74 Estonian field post hand stamps but oddly enough he does not list the Swedish Corps, probably as instead of hand stamps they used for their correspondence those special preprinted en-

velopes described by Mr. Adler. Mr. Eichenthal's list includes however four different hand stamps of the Finnish Volunteer Regiments and Battalions (comprising about 2000 Volunteers) as well as of a Danish Auxilliary Corps, I never had heard of. The covers from my own Baltic Regiment were handstamped by a large fieldpost stamp, composed of three lines: The top line shows a posthorn (16x7mm), the middle line shows the words "FELD-POST", in 12 mm letters and below "BALT.-REGT." in letters 10 mm high.

BOOK REVIEWS

The British Journal of Russian Philately No. 39 October 1966 issue - edited by P. T. Ashford Robins Bush, Sixty Acres Close, Failand, Bristol, England.

Every student of Russian philately, and of ship mail must obtain this fascinating issue of BJRP. It contains excellent articles on "Russian Ship Mail" by R. S. Blomfield and "Ship Mail Routes of Imperial Russia 1876/1902" compiled by Dr. N. V. Luchnik.

There are other fine articles to suit every taste such as "The Mystery of P. 33, P. 35, P.38" by M. Lipschutz and C. Godard, H. Fletcher's "A Forgery of the Imperial Arms Type 10k (Imp.)", "Bugulma Controls" by C. C. Handford, W. Stephen's "Bukhara Railway Routes", Pritt's "Prisoner of War Cards of 1914-18 War", C. W. Roberts "Ukraine Notes", A. Waugh's "Miniature Sheets of the Soviet Union", and "The Spassky Tower Definitives", P. T. Ashford's "The General Issues of the Transcomcasion Federation", C. W. Roberts "The Greaves Ukraine Collection", F. W. Speers "The Zemstvo Gazetter" and others.

Our sister society can be truly proud of both its publication and its editor.

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PHILATELIA BALTICA, Numbers 45, 46 and 47 in a single issue of December 1966. Journal of the Working Group Latvia (Lettland). Editor Mr. H. von Hofmann, Moorweg 32, 2 Hamburg 61, West Germany.

This attractive issue contains a most extensive article entitled "The Awaloff-Bermondts Stamps or Truth and Fiction". It describes the historical background of the Western Army, reproduces many important documents and discusses the Army's Three Provisional Issues, as well as the bogus issue, the so-called Final Issue, printed in Berlin. This article contains many illustrations of genuine and faked covers, stamps and cancellations.

This journal also contains an article on the ELAJA provisional issue of 1919 and announces, that starting with the next issue it will publish in serial form the long awaited "Lettland-Handbuch", A Handbook of Latvian Stamps, which has been in preparation for over 15 years under the able editorship of Dr. Meyer-Behm, Dr. Schroeder and Mr. R. Jacobsen. After their untimely death it has now been prepared for publication by Mr. von Hofmann.

The forthcoming appearance of this handbook is the most welcome news to all collectors of Latvian stamps.

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"SOVIETSKII KOLLEKTSIONER No. 4" ("Soviet Collector No. 4"). A paperback of 128 pages, edited by the All-Union Society of Philatelists and published by "Svyaz " in a printing of 40,000 copies. Price 90 kopeks.

Still making an appearance despite the establishment of the monthly journal "Filateliya SSSR", this fourth manual of the current series is, in many respects, the best to date. After the usual introductory matter, a fine study is presented by the Leningrad philatelist V. A. Karlinskii, entitled "Postage Stamps of the RSFSR 1917-1921" and giving much new data on essays, etc., including four beautiful items from the collection of Hon. member Michel Liphschutz. This is followed by another well-documented article from the pen of A. Kolesnikov on Soviet famine stamps. Next comes an interesting review of the 1948-1961 definitive issues, including paper varieties, by L. Peisikov, PhD., Mr. V. Ustinovskii then contributes a valuable survey of North Pole overprints and cancels.

After two short notes by B. Shpolyanskii and A. Vigilev on stamp designs and speculative issues, Mr. V. Yakobs brings us up to date on the special postmarks of 1965. Notes are then given on the "Sofia-Moscow" show, which took place in the Bulgarian capital at the end of the same year. In the numismatic section, D. Moshnyagin and N. Dashevskii present notes on the collecting and study of Soviet currency, while A. Shaten describes and illustrates all Soviet commemorative medals struck during 1965. Interesting data are also presented by M. Gornung on the last copper coinage of Imperial Russia and by M. L'vov on the first efforts of the Kolyvan' mint. I. G. Spasskii, PhD., already known to us through his work on the Constantine Ruble of 1825, now sounds a warning about three forgeries of validated "yefimki", which were counter-punched at Moscow in 1655. Mr. A. Babenko follows with details of money vouchers issued at Krasnoyarsk in 1923, E. Gribanov writes up some rare Polish revolutionary banknotes prepared in London in 1848 and D. Senkevich terminates with a plea for a catalog of paper money.

The postcard collectors now take over, with I. Sarychev showing views of Moscow, old and new and M. Zaboichen' investigates the work of a Ukrainian illustrator, N. K. Pimonenko. Illustrations are then given of rare postcards found at the "Antikvar" store in Moscow, including a fine one of Chaliapin practicing in a London hotel room. A listing follows of Vietnamese matchbox labels by B. Korona, and V. Bogdanov gives hints on how to assemble such collections.

Turning now to the bibliographic section, S. Babintsev, Chief Librarian of the Saltykov-Shchedrin Public Library, presents a comprehensive listing of Russian journals devoted to the history of Russian posts and philately. We note with satisfaction the indexing of the Postal-Telegraphic Journals, from which we in Rossica had pioneered the reprinting of articles and studies, and also the listing of the erudite articles by that unsung chronicler of the Russian Imperial Posts, Nikolai Ivanovich Sokolov.

Last, but by no means least, we have a very searching and intelligent review by N. V. Luchnik, PhD., of the Imperial Russian catalog published by the France-USSR Philatelic Circle. Dr. Luchnik certainly knows whereof he speaks.

Looking back over the four "sborniks" or manuals which have now appeared, we can see that much interesting information has been brought to light. It is hoped that this standard will be maintained. What philately in the USSR needs is more collectors with enquiring minds, like those of S. M. Blekhman, A. Kolesnikov, V. A. Karlinskii and Dr. N. V. Luchnik.

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"FILATELIYA SSSR" ("Philately USSR"), Nos. 2-6 of Aug. - Dec. 1966 and 1-3 of Jan. - Mar. 1967. A monthly magazine published in Moscow by the All-Union Society of Philatelists in an edition of 50,000 copies. Price 30 kopeks.

These last eight issues that we have received demonstrate the scope and intent of the magazine. Written in a popular style, it is aimed at a wider circle of readers than the annual "sborniks" of the "Sovietskii Kolleksioner" series. The latter manuals will be devoted to more serious studies.

However, the monthly magazine provides a fund of information, which we will translate for our readers. Among much useful data, we note the following:-

- (a) "An underpaid letter for you", by V. A. Karlinskii. A fine article on postage due stamps in Nos. 2 and 3 of 1966.
- (b) "Soviet Postal Rates", by V. A. Karlinskii. A magnificent study from 1918 to date, running in Nos. 4-6 of 1966 and 1-3 of 1967. This series continues and extends considerably the important work done on postal rates by Hon. member Michel Lipschutz, C. Godard and Dr. R. J. Ceresa.
- (c) "Overprints of the Soviet Zone in Germany June-July 1948", by N. Vladinets in Nos. 6/1966 and 1/1967.
- (d) "Forgery of the Moscow Spartakiada Cancel of August 1928", by M. Vovin in 6/1966.
- (e) "Paris, Moscow, Leningrad" by E. T. Krenkel, PhD. A report on the joint show held in Paris last year and published in No. 2/1967.
- (f) "What a Watermark is Related To", by N. V. Luchnik, PhD. A thorough investigation of the reasons for the issue of the 15 k. and 25 k. Arms stamps in 1905, published in No. 2/1967.
- (g) "Under Ultraviolet Rays" by two Ukrainian philatelists, A. Stupko and F. Bassin of Ivano-Frankovsk (formerly Stanislavov) and given in No. 2/1967. An interesting treatment, complete with circuit diagram, of Soviet "tagged" stamps which have been printed on luminescent paper as an electronic sorting aid.
- (h) "A Mysterious Cover", by V. A. Karlinskii, in No. 3/1967. This is a carefully thought-out analysis of a forged cover bearing the Rostov-on-Don famine issue of 1922.

In addition, there have been short notes on a mysterious 5 kop. label of the 1920s, inscribed "DETSKAYA POCHTA" ("Children's Post") in No. 6/1966, inflation letters and numbers printed for the 1940 issue for the Latvian SSR in No. 4/1966, together with the usual regular features such as a New Issue Chronicle, Special Cancels, Junior Section, etc. Now increased to 48 pages, the journal is very well produced from a technical point of view and is often embellished with fine reproductions of woodcuts, an art at which artists in the USSR excell. The one jarring note is the usage of foreign words in the text, even when good Russian equivalents already exist. For example, why say "raritet", when "redkost'" is available? Why use words such as "absturd" as a noun, "nonsens"(!), "stend" and "Krossvord"? Surely, the expressive and majestic Russian language has no need of such haphazard and unnecessary borrowings.

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"LATVIJAS NE-PASTMARKU KATALOGS" ("Latvian Catalog of Non-Postal Stamps"), by E. Vincovskis and L. Straupenieks. Issued by the Ventspils Philatelic Section of the Latvian National and Historical Society. Layout and manuscript rights copyrighted at Ventspils in 1965. No price stated. Review copy supplied by our member Andrejs Petrevics, of Perry, N. Y.

A most unusual booklet, produced on 39 photographic prints, with a green cover and metal clasps, each print being stamped on the back with the title of the booklet. The information is typewritten under the following headings: (1) Preface, (2) Designations and Abbreviations (3) Watermarks, (4) Fiscal Stamps, (5) Official Tax, Fortified Section Stamps and Chancery Fees, (6) Judicial Stamps, (7) Railway Stamps, (8) Visa Stamps, (9) Stamps for Organizations, (10) Municipal Stamps.

The work thus covers all Latvian, Imperial and Soviet revenues that have circulated on Latvian territory and is a must for the revenue collector.

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"ZHELEZHNYE DOROGI SSSR - NAPRAVLENIYA I STANTSII" ("Railways of the USSR - Routes and Stations"). This is the second printing of a soft-cover booklet issued in 1966 by the Central Administration of Geodesy and Cartography of the Ministry of Geology of the USSR (GUGK), in an edition of 235,000 copies. Price 50 kopeks.

This 150-page work contains over 140 small maps in color, skillfully arranged to cover every railway route in the country and showing most of the stations. Some idea of its comprehensiveness may be gained by noting that there are 47 stations shown in the Kaliningrad Province alone. Another example is the stretch given between Chardzhui and Urgench in Central Asia, which lists the following points: Chardzhui, Chardzhui II, Buyun-Uzun, Denev, Ene-Kulievo, Stopping Place No. 10, Gabokly, S. P. No. 172, Khalkabad, S. P. No. 173, Dargan-Ata, S. P. No. 174, S. P. No. 175, Sazakin, S. P. No. 176, Pitnyak, Khazarasp, Khanki, Urgench (need we continue?). The maps are followed by an index of all stations and a tabulation of main railway routes.

This is an invaluable guide for RPO (TPO) enthusiasts and for postmark collectors in general.

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"LES DIVERSES EMISSIONS ET OBLITERATIONS DE LA RUSSIE SUBCARPATHIQUE ET DE LA SLOVAQUIE DU SUD 1860-1965" ("The Various Issues and Cancellations of Subcarpathian Russian and Southern Slovakia 1860-1965"), by Roger Richet. Published by "L'Echangiste Universel" at Bischweiler, France, as a booklet of 64 pages, and available at \$2.00 postpaid, either from the publishers, or the author at 58, rue Bourbonnoux, (18) BOURGES (Cher), France.

Adding to the ever-growing interest in the stamps and postal history of the Carpatho-Ukraine, this French author has given a fine survey of the philatelic possibilities in this field together with a fine map of the region. Despite his lack of knowledge of Slav languages, he has been able to enlist the help of Czechoslovak and other philatelists to explain his subject in clear and lucid French, aided by excellent illustrations. The author is Vice-President of the France-Central Europe Philatelic Society and his work is an excellent introduction to this diverse subject. The booklet gives historical and geographical

notes on the Carpatho-Ukraine and this is followed by details of the postal history of the country and of Southern Slovakia under Austro-Hungarian, Czechoslovak and Hungarian rule. Next come sections devoted to the 1938-1941 series of Hungarian "returned territories" cancels, the typographic overprint of 11 Nov. 1938 for the city of Kosice (Kassa) the Ukrainian postmarks for Khust (Chust), a commemorative Hungarian cancel of 1944 for Munkacs (Mukachevo), a clandestine 1919 Ukrainian overprint on Polish stamps, an unissued series of 1919 for the Western Ukraine, the 1944 Czechoslovak overprints for Chust, and other details of the Czechoslovak administration in the Carpatho-Ukraine during Nov.-Dec. 1944.

Information is then given on the local liberation overprints of Roznava and Rimavska Sobota in Southern Slovakia and the four issues of Uzhgorod in the Carpatho-Ukraine made in 1945. An outline is then given of the Soviet postal history of the Carpatho-Ukraine, including postal stationery. The brochure terminates with a survey of Czechoslovak stamps and cancels with Ukrainian themes, a note on a label printed by the American Bank Note Co. of New York City, for the Slovak League in the U.S. and finally describes a Ukrainian Camp Post issue of 1949 commemorating the 10th. Anniversary of the Opening of the National Assembly at Khust (Chust) on 15 Mar. 1939. Well recommended.

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"PHILATELEN PREGLED 11/1966" ("Philatelic Review for Nov. 1966"). Our informative Bulgarian contemporary, published in Sofia by the Union of Bulgarian Philatelists and the Ministry of Communications, features an interesting article on the recent Russian set of three stamps and a souvenir sheet, commemorating the 800th. anniversary of the birth of the great Georgian poet Shota Rustaveli.

The magazine also gives a very fine review of No. 70 of our journal, detailing its various contents. The article on Russian mail to the monastic cell of St. John Chrysostomos, by Aimilios D. Xanthopoulos, now president of the Hellenic Philatelic Society of America, created a particularly favorable impression, since it gave the year of 1798 as the date of the death of the Bulgarian monk Paisii Khilendarski, a fact that had been unknown to Bulgarian historians.

It is pleasing to note that our Journal continues to have an impact on the international scene and this excellent review should help us to reach a wider circle of readers.

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"FILATELIE" ("Philately"). This organ of the Czechoslovak philatelists is published twice monthly in Prague and gives a very good coverage of the international philatelic scene.

Nos. 19, 20 and 21 are especially noteworthy from our point of view, since they feature a wonderful series of articles by a noted Czech specialist, Miroslav Blaha, on the development of postal services in the Trans-Carpathian Province of the USSR (Carpatho-Ukraine), from prephilatelic times to the present day. Written almost in telegraphic style, Mr. Blaha gives an enormous fund of authoritative information and illustrations on this fascinating subject. We hope to translate this fine work for our members, beginning with No. 73 of our Journal, so that our members can judge for themselves the quality of the author's investigations.

Indeed, this is another example of the international sources we are tapping to give our members as broad a coverage as possible in their collecting interests. We are especially grateful to the Federation of Czechoslovak Philatelists for the opportunity accorded us to republish this excellent study in English.

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