

# ROSSICA

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No. 133

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The Journal of the Rossica Society of Russian Philately

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**THE JOURNAL OF THE  
ROSSICA SOCIETY OF RUSSIAN PHILATELY**

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Journal No. 133 for October 1999

**Editor:** Karen Lemiski  
**Editorial Board:** Gary Combs, David Skipton, Ivo Steyn

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# From the Editor's Desk

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## New Web Page

*submitted by Jeff Radcliffe*

The Rossica web page changed locations and webmasters this year. Many thanks to Peter Michalove for his outstanding efforts in setting up the first web page and for assisting in a very smooth transition to the new site at the following URL:

<http://www.rossica.org>.

This is your site! What do you want to see? Did you find another web page that is particularly informative and would be useful to our membership? Like something on the Rossica web page? Do you particularly *not* like a feature we have? Want to see a new feature added? All suggestions and comments are welcome. Contact me at [webmaster@rossica.org](mailto:webmaster@rossica.org) or better yet, take our web-based survey. You can find it on our web page.

The Rossica web page is always in transition, so please check back frequently. Our goal is to make our web site not just an informational medium, but also a useful tool for all collectors of Russian philately. You will see a gradual format change that will make the site easier to use. Some possible changes and enhancements we are looking at include: a password protected area for Rossica members only; an on-line Rossica primer; a postmark identifier; a Rossica library listing (with on-line request forms?); and a "what is this?" page for members to solicit input on items they cannot identify. The possibilities are endless. I welcome and will consider all suggestions for site improvements.

We are always looking for new items for a *featured item page*. Some suggested items of interest you may be able to provide include: errors, anomalies, fakes and forgeries compared to the normal issues. Is there an expert on revenue stamps? zemstvos? revolutionary overprints? civil

war issues? There are endless topics. Send me a scan with a write up. The more featured item entries received, the more information we can provide to our members.

## Request for Information

In the sale of the Liphschutz collection of Imperial Russia II (Guido Craveri, Harmers Auctions SA, Lugano, 1 May 1993), lot 1791, there was a 1909–1918 1 ruble with a perfin used at Kashgar (cancelled Tchil. type 2, sub-type 2A) included in a mixed lot of Russian stamps used at this office. If any member either bought or viewed the lot, do they know what the perfin was.

This question is asked by Paul N. Davey, the librarian of the China Philatelic Society of London, who is updating the catalogue of *The Perfins of China*. If you can provide any information on this stamp, please contact Paul at: Bleak House, Ulley Road, Kennington, Ashford, Kent, TN24 9HU, United Kingdom; or email: [daveypn@nascr.net](mailto:daveypn@nascr.net).

## RSFSR Catalog

The latest section of the *Rossica Catalog of the RSFSR* is now available. Section 10 (134 pages) covers the Second Standard Issue (25 August–September 1921). As with the earlier sections, it is divided into three parts: introduction, detailed illustrations of varieties; and detailed catalog entries with prices. For more information about the content, please write or email Ged Seiflow or the Rossica treasurer.

Section 10 is priced at \$14 for Rossica members (\$28 for non-members), which includes surface mailing costs. Please send your check (drawn on a *US bank* and made payable to Rossica), money order, to the Rossica treasurer, whose address is on the inside front cover. Sorry, no VISA/MC or stamps for payment.

# A Classification of the Stamps of the Khvalynsk Magistrates Appeals Court

by J. G. Moyes

Municipal issues of magistrates appeals courts stamps are difficult to locate and it is fortunate that a small number of those from Khvalynsk have survived, allowing a classification to be made. The stamps themselves are very plain in appearance, consisting of no more than an inscription in black on white paper, with sections to be filled in by hand to cover the court fees due from an action. These fees follow the usual practice of one percent of the amount claimed in the action plus ten kopecks for each sheet of the petition.

The inscriptions on each issue are standard and are typeset. All are imperforate. All magistrates and magistrates appeals court stamps in this

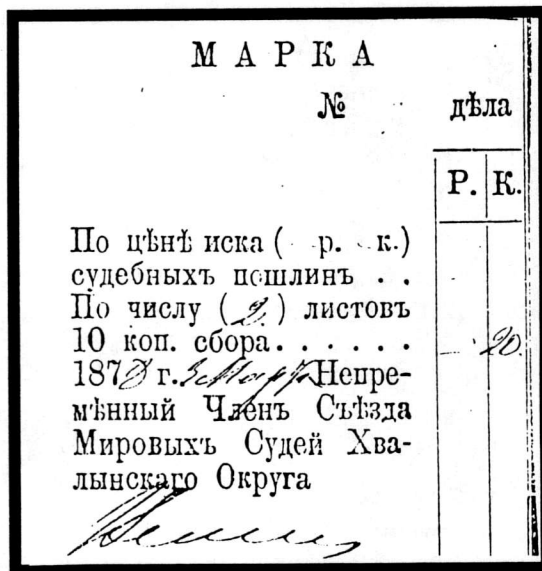
large plain format from different towns are found with corresponding receipts. I cannot match any of the Khvalynsk stamps with a corresponding receipt, although two types are only known from the receipt. I can match identical inscriptions on smaller-sized issues with those of the two receipts, and possibly they go together, but I list them separately as I do not know of any example from any court where the size of the stamp does not match the size of the receipt.

My thanks as usual go to Bjorn-Eric Saarinen for his enthusiastic assistance in helping to classify these stamps. This article is the result of an assessment of both our holdings.

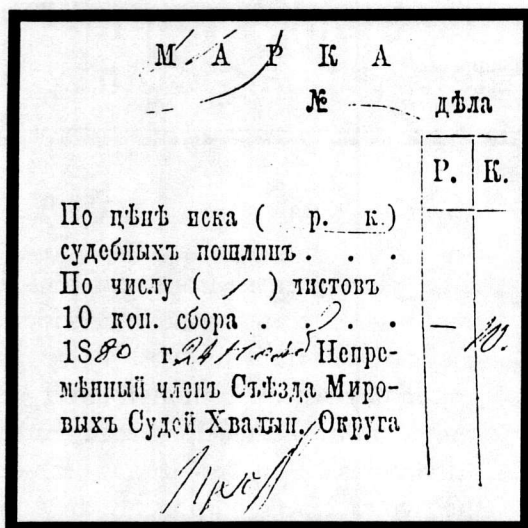
## 1878

Large format. Inscription in eight lines. Dated 187-. No receipts recorded. At least four subtypes exist.

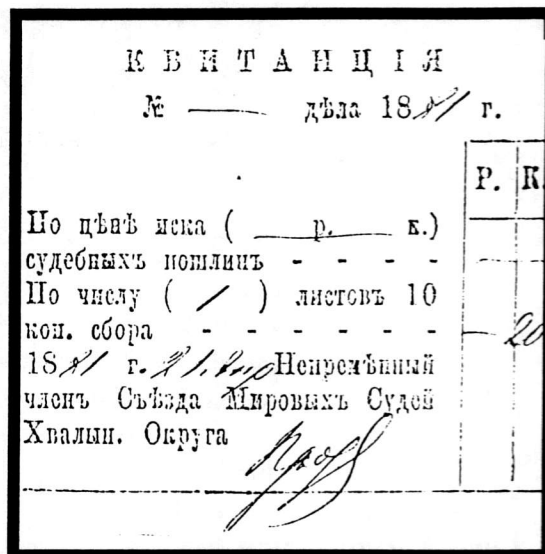
Kh.M.A.	1	Marka (stamp)
Kh.M.A.	1a	Kvitantsiya (receipt) unknown



Kh.M.A. 1 Marka



Kh.M.A. 2 Marka



Kh.M.A. 3 Kvitantsiya

1880

Large format. Inscription in seven lines. Dated 18—. Smaller letters than 1878 issue.

- Kh.M.A. 2 Marka
- Kh.M.A. 2a Kvitantsiya unknown

1881

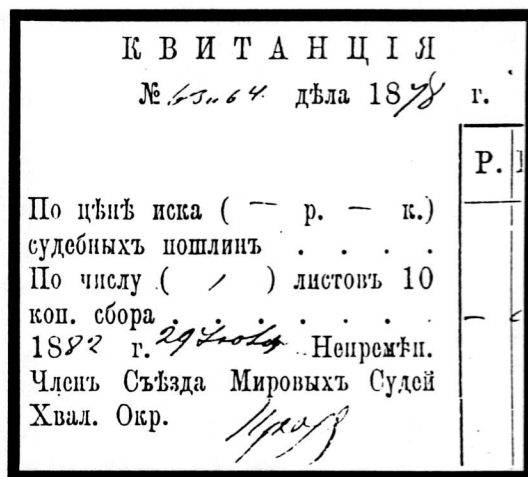
Large format. Inscription in seven lines. Dated 18—. Wider spacing than on 1880 issue. No words hyphenated and split over two lines, as is found on the previous issue.

- Kh.M.A. 3 Marka unknown
- Kh.M.A. 3a Kvitantsiya

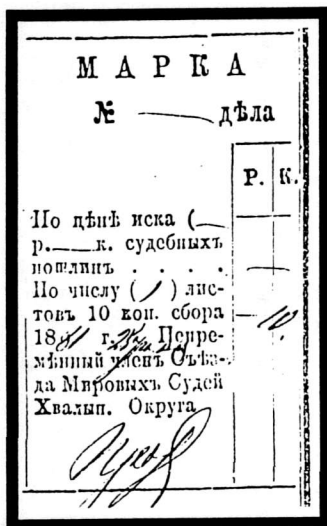
1881 (?)

As above with slightly narrower vertical spacing. On fifth line after date the word “Nepremyennyi” is abbreviated while it is given in full on the previous issue. On the bottom line, the two words are abbreviated to four and three letters while on the previous issue, they are six letters each. Only known copy is dated 1882.

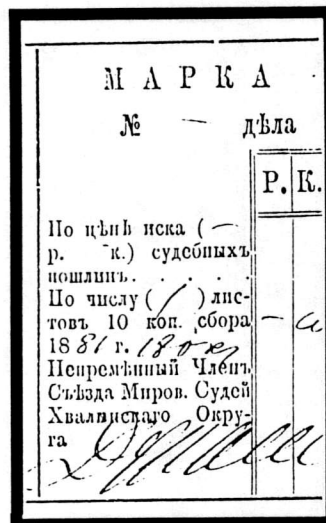
- Kh.M.A. 4 Marka unknown
- Kh.M.A. 4a Kvitantsiya



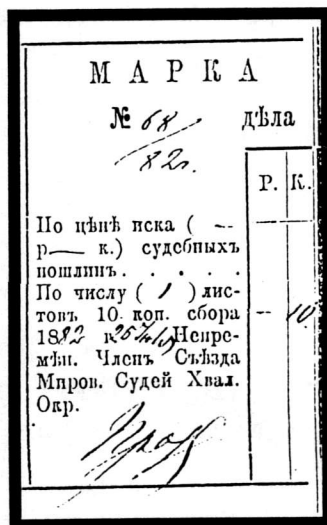
Kh.M.A. 4 Kvitantsiya



Kh.M.A. 5 Marka



Kh.M.A. 6 Marka



Kh.M.A. 7 Marka

1881

Small format. Inscription in nine lines. Dated 18—. At least five subtypes.

Kh.M.A. 5 Marka

Kh.M.A. 5a Kvitantsiya unknown

1881

Small format. Inscription in ten lines. Dated 18—. "P.K." in value tablet is in large capitals, while the tablet itself is double lined. At least four subtypes.

Kh.M.A. 6 Marka

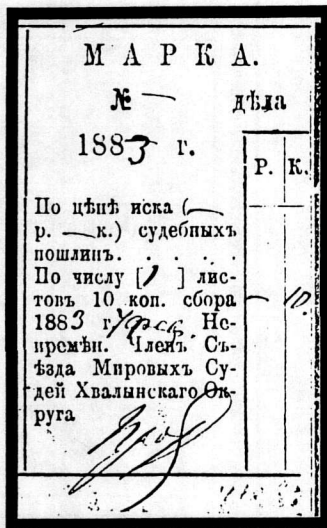
Kh.M.A. 6a Kvitantsiya unknown

1882

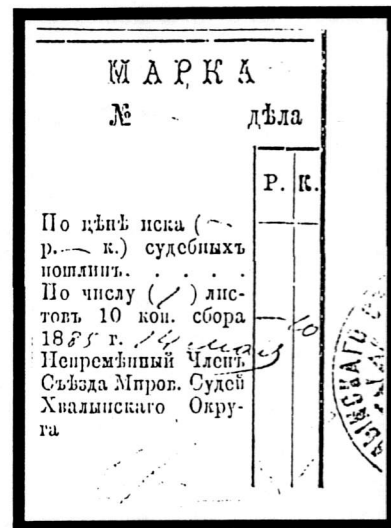
Small format. Inscription in nine lines. Dated 18—. Bottom line reads "OKP". Value tablet as Kh.M.A. 5.

Kh.M.A. 7 Marka

Kh.M.A. 7a Kvitantsiya unknown



Kh.M.A. 8 Marka



Kh.M.A. 9 Marka



Kh.M.A. 10 Marka

### 1883

Small format. Inscription in ten lines. Dated 18—, and date repeated under “МАРКА”. Bottom line reads “РУГА”. Value tablet as Kh.M.A. 5.

Kh.M.A. 8 Marka  
 Kh.M.A. 8a Kvitantsiya unknown

### 1885

Small format. Identical to Kh.M.A. 6, except that “МАРКА” is in fancy serifs and the value tablet is similar to Kh.M.A. 5. At least three subtypes.

Kh.M.A. 9 Marka  
 Kh.M.A. 9a Kvitantsiya unknown

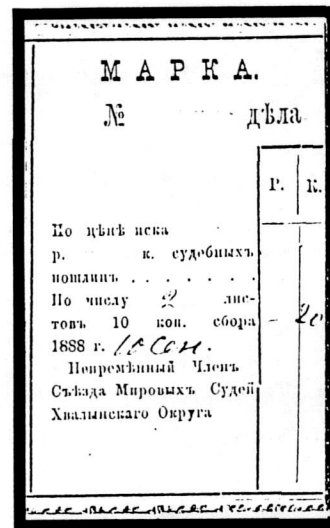
### 1887

Small format. Inscription in ten lines. “МАРКА” with fancy serifs as 1885 issue, to which this seems identical, except that this type has a printed border and is dated 1887.

Kh.M.A. 10 Marka  
 Kh.M.A. 10a Kvitantsiya unknown



Kh.M.A. 11 Marka



Kh.M.A. 12 Marka

**1888**

Small format. Inscription in nine lines. Dated 1888. Very small letters, with a fancy border. Second word on eighth line has five letters.

Kh.M.A. 11 Marka  
 Kh.M.A. 11a Kvitantsiya unknown

The similarity between this type and the next may mean that they are two types from the same sheet.

**1888**

As previous except the second word on the eighth line is complete and has eight letters.

Kh.M.A. 12 Marka  
 Kh.M.A. 12a Kvitantsiya unknown

*Editor's Note:* The translated text on these stamps reads:

“Stamp/Receipt  
 No. of case

For cost of the suit ([in] rubles [and] kopecks) — court fees ... 10 kopecks per ( ) number of sheets. ... 18\_\_ [month and day] Permanent Member of the Khvalynsk District Magistrates' Assembly.”

# “Thar She Blows”: Nineteenth-Century Yankee Whalers in Russia’s Northern Waters — A Historical and Philatelic Connection

by G. Adolph Ackerman

For centuries, sperm oil and oils from other whales were essential in people’s lives. These oils fueled lamps to light homes and businesses and were important in textile manufacturing as well as other industries. The whale population in European coastal waters and in the north — in the Norwegian and Barents seas — had been devastated by over-hunting long before the eighteenth century. In their pursuit of whales, hunters gradually moved north- and southward in the Atlantic and then into the Indian Ocean and south Pacific.

In the United States, the whaling industry grew rapidly after the War of 1812 when whaling prices in Britain and Europe markedly declined as coal and petroleum products began to replace the industrial use of sperm oil in European countries.<sup>4,6</sup> These changes resulted in the gradual waning of the whaling industry in Europe, and fewer British and French whalers scoured the seas. In contrast, in the United States, the use of coal and petroleum products lagged significantly behind western Europe during the early half of the nineteenth century. Thus, Yankee whalers (figure 1) began to dominate the seas in both the Atlantic and Pacific, sailing from New Bedford, New London, and other ports in Massachusetts, New York, Rhode Island, and Connecticut. Over seven hundred whalers sailed from twenty-three ports along the eastern coast during a thirty-year period of expansion, reaching a peak in 1857 when over three hundred Yankee ships sailed from the eastern ports.<sup>11</sup>

During the 1820s and 1830s, U.S. whalers sent to the Pacific rounded Cape Horn and



Figure 1: Yankee whaling ship *Charles W. Morgan*, which sailed the Atlantic, Indian, and Pacific oceans during the nineteenth century.



Figure 2: British whaler *Onward*, out of Sydney, New South Wales.

sailed along the coast of Chile and into the south seas. Their hunting ranged between 50 degrees south and 40 degrees north, and they joined British whalers (figure 2) in their search for the sperm whale.<sup>4</sup> As the whale population in the Pacific declined in the 1840s, the hunters gravi-

tated northward toward the Bering Sea. Soon Hawaii, and later San Francisco, became winter bases and supply ports for the whalers.

From their New England home ports, whaling ships would be gone well over a year and with declining harvests, two or three years would often pass before their return from the Pacific. From an economic standpoint, as had happened earlier in Europe, the early 1840s saw petroleum products (kerosene) replacing sperm oil, resulting in a significant decrease in the price of sperm oil in the United States. Whalers soon turned to whalebone (baleen), which had become an important item in the economy.<sup>4,6</sup> The flexible whalebone was used for such things as bodices, bustles, and hoops in women's fashions, combs, horse whips, canes, fishing rods, fine brushes, and bone boxes.<sup>4</sup> Oils were still used in soaps and lubricants. Thus, hunting shifted from sperm whales, which lacked baleen, to the bowhead, right, and gray whales that inhabited the more northern seas (figure 3).

Russian and U.S. territorial waters in the northern Pacific Ocean and the Arctic seas provided the major hunting ground for whalers throughout the nineteenth century. Yet in spite of the historical importance of whales and the whaling industry, few whales and whaling ships have been depicted on American or Russian stamps.

### Whales and Their Distribution<sup>1,10</sup>

Sperm whales range through much of the northern Pacific, Bering Sea, and into the lower Chukchi Sea, but their numbers were severely depleted in the central Pacific during the early to mid-1900s. The gray whale is concentrated along the coastal regions of the East Siberian and Chukchi seas, the eastern coast of Siberia to Kamchatka, and the coastal waters of Alaska. The gray whale migrates nearly ten thousand miles from the north to their winter breeding grounds along the coast of California, the Baja, and Mexico. These whales were nearly destroyed by excess hunting during the 1800s. Today, gray whales are still caught in limited num-

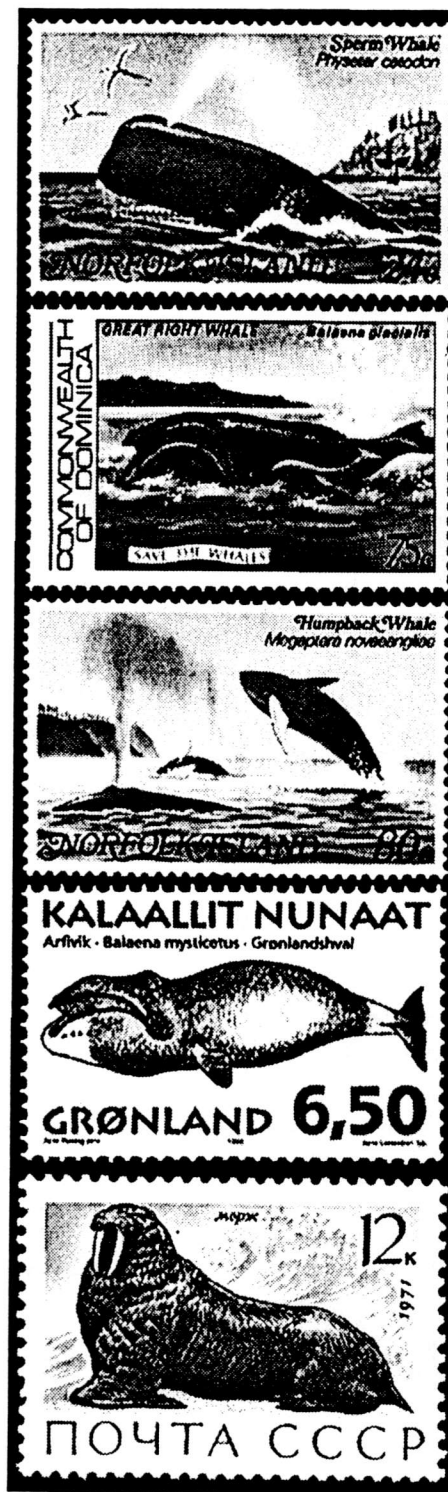


Figure 3: Top to bottom: Sperm, right, humpback, and bowhead whales, and a walrus.

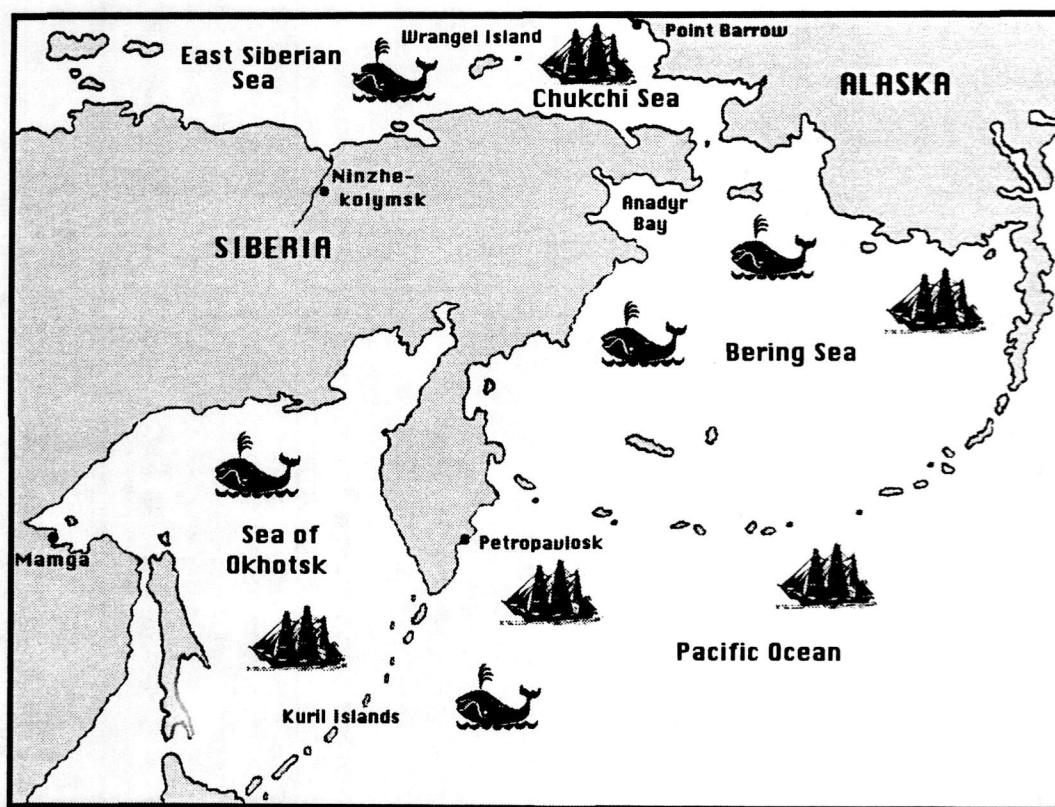
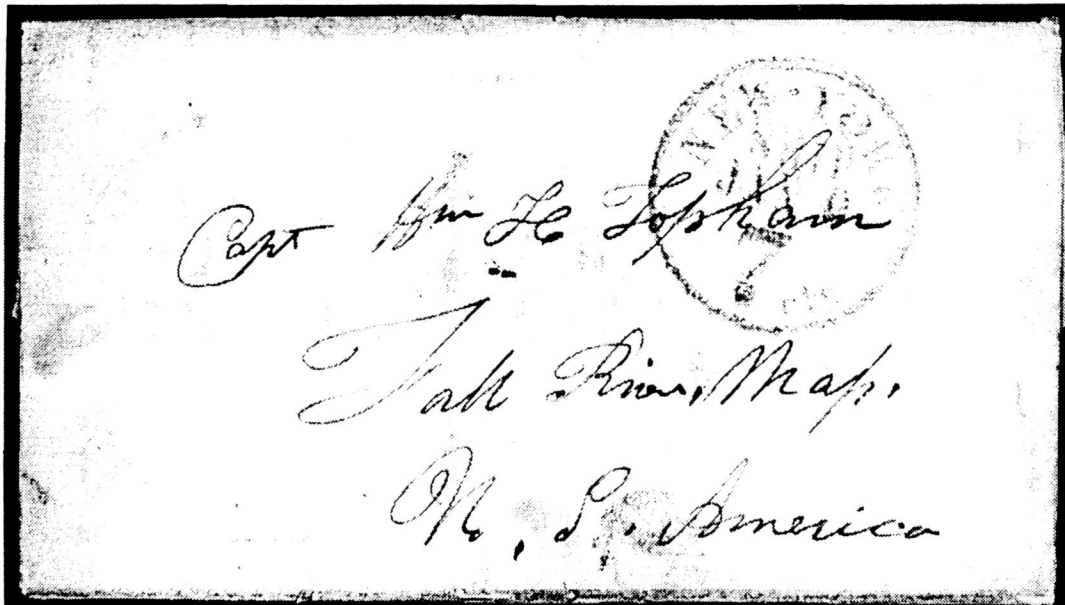


Figure 4: Map of whale-hunting grounds in the northern Pacific Ocean and Arctic seas.

bers by Russian hunters in the Chukchi and Bering seas according to an international agreement, under which the catch is processed for oil and meat for use by regional native peoples. Bowheads range the entire northern Pacific including the Sea of Okhotsk, Bering Sea, west and north in the Chukchi Sea as far as Wrangel Island, and along the northernmost coasts of Alaska and Canada. Fin whales are found in the Sea of Japan, regions of the Sea of Okhotsk, and along the Kuril Islands into the Bering Sea. Right whales range along the Aleutians, Kamchatka, and Kurils to the Sea of Japan and the southern coast of Alaska and Canada. Humpbacks concentrate along the southern coast of Alaska into the Bering Sea, and the northeastern coast of Russia (Anadyr Bay and the eastern portion of the Chukchi Sea near the Bering Strait).

### The Sea of Okhotsk, Kamchatka, and Vicinity

The 1840s saw the end of the sperm whale era and the expansion of the U.S. whaling domain from the Central Pacific and Sea of Japan northward toward the Kuril Islands, the Far Eastern coast of Russia, Kamchatka, and into the Sea of Okhotsk and Gulf of Alaska (figure 4).<sup>4,6</sup> Between 1843 and 1845, a number of whaling ships from several countries hunted these territorial waters. One ship, the *Manhattan* under Captain Cooper, entered the Sea of Okhotsk in 1845 while ten ships (American and French) stopped at Petropavlovsk in the summer of 1845.<sup>4</sup> Among these ships were the *Josephine* under Roys and the *Neptune* under Sodring. The whaler *Golden Hunter* out of Fall River, Massachusetts, captained by William Wood, was part of this group



Kamohaskee, August 16<sup>th</sup> 1845  
 Dear Mr. Losham  
 I am now bound to the  
 port of Petropavlovsk in Kamohaskee  
 a ship is in sight coming out a  
 Manchester and I send her few  
 lines hoping you will get them before  
 you hear the report of my wound  
 2 weeks ago I shot my left wrist  
 nearly half off. broke me bones  
 and it is nearly well with no danger  
 at all. I have had a very  
 bad season 800 lbs (260 lbm) but  
 hope last season has took from  
 1 to 2000 after this date I shall be at  
 home the first of May at in the air

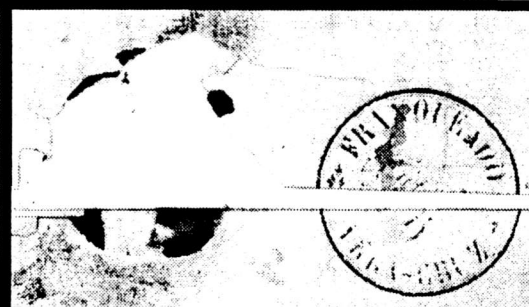


Figure 5: a/b: Wood's cover and letter page sent from his ship near Petropavlovsk (1865);  
 Cover sent to Fall River has a "New York 9 Jan" circular postmark with a 7-cent marking;  
 c: Cover reverse shows a broken wax seal and Vera Cruz postmark with an ill-defined date;  
 d: View of Petropavlovsk, early 1800s;<sup>8</sup>  
 e. Modern view of Petropavlovsk harbor.

navigating the Kamchatka region and stopping at Petropavlovsk. A wonderful, but brief, letter dispatched by Wood<sup>a,1</sup> as he neared Petropavlovsk in 1845 (figure 5) documents the end of the sperm-whale era in the Pacific, the dangers of whaling, and the expansion of Yankee whaling into Russian territorial waters.

The Wood cover (figure 5) is addressed to Captain Wm. H. Topham, Fall River, Massachusetts, and bears a New York ship cancel dated 9 January, franked with a seven-cent rate.

The reverse has a Vera Cruz, Mexico, postmark, which is quite unusual. The text of the letter indicates that Wood gave the letter to a merchantman sailing from Petropavlovsk. The merchantman subsequently off-loaded the letter at Vera Cruz, where it was transferred to another ship sailing to New York. The letter, upon arrival in New York, received a ship cancel and paid fee, and was then dispatched to Fall River.

A transcription of the letter and added notation follows:

---

Kamschaska, August 10th 1845

Dear Abby,

I am now bound to the port of Petropavlovsk (Petropanthki) in Kamschaska a ship is in sight coming out a merchantman and I send these few lines hoping you will get them before you hear the report of my wound 2 weeks ago I shot my left wrist nearly half off. broke no bones, and it is nearly well with no danger at all. I have had a very bad season 800 bls (260 sperm) but ships last season here took from 1 to 2000 after this date. I shall be at home the first of May oil or no oil.

Got one letter from you that by Mr. Phillips. I heard by the Borden that you was in Fall River last Sept [GAA: 1844] glad to hear so excuse shortness [GAA: of note] and badness as the ship is off and I am very weak by loss of blood but don't be alarmed for I am now safe and shall not loose the use of my hand. My love to all and rest assure that I will be there as soon as I can. Once more to see my all which I never leave again.

Yours, affections  
William

Added note in another hand: Dear sister — To day I hear of the accident — which william met with and at the same this letter on the office directed to you in falls river. so I took the liberty to open it — for the purpose of learning the truth of the report and nature of the wound. I was glad to find there were not bones broken and that nothing dangerous will result from it — It seems that Wm. will not arrive before May and should you think but to come to Fall River will try to find To . . . . ment [GAA:?] for you.

Fall River Jan 9th 1846 O H Brook

Cooper, sailing the *Manhattan* into the Sea of Okhotsk and along the Kuril Islands in 1845, discovered new hunting grounds for right and bowhead whales.<sup>3</sup> The Okhotsk, much like the waters along northern Kamchatka and the Bering Sea, is ice-covered much of the year (November to June); fog and storms are common. The Sea of Okhotsk provided an important source of whale for U.S. ships during the late 1840s and early 1850s. By 1849, 250 ships dominated by Yankee whalers were plying the Okhotsk; none were of Russian origin.<sup>4,6,13</sup>

In 1850, a joint Russo-Finnish Whaling Company that included five whaling ships was formed.<sup>6</sup> One ship, the *Suomi*, operated in the Okhotsk; the others worked the Asiatic seas, i.e., the Yellow Sea and the Sea of Japan. During the 1850 season, the *Suomi* collected one thousand barrels of blubber and over twenty thousand pounds of bone. The Russo-Finnish catch was transported to and sold in Germany<sup>6</sup> rather than being used regionally. The company was disbanded in 1863.

Russian vessels (figure 6) were dispatched in 1853 to protect Russian shores and the Sea of Okhotsk from foreign invaders after earlier unenforced restrictions failed.<sup>6</sup> Apparently, this action had little effect since on one single day during the next year (1854), nearly fifty whales were harvested by foreign whalers in the Sea of Okhotsk. Such exploitation soon depleted the regional whale population and the search for whales moved northward.

It should be noted that Russians did not actively pursue whaling in the Okhotsk or along its shores, nor did they pursue the hunt for whales in the Arctic seas. Native peoples along the northeastern Russian mainland and Eskimo in the Alaskan territory had hunted gray whales over the centuries. Steller, the German naturalist on the Bering expedition (figure 7) in the 1740s, described native hunting of whales near Kamchatka as well as reporting on the regional wildlife.



Figure 6: The Russian *Vega*, a cadet sailing ship believed to be similar to Russian ships dispatched to patrol Far Eastern territorial waters during the mid-nineteenth century.

### The Arctic Seas and Russian/Alaskan Territories

Russian exploratory voyages (figure 7) to the northern Far East were made by Kruzenshtern sailing into the Sea of Okhotsk and to Russian Alaska (1803–1806), by Golovnin sailing along the Kuril Islands, Sea of Okhotsk, and northward to Kamchatka (1811), and by Wrangel, who had explored northeastern Siberia and voyaged from Petropavlovsk to Russian America where he established a fortification at New Arkhangelsk during the 1830s (figure 7). Litke charted the Bering Strait and surrounding area in 1825.

Earlier, Shelikhov headed an expedition to America in 1784, establishing a settlement at Kodiak (figure 8). At the turn of the century (1804), Baranov served as chief magistrate of Russian properties in America in the settlement of Sitka (figure 8). As the Russians began to establish settlements in the Alaskan territory near the end of the eighteenth century,<sup>2,8</sup> an attempt was made to form local whaling companies, but these proved unsuccessful due to the inexperience of the Russian crews.<sup>6</sup> One of these companies was the Onerskye Company, established by Count Vorontsov in 1786.<sup>6</sup> The Russian



Figure 7: a: Bering expedition to the Bering Sea and Alaska;  
 b: Kruzenstern expedition to the north Pacific, Kamchatka, and Kuril Islands;  
 c: Golovnin expedition to the Kuril Islands and Sea of Okhotsk;  
 d: Wrangel expedition from Petropavlovsk to Russian America and the fortification at New Arkhangel'sk.

American Company, formed in 1799, concentrated on hunting sea otters and fur animals, although the company did build a small whale-processing factory at Mamga, Tugursky Bay on the Sea of Okhotsk.<sup>6</sup> The factory operated two vessels at most, hunting in the protected Okhotsk during the latter half of the nineteenth century. Later, another Russian whale-processing site was set up on the eastern coast of Aniva Bay (southern tip of Sakhalin).<sup>6</sup> From there, whale meat was shipped to Japan and bone to Europe.<sup>6</sup>

In the summer of 1848 and after a disappointing hunt in the South Pacific, Roys in the bark *Superior* decided to turn northward.<sup>4</sup> While in Petropavlovsk in 1845, Roys had spoken with a Russian naval officer, who had mentioned that many whales could be found north of the Bering Strait.<sup>4</sup> Passing through the Aleutians into the Bering Sea, Roys proceeded through the Bering Strait and 250 miles into the Chukchi Sea, where few ships had ever ventured. There, his catch filled the ship to capacity with oil and baleen (eleven bowhead whales and sixteen hundred barrels of oil). Roys' whaler was

the first to pass beyond the Aleutians in search of whales; his success resulted in an onslaught of whalers northward starting in the 1850s. Over 150 ships went north in 1849 after Roys' discovery and more in 1850. The majority of Arctic whaling voyages took place between 1850 and 1870, although by 1860 whales were becoming scarce in the Bering Sea and the hunt moved further north.

Ice in the Bering Sea begins to break up in late June, with narrow waterways appearing in late March or early April and allowing the passage of whales and ships to the north.<sup>4</sup> Ice melts later in the Chukchi — breaking up from June to August — with weather conditions (fog, gales, wind direction, and current speed) determining the extent of its northern retreat.<sup>4</sup> Ice is always near the coastline even during the brief summer months. Whale-feeding grounds move from east of Point Barrow to concentrate near Herald Island in late August and September<sup>4</sup> and then southward into the Bering Sea as ice covers the more northern seas.

The passage of whaling ships through the



Figure 8: a: Shelikhov established the first Russian settlement (1784) on Kodiak Island, Russian America; b: Baranov established a fortification on the island at Sitka, Russian America (1799); c: View of Novoarkhangel'sk (New Arkhangel'sk) near the island of Sitka, mid-1800s.<sup>14</sup>

northern waters was treacherous and ice floes took their toll. Unusual weather conditions with changes in wind and current frequently entrapped ships along the northern Siberian and Alaskan coasts. Some ships were severely damaged, some were abandoned, and some were totally destroyed or sunk far from civilization. Survival was dependent on remaining supplies or nearby ships that found safe haven in protective coves and bays. By mid to late July, ships were usually able to reach Alaska's Cape Lisburne or Icy Cape in the Chukchi Sea, two hundred miles northeast of the Bering Strait. In August and September, they moved westward toward

Wrangel and Herald islands off the Siberian coast, where the whalers found a concentration of whale during the later summer months.<sup>4,6</sup>

With the Atlantic fished out, the whaling industry in Europe began to decline as the North Pacific and Arctic became the most frequented hunting grounds. Ships were under sail for periods of two to three years. Large numbers of American whaling ships scoured the Russian-Alaskan coasts and the Bering and Chukchi seas from the 1850s. Most sailed from New England around the Horn to Honolulu or San Francisco, and then to the Far North.

A cover and excerpts from a letter relate directly to these ports and whaling in Russia's northern waters. The cover bears a red "HONOLULU/HAWAIIAN ISLANDS" cancel, is backstamped "SAN FRANCISCO/CAL", and bears a "SHIP 12" handstamp. Reported excerpts from a letter written by Captain Granville Allen aboard the *George Washington* to his brother, dated 2 June 1854, follow:

Off Cape Thadeus, Bhering Sea. In lat 62.00, long 180.00 [GAA: this location places the ship off the coast of the Siberian mainland near Mys Navarin in the Bering Sea, at the southern entrance of Anadyr Bay]. I have been here now about 1 month dodging among the ice and snow storms and fogs a good part of the time but have not seen a whale yet. Neither have I heard of but one being seen. . . .

Aug 27, Arctic Ocean. I have given up all hope now as it is about time to leave the country. If I want to get away with a whole hide. 45 ships and only 21 whales taken altogether. I got one poor devil. . . . This season has been one of the greatest failures that was ever known in the annals of whaling. . . . (Phillips auction catalog, London)

San Francisco soon became a major whaling base and, with the purchase of Alaska from Russia in 1867 (figure 9), the American whalers secured their own waters for seeking northern bowheads. The same year (1867), Captain Thomas Long in the whaler *Nile* in his search for Arctic whales headed westward in the Chuk-



Figure 9: a: Seward, who negotiated the purchase of Alaska; b: Alaskan territory.

chi Sea and found a previously unidentified island, which he named Wrangel Island.<sup>6,16</sup> Long described the island as a “mountainous country of considerable extent in the Polar Ocean beyond the Behring Strait.”<sup>16</sup>

Transport of products from San Francisco via the transcontinental railroad had become a reality by 1867. Whale oil and bone could be transported rapidly to the industrial eastern seaboard rather than by ships making the long journey homeward to their New England base. An 1865 bill of sale for a cast of sperm oil in New Bedford is illustrated in figure 10. Yet by the 1870s, the Civil War and an increased consumption of petroleum products severely affected the profitability of the whaling industry.

Few written records concerning Yankee whaling and hunting voyages in the Far North exist beyond those recorded in logs and letters from the whalers involved in sailing the cold and treacherous Arctic seas. It is impossible to imagine the freezing cold, winds and fogs, the loneliness, isolation, and boredom between the harvesting of catches that was felt by the whal-

ing crews. The incredible stench and filth resulting from processing the catch added to the discomfort of these hardy men. Weather conditions, such as entrapment within the ice, presented formidable problems, and many whalers were lost in Siberian and Alaskan waters. Severe ice conditions in the Chukchi Sea during the 1871 and 1872 seasons were particularly devastating (figure 11).

The fortunes of the *Helen Snow* from New Bedford is a case in point. Along with other whalers, the *Helen Snow* under Captain George H. Macomber voyaged into Alaskan waters during the summer of 1872 and proceeded around Alaska toward Point Barrow on the Chukchi Sea, where they hunted and participated in the salvage of wrecked ships following the disastrous events of 1871.<sup>4</sup> However, the *Helen Snow* and several other ships soon became entrapped by pack ice as weather conditions changed. Against the captain’s orders, the frightened crew abandoned ship (19 August 1872) and were taken aboard other unencumbered whalers. An improvement in the ice conditions then followed in the region. The whaler *Jireh Perry*, under Captain Owen, sighted the abandoned *Helen Snow*. Its crew was able to free the damaged ship and later brought her to San Francisco where she was sold. The ship then sailed one voyage from San Francisco under the Russian flag.<sup>15</sup> The *Helen Snow*, renamed the *Desmond* as part of the Hawaiian fleet, again sailed with other ships into the Arctic seas (1876) and was again caught with nine whalers in the pack ice.<sup>4</sup> The ships were all abandoned and their crews made it to safety; the ships were lost.

A letter written by a sailor (John Babcock) “at sea” aboard the *Helen Snow* one month after sailing from New Bedford is illustrated in figure 12. This cover bears two handstamps: a black “SHIP” and a circular “Boston Mass” with obscured date. A blue crayon “6” indicates the postal fee paid. The ship left New Bedford for the Pacific on 17 October 1871 on a fateful voyage to the Arctic seas. Excerpts of Babcock’s letter to his cousin in New London follow:

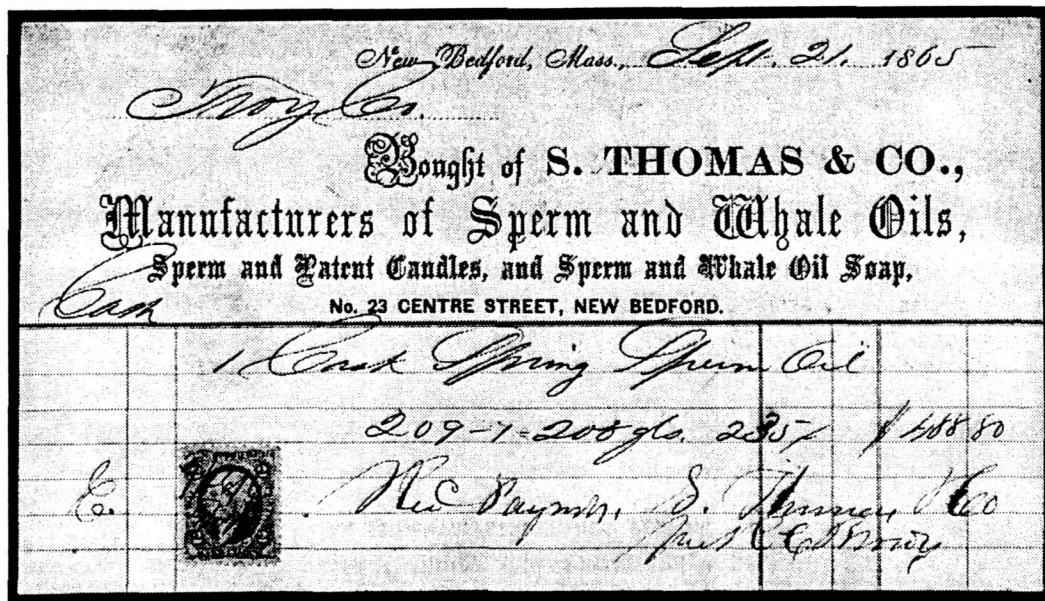


Figure 10: Bill of sale (1865) of Thomas & Co., New Bedford, for a cask of sperm oil. Note the affixed U.S. revenue stamp.

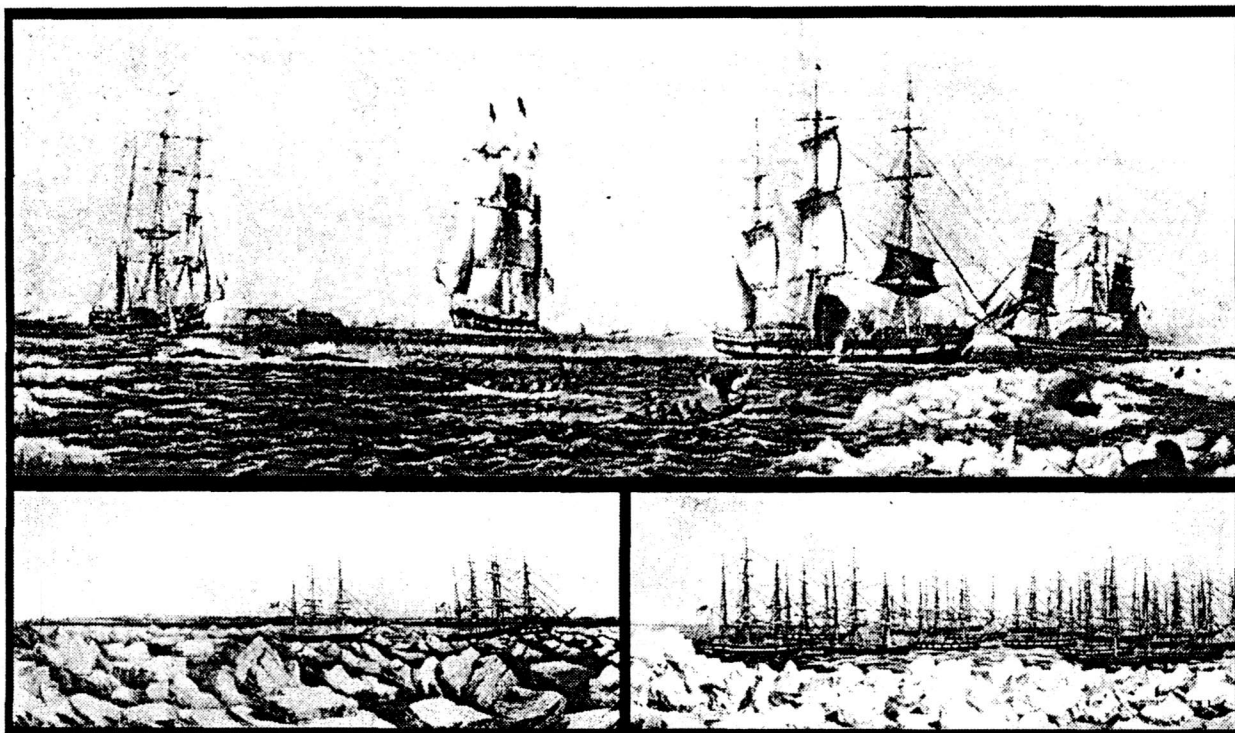
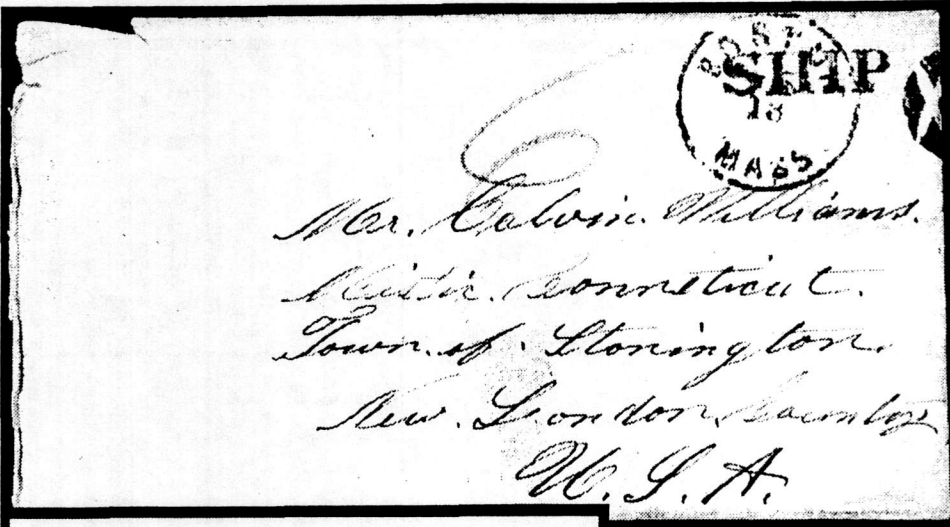


Figure 11: Right whaling in the Bering Strait (top) and abandonment of whalers in the Arctic Ocean, September 1871. Thirty-nine whalers were abandoned near Icy Cape as they became entrapped by ice, and crushed. The *Helen Snow* participated in the salvage of these ships in 1872. Lithographs by J. H. Bufford.<sup>5</sup>



at sea  
 Sunday Nov 12<sup>th</sup> 1871  
 Dear Cousine Williams  
 As I have a chance to send  
 i thought i would write a few  
 lines to you. I arrived all safe  
 Monday night and saild  
 Tuesday morning at 8 AM.  
 we have had very heavy weather  
 since we left home we are now  
 one month out we have not  
 seen anything yet but am in  
 hopes to soon.  
 I was as homesick as a dog for  
 the first week out but have  
 got over that now and am enjoy-  
 ing good health as usual.

at sea  
 Sunday Nov 12th 1871  
 Dear Cousine Williams

As I have a chance to send i thought i would write a few lines to you. I arrived all safe Monday night and saild Tuesday morning at 8 AM. we have had very heavy weather since we left home we are now one month out we have not seen anything yet but am in hopes to soon.

I was as homesick as a dog for the first week out but have got over that now and am enjoying good health as usual.  
 ...

Figure 12: Babcock's 1871 cover/letter page from the whaler *Helen Snow* to New London has a "SHIP" handstamp and postmark dated 13 November.

I am in hopes in three years time that i will be with you enjoying my self with you all once more as i used to.

you must excuse this breif letter for this is an unexpected to me and i have not much time to write but i thought it would please you to here from me once more, ...

I can not think of any thing of anything mor so i will close by giving my best respects to all inquiring friend and my love to you

good by from your Cousine John Babcock.

-----  
 Directions to send to me  
 Bk Helen Snow  
 Capt Maccomber  
 Honolulu or Tombege

you must write to boaths places for i do not know which of the posts we shall go in to first.

Ships voyaged between the hunting grounds for whales and walrus along the Siberian coast and the coast of northern Alaska. The following letter from Captain B. Franklin Homan aboard the ship *Cornelius Howland* in 1875 describes hunting in Anadyr Bay off the Russian Siberian coast and Arctic Ocean (figure 13):

---

Onboard Ship Cornelius Howland at Point Barrow Arctic Ocean

Aug 13th 1875

My Dear Son Willie

... Willie we Came through the Fox Islands in to Bherings Sea May 20th, the wther was cold, May 25th we came to fields of Big broken Ice and on the 28th we went in to broken Drift Ice and 2 other Ships with us, June 9th we got out of the Ice in to clear water in the Anader Sea and whare we first went in to the Ice was about 60 miles South East of Cape Thadius, You can find this Cape on your atlass, At Tlover Bay we saw a Schooner and she was trading with the Indians for whale Bone and Walrus Ivory and furs and we bought some Seal Skin mittins of the Indians, The Capt of the Schooner told us that the whale Ships had passed Tlover (Plover?) bay the day before, June 11th we came up with the ships at East Cape the North part of Bherings Straits and spoke the Barque Onward and Capt Huse (?) came onboard of us to see me and this Day we were in the Arctic Ocean and been in the Arctic ever since, From the middle of June to the 20th of July we was looking for Walruses and Catching them when we could with our boats and dart the harpoons in to the Walruses and Kill them by lanceing them with the whale lances and then hawling the dead walruses on to the Ice and Skin them and carry the Skin with the Blubber to the ship in our boats, We shot part of the Walruses we got with a rifle on the Ice, for the walruse croll on to Big pieces of Ice to sleepe, There is now 14 ships in the arctic and 12 of them have been Catching Walruses and the Ships have all the way from 400 to 1000 bbls of walrus oil and the Ships have got most all thair oil by shooting Walruses, The reason that we did not get more Walruses is that we had not Cartridges to shoot with 6-8 Walruses, We left off walrusing the 18th of July and came over on the American shore and found the Ice on shore North of Sea Horse Island, here we saw the Barque Onward and we werked to the NE betwinst the Ice and land as the Ice werked off the shore, July 27th in the night we pased around Point Barrow to the East, ...

... we run back to the West for Point Barrow for Safety, the last two months we have had no night and the sun did not set, but now the sun begins to set and the nights will grow longer and longer and the Days shorter and shorter and this warm sun wather we have had will soon turn to Long dark and cold nights and the Wild fowls and the whales will leave this arctic shores and go south to spend the long cold winter nights, but the Indians will burrow in the ground, this Ocean will be covered with big rough Ice and snow and Ice so that the land and Ocean will looke all alike, all one rough field of Ice and snow, what a sudden change from warm wather to cold wather, The Drift wood we See on these shores is brought here from the south of Bherings Straits by strong Northerly currents and Cast on to the shores by the winds and Ice, We have Seen on the shores, pieces of Spars, Staves and wood and Stuff that came from the wrecked whole ships, the Ship Arctic and ship Hellen Mare got a shore a little south of here and thay was got off all right and are with us now and thare is 10 ships here with us now, I finished a long letter 3 or 4 days ago and put it on board the Barque Florance of Sanfrancisco for your Mother, ...

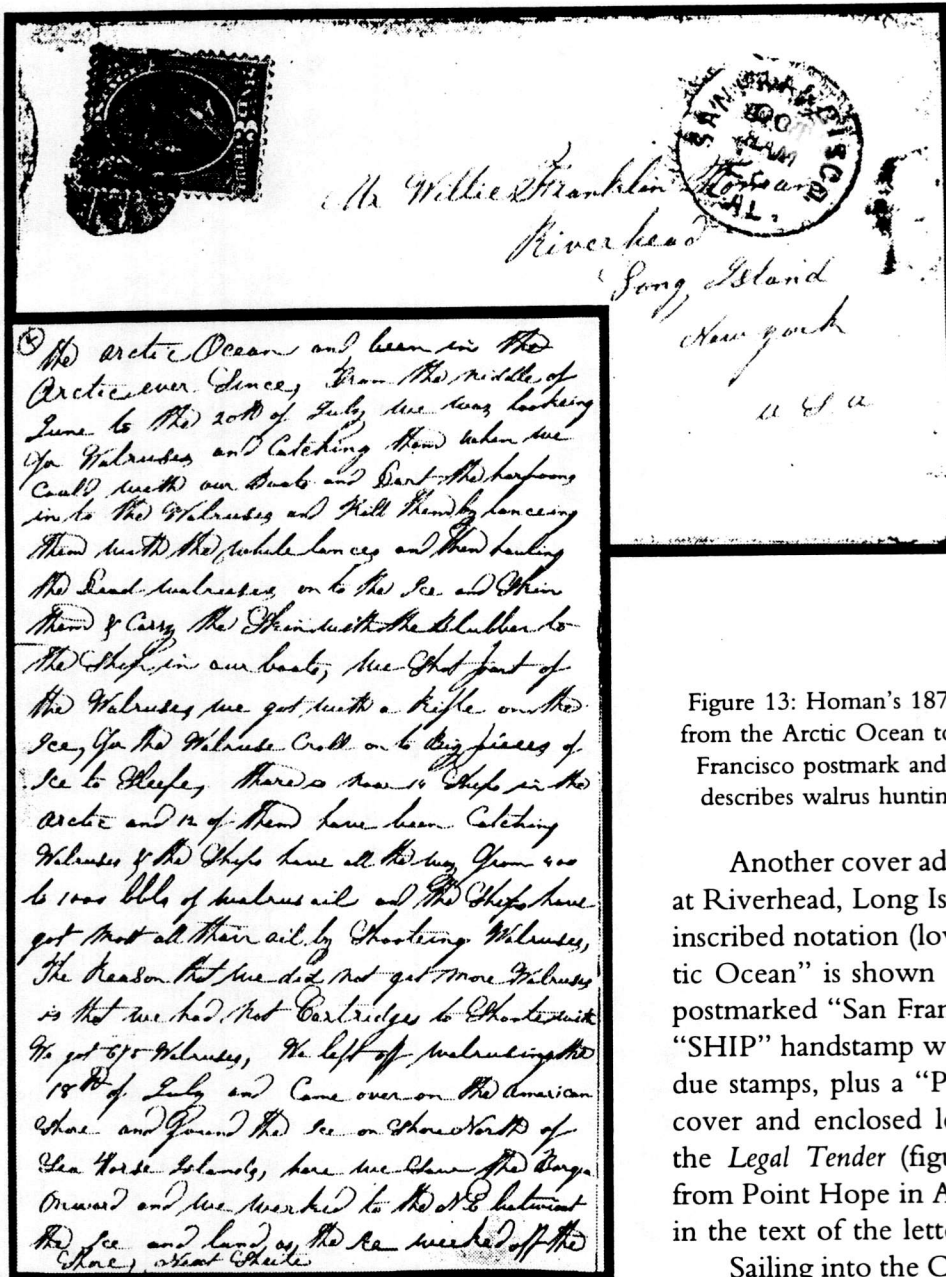


Figure 13: Homan's 1875 cover/letter page to his son from the Arctic Ocean to New York. Cover has a San Francisco postmark and 3-cent franking. Letter page describes walrus hunting. Courtesy of George Hall.

Another cover addressed to the captain's son at Riverhead, Long Island, New York, with the inscribed notation (lower left) "Ship Letter Arctic Ocean" is shown in figure 14. The cover is postmarked "San Francisco 22 Sep" and has the "SHIP" handstamp with twelve cents in postage due stamps, plus a "PAID 12" handstamp. The cover and enclosed letter were dispatched, via the *Legal Tender* (figure 15) out of Francisco, from Point Hope in Alaskan waters, as indicated in the text of the letter and the date cancel.

Sailing into the Chukchi Sea between Point Barrow and Harold Island became a favorite whale-hunting grounds for Yankee whalers. The following letter from Captain Homan (figure 14) describes some of the events and conditions affecting these hearty men and their ships. Homan's letter to his wife Louise was written in 1879 aboard his ship *Hunter* during its whaling venture along the Alaskan coast, through the Bering Strait into the Chukchi Sea, to the vicinity of Harold Island. Mention is also made of the sighting of the ill-fated DeLong expedition:

The remaining parts of this letter describe animals and natives in the northern region of Alaska. Apparently, although the ship had reports of whale to the north, weather prevented pursuits. The last page, dated 13 September, indicates that the letter was being sent back on the ship *Helen Mar* and that the captain would be in Honolulu in the fall. Both the *Florance* and *Helen Mar* are illustrated and discussed by Bockstoce.<sup>4</sup>

---

Arctic Ocean Sept 2nd 1879

My Dear Wife, we have left the East Shore of Alaska and are now half way a crosst to Herald Island, and several Ships in compaign and fine wather Last Evening I spent on board the John Newles in compaign with Capt Nawls and Cagan and Smith and Gamble, We are werking along to the West through scattering Ice, The Northerly wind the last 2 weekes has bluwne the Ice off south of the Pack and Scattered the Ice all over the Sea, We have about given up Point Barrow for the Season, Capt Smithers in the Vigalent will stay on the East Shore until the middle of this month and then if he cannot go to Point Barrow will come West to Harold Island, We dont know that we can get to Hearold Island yet We may falin with the Steamer Janette Bennets Craft that will try to land on Rangles land, This land is about 30 miles to the West of Heraolds Island, I saw this land last Season.

...

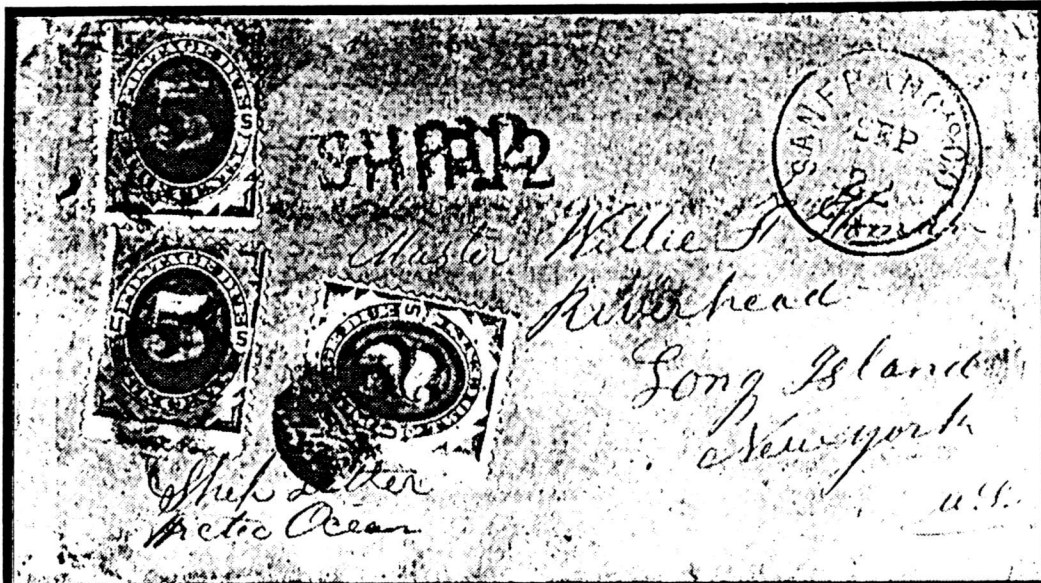
Sept 6th We are in sight of Hearold Island the last 2 days, this Island is in sight 90 miles to the NW of and only here and there a small strip of snow on the Island, It is all Ice from us to the Island, this Black looking Island sticks its head above the Ocean of white Ice and it is a fine sight to look at from a ships mast head, I see to day about all the fleete of Whalers comeing here to day over 20 Ships insight, There is no whales to be seen here yet, for there is many eyes looking over the Ocean here, We are in a strip of water, Packed Ice on the west and packed Ice on the East side of us, So the Ships are close to each other, yesterday we was beating to the North with a strong North wind betwinst the two packs of Ice and several Ships in compaign and the Hunter beat them all. The Pacific kept close to the Hunter While we was tacking ship our Braces got fast and carried away the Main top galland yard and the main Kazlyard, So it made a half day job for all hands to clear away and send down the Broken yards and now we are making Newyards,

Sept 16th We have fine weather the last few days and seen some Whales and we have chased Whales the last 3 days and seen a chance to catch a whale or two, But the boats frightened the whales off, by crowding them before there was a good chance to go on to them, There has been 7 whales taken by 5 Ships lately, We are now on the West side of the Sea along the Northern Ice and the whales comes from North East out of the Ice, There is 22 or 23 vessels around here trying to catch whales,

Sept 20th My Dear Wife We are now in the Same part of the Sea Lat 69o 33' North and Long West 174°, 00' from Greenwich, and we are along the Northern packed Ice and a clear Sea South of us, We have had a long spell of Southerly wind and fine clear and warm weather for this Cold Cuntry, The nights are now long and the day very short and growing shorter very fast, When the Northerly wind sets in we be very cold and freezing for we are in an Ice house, The fleete of Ships are around us and a few whales are seen by the Ships every day and the Ships Boats chase whales from Sun rise to Sun closen and then dont catch many whales, Several ships have 2 whales here and the most of them has got one whale here, We have chased whale every day 6 days and the Officers and Boats steers has made bad werk in catching whales, they has drove away 3 whales by crowding the whales when it was not a propper time to near the whales and the Boat Steers has mist 2 whales, So you see part of our seasons werk has been spolt all ready, On the 18th I put one of my under officers in to the Second whale Boat so we raised a whale and they went off and caught a Big whale pretty quick so, now we have got one whale and I feel better, I saw Capt Heppingstone

[GAA: John Heppingstone in the *Fleetwing* out of San Francisco and New Bedford] catch 2 whales here lately so they are doing pretty well, yesterday I spoke the Barque Vigilant Capt Smithers he is right from the East Shore from Icey Cape and reports there is no chance for him to go North along the Shore for Point Barrow and the ice is packed hard on the Shore North East of Icey Cape, So he will not winter at Point Barrow for he cannot get there, So Capt Smithers let me have 1700 lbs of fresh potatoes that the Legal Tender brought up here for him, he has lots of things and trade that he will not need now as he cannot winter at the Point, We picked up a Nice dead whale with 3 or 400 fathoms of whale line to it on the 18th, There has been several whale lost here by Ice, When we first came over on the West Side of his Sea Capt Barnes [GAA: Barnes in the *Sea Breeze* out of San Francisco] saw the Julnette, Bennets Steamer going North for Herald Island in the same lead of water that the whale ships werked North in and he went North and out of sight in the leads of water and Scattering Ice and we all think if the Janette gets caught fast in this Northerly Ice that his fate is sealed up and all Capt DeLong prod fame and glory and honor will be sealed up in a bag with him, It is hard to get out of this Northerly Ice where the current is most always setting to the North and man cannot rase power enough to move the Ocean of packed ice if it is broken up in large pieces, We think if Capt DeLong has stopped and had talked with the Whaler they would told him something that would been a help to him, He is sailing on Ciens and Books so he will fetch up in to the other world all right,<sup>b,1</sup> How beautiful and warm, pleasant it will be in the warm sea around the North Pole where thar will be found all sorts of life and sorts of Sumer fruits, Where the Sun Shines 6 months in a year and then have 6 months of night where Man Can Sleep and rest from thair long Summers tail, What a lovely vincard to live in, How we envy Capt DeLong, Night before last we tooks our whale along side of our to ship and made him fast to our ship with a large fluke chane and the wind blowing strong and a rough sea On the ship would role and the whale surge along side of our ship, We call it Rugged Cutting, we saved the whales head and blubber from the wales body all right and we was all night in Cutting in our whale by torch light and I swet while I was at werk with a strawhat on my head and some of my clothing off and now I am lame and stiff, Whaling is rough business and it is work day and night when there is a chance for whaling,

Oct 8th My Dear Wife, this day we have had strong S.E. Wind and part of the time a thick snow storm and a rough sea on, since I wrote this letter we have had part of the time good weather and part of the time bad weather, and seen a few whales Most evry day and chased whales most evry day and our boats cannot catch many, . . .



We landed a whale and they went off &  
 caught a big whale pretty quick so  
 now we have got one whale & I feel  
 better I saw Capt. Hopping & some other  
 2 Whales here lately so they are doing pretty  
 well, yesterday I spoke the *Berque*  
 Vigilant - Capt. Hopper he is right  
 from the East Shore from *Key Cape*  
 and reports there is no chance for him  
 to go north along the shore for *Trist Bear*  
 only the ice is packed on the shore  
 south east of *Key Cape*, so he will not  
 winter at *Trist Barrow* if he cannot  
 get there, so Capt. Hopper let me have  
 1700 lbs of fresh potatoes that the *Legal*  
*Sender* brought up here for them, he has lots  
 of things & bread that he will not need now  
 as he cannot winter at *Trist*, the *Tachod* got  
 a new dead whale with 30000 portions of whale  
 liver to eat on the 18th, there has been several whales  
 lost here by the ice, when we first came over  
 on the West Side of this sea Capt. *Barnes*  
 saw the last *the*, *Stennels* Steamer going  
 for the *Hearald* Island in the time led  
 of water that the whale ship *united*

and he went north out of *Key* in the  
 leads of water and *Shelby* sea & saw  
 all things if the *Sender* gets caught  
 just in this *Trist* sea that his *Ship*  
 is sealed up & all *Capt. De Long* *Trist*  
*Game* & *Henry* & *Trist* will be sealed up  
 in a bag which them, it is hard to get  
 out of this *Trist* sea where the current  
 is most always setting to the north & the  
 cannot make them enough to move the  
 Ocean of *Tachod* sea if it is broken up in  
 to large pieces, We thank *Capt. De Long*  
 has *Trist* and had a talk with the *Whales*  
 they would tell him something that would  
 be a help to him, He is sailing on *Cient*  
 & *Booby* so he will catch up in to  
 the other world all right, *Have* *Beats*  
*Good* & *swarmy* *pleasant* it will be in the  
 warm sea around *Trist* *the* where the  
 will be found all sorts of life and *Trist* of  
*Primer* *Trist*, where the *Sea* *Shines* & *Trist*  
 in a year & there have 6 months of night  
 where other can sleep on *Trist* from their  
 long *Summers* had what a lovely *Trist*  
 to *Trist*, *Have* the *Army* *Capt. De Long* *Trist*  
 before last we looked over *Whales* along *Trist*

Figure 14: Homan's 1879 ship cover sent from the Arctic Ocean to his son, and a page of the letter sent to his wife mentioning DeLong's expedition.

Cover inscribed "Ship Letter Arctic Ocean" with "SHIP" handstamp, "12" postage-due handstamp, as 12-cent franking. San Francisco postmark dated 22 September, to New York. Courtesy of George Hall.

The rest of the letter describes various whaling activities in the Chukchi Sea and the ships' return through the Bering Strait and Sea to San Francisco. It is curious that the ship *Vigalent* mentioned in the Homan letter remained in the Chukchi Sea for that winter of 1879 along with the *Mount Wollaston*. The other ships left in September and early October, while the *Helen Mar* and *Mercury* remained to the very last moment and barely returned to southern safety. The abandoned *Vigalent*, with several dead bodies aboard, was discovered in 1880 by Siberian natives. Its identity was made from examination of several of the items removed by the local natives. The *Mount Wollaston* was never seen again.<sup>4</sup>

The disastrous events of the 1870s signaled the rapid decline of whaling in the northern seas. Although American whaling in the Arctic caused concern among the Russians, enforcement of their restrictions on territorial waters had limited success during the nineteenth century. Russian whaling in the Far East and Arctic seas never became a major endeavor in spite of sporadic efforts over the years. While Yankee whaling in the Russian seas was over, intermittent fur trading between Russians and Americans continued into the first half of the twentieth century.<sup>8,9</sup> As late as the 1920s, the Swenson Fur Trading Company exchanged specific goods for Siberian furs.<sup>9</sup> The Russian Arctic seas were also plied by U.S. ships of the Alaska Steamship Company, which traded goods and supplies in the pre-World War II period (figure 16). Today, Russian whalers are permitted to catch a limited number of whale for regional native peoples as allowed by international agreement.

Long gone are the days of the sleek sailing ships that plied the seas the world over in search of the prized whale. The heroic adventures of the men and whalers live on in legend, in captains' logs, surviving documents, and the call "Thar She Blows" as a reminder of the sighting of the whale.

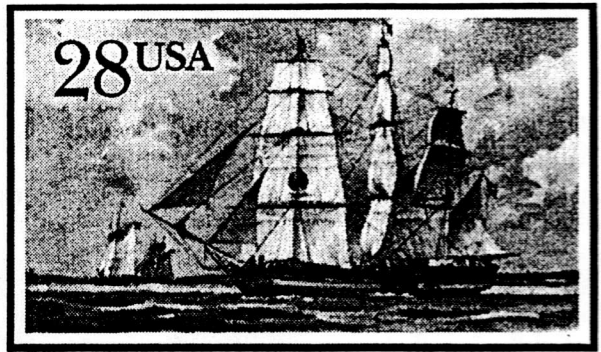


Figure 15: Square-rigged packet ship *Yorkshire*, from c.1850 may be similar to the *Legal Tender* that carried Homan's letter from the Arctic to San Francisco.

### Endnotes

- a The ship name and last name of its captain are not indicated on the cover or enclosed letter. Data pertaining to U.S. whalers and their home ports, dates of sailing/return, hunting grounds, barrels of oil, and pounds of bone gathered have been compiled in a number of sources.<sup>7,15</sup> Information gathered therein indicates the letter was written by William Wood aboard the ship *Golden Hunter* out of Fall River during his three-year whaling voyage in the Pacific.
- b In 1879, DeLong captained the *Jeanette* on an exploratory voyage into the Arctic seas via the Bering Strait in search of a purported large northern land mass. His ship became ice-bound near Wrangel Island and drifted for nearly two years before being crushed near the north of the New Siberian Island group.<sup>16</sup> DeLong and his crew attempted to reach the Siberian coast over the ice and in small boats. Many, including DeLong, died of starvation. Survivors reaching the coast carried DeLong's log book and tales of their ordeal. Remnants of DeLong's camp found years later along the Greenland coast provided the basis for Nansen's attempted drift in 1893 to the North Pole from the vicinity

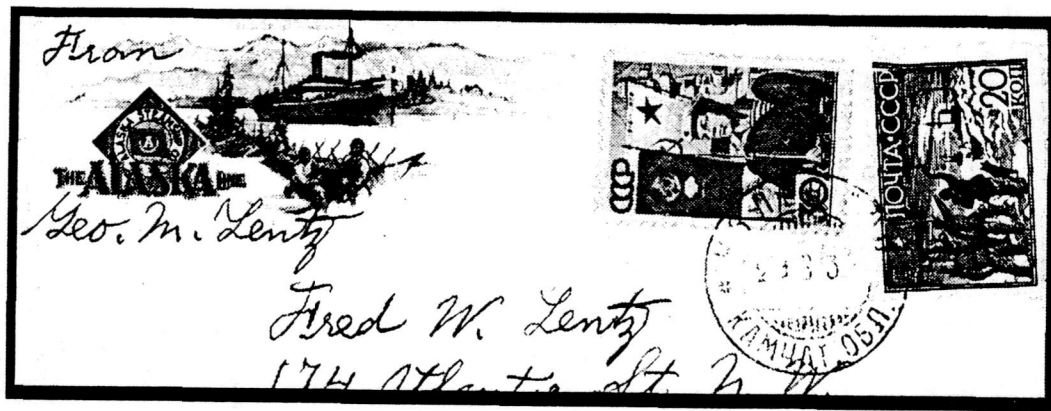


Figure 16: Alaska Steamship Line cover posted at Uelen, northern Chukchi Peninsula, 29 August 1938, to Warren, Ohio.

of Wrangel Island.<sup>3</sup> Captain Barnes of the U.S. whaler *Sea Breeze* sighted the *Jeanette* under full sail and steam on 2 September 1879, fifty miles from Herold Island.<sup>12</sup> Captain Keel of the *Dawn* saw her on 3 September, while Captain Bauldry of the *Helen Mar* and several other whalers saw her smoke near Herold Island heading north.<sup>16</sup>

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# Notes on the Russian Watermarks

by Hugo Krötsch

It is remarkable what little is known about the watermark of the stamps of Russia; it came into being with the 1866 issue, and continued in use until the issue this year of stamps of new designs. Describing the 1866 issue,<sup>1</sup> we read in the *Senf Catalogue*: "With watermark of wavy lines, laid paper," and further: "In stamps on laid paper, specimens may be found in which the laid lines are almost imperceptible." In *Kohl's Catalogue* the heading reads: "Watermark wavy lines, horizontally or vertically laid paper." In the *Senf Catalogue* an illustration of the watermark is given, but as the groundwork is lined *diagonally*, it is of little or no use. It would not have been difficult to make a correct illustration; owing to the position occupied by the illustration in the catalogue, the groundwork should run *vertically*, as the direction of the wavy lines is *vertical*. It would also be highly desirable that the letters and figures be mentioned which occur in conjunction with the watermark "wavy lines." As that has not been done, a collector, seeing the figure "3" as the watermark on a 30 kopeck might well think he had a valuable stamp of the 1857 issue, whereas, as will be shown later, the stamp might be quite common, belonging to the 1866 issue, with wavy lines watermark (in which the figure "3" occurs).

In order that the collector be not deceived, it is as well to be familiar with the wavy lines watermark of Bavaria and Hamburg. Illustrations 1 and 2 show the Bavarian watermark, with wide and close wavy lines, which are particularly apparent in the envelopes, in which they have a *diagonal* direction; whereas in the stamps the direction is either *vertical* or *horizontal*.

Now, the "wavy lines" watermark of Russia is quite different from the above. Instead of the regular, more or less parallel lines, the Russian watermark, as we see in illustration 3, consists of

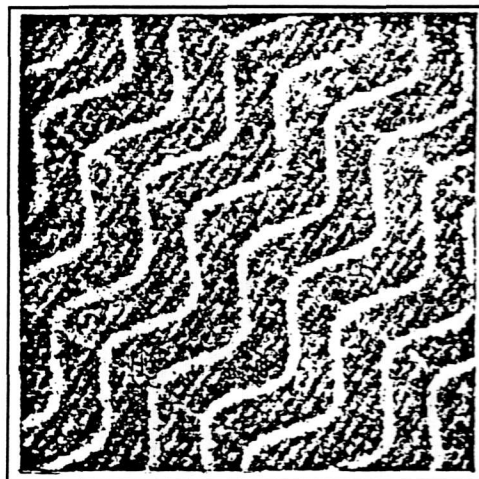


Figure 1: Wide wavy lines.

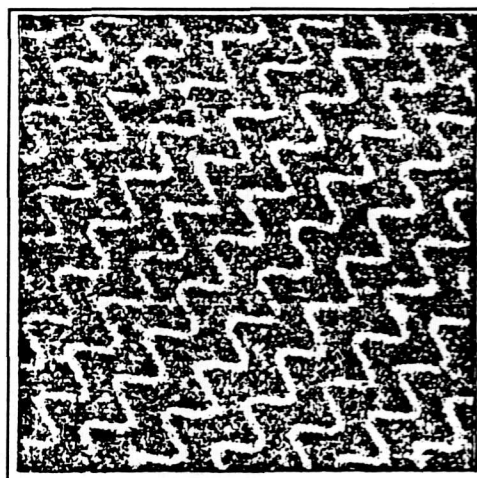


Figure 2: Close wavy lines.

*waved serpentine lines*, which do not fit into one another, as in the Bavarian watermark, but which are *opposed* one to the other, or to express the matter more clearly, the node of one curve approaches the node of that running alongside of it.

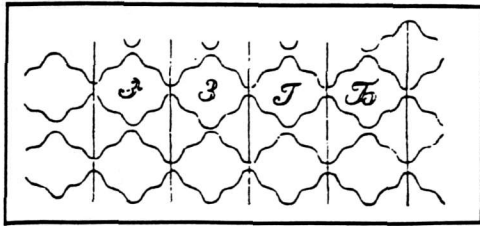


Figure 3: Waved serpentine lines.

The description appended in the catalogues to the 1866 issue had far better read “waved serpentine lines, on laid paper,” and be accompanied by an illustration similar to Type 3 as above, but preferably also showing the laid lines. As a matter of fact, illustration 3 is only supposed to show the waved serpentine lines and the letters forming the actual watermark. The vertical lines running through the waved lines are not accurately shown, as every diamond-shaped space should be bisected by a vertical line, so that even the letters are cut by vertical lines running through them, as is clearly shown in illustration 4, which is taken from page twenty-one of Krötsch’s *Handbook on Russia*.

An important point is that the above-mentioned vertical lines are not part of the waved lines and letters, which were soldered together upon the dandy roll, which impresses the watermark. The vertical lines are connected with the horizontally laid lines of the paper.

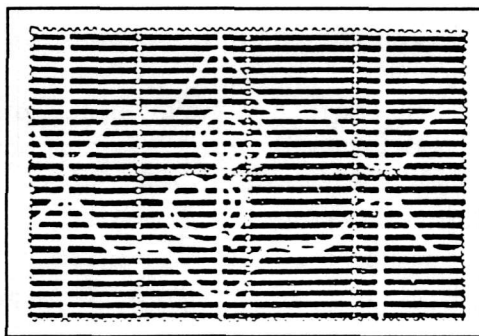


Figure 4: Russian watermark as shown in a block of eight stamps. The perforations show the size of the stamps.

The fact that this important point is omitted from the Russian handbook of the Krötsch series, so carefully written by Dr. E. Bochmann, Riga, shows how little even Russian specialists have studied the watermark. The position of the letters in the diamond-shaped spaces has given rise to several theories. Thus Dr. v. Bochmann says, “In two rows . . . on each sheet of 100 stamps.” On the other hand, in the course of a paper entitled “Whole Sheets,” which was read at the Leipzig Philatelistentag in 1904, Schwaneberger says, “In the lower portion of each sheet.” We ourselves obtained possession of a whole sheet of the one kopeck of the 1889 issue, in which the watermark appears vertically in the centre of the sheet.

At the fiftieth meeting of the German Philatelisten-Verband, in Gössnitz, we read a paper on the varying position of the letters in the Russian watermarks, and we were thereupon shown by Mr. A. E. Glasewald a whole sheet of the one stotinka of the 1886 issue of Bulgaria. We were greatly interested, knowing that the stamps of that issue were printed in the Russian State Printing Office, on similar paper to that used for the Russian stamps.

As regards these stamps the *Senf Catalogue* merely states “Watermark wavy lines,” and in *Kohl* the watermark is not even mentioned for that issue, only, in fact, the Bulgarian watermark of the Boris issue. It is certainly absolutely correct to state that the Russian watermark was used for Bulgarian stamps from the 1879 issue until the issue of stamps of a new design in 1889; the 1889–90 issue appears to us to be unwatermarked as far as we can see from single copies, but it is just possible that the sheet watermark of the Boris issue was in use for that of 1889–90.

We were extremely interested in these Bulgarian sheets, and Mr. Glasewald informed us that he still had a stock of them. He very kindly allowed us to have the twenty-five sheets he had in stock, which had formed part of the remainders, so that they were still in exactly the same order as they were received from the printing office.

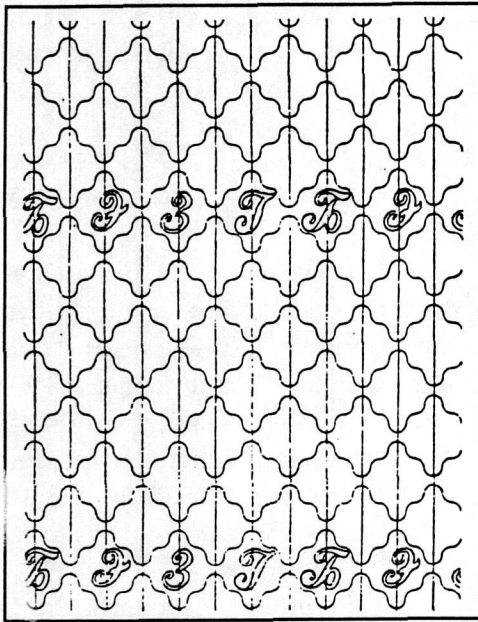


Figure 5: Russian watermark in a sheet of stamps, showing corresponding letters in the two lines exactly one above the other.

From these sheets we drew the following conclusions: In each sheet there are some thirteen horizontal waved serpentine lines, and the letters vary in the relative positions which they occupy. Some of the sheets show corresponding letters exactly vertically one above the other, as in illustration 5; others show the bottom row misplaced to the left, as in illustration 6, or to the right, as in illustration 7. In the twenty-five sheets the three varieties were divided as follows:

*With the same letters vertically one above the other:* ten sheets, of which two sheets had the watermark reversed, and three sheets had the watermark inverted;

*With the letters misplaced sideways:* eleven sheets: Bottom row to the right, seven sheets, and bottom row to the left, four sheets, of which one sheet with inverted watermark;

*With one row only of letters:* four sheets.

Thus it will be seen that the proportions with evenly placed and misplaced watermarks are about equal.

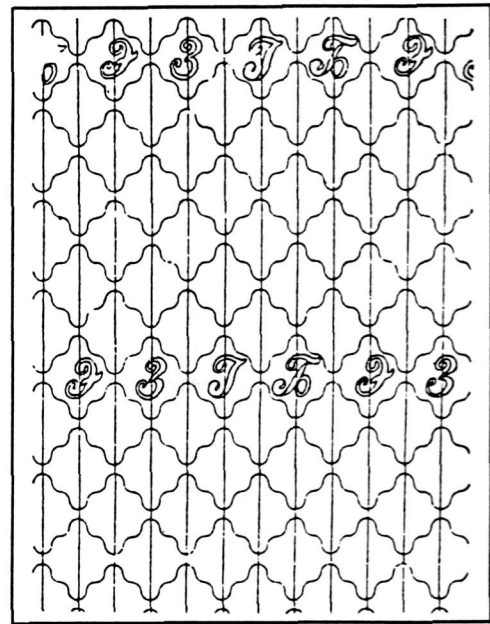


Figure 6: Russian watermark in a sheet of stamps, showing the bottom row of letters misplaced to the left.

In illustration 8 we reproduce the watermark as it appears on the whole sheet of paper, and from it we draw the following conclusion, viz.: that the dandy roll was composed of a number of wires close together running across it from side to side, which wires formed the laid lines seen on the paper. The wires forming these laid lines, which are not shown in our illustrations, were themselves crossed at right angles by other wires encircling the dandy roll, and the lines thus formed are the vertical lines shown in the illustrations. The wires then that formed the vertical lines were the supports of the layer of finer wires running across them, which formed a network right round the dandy roll. As a matter of fact, ordinary *laid* writing paper is made with a similar dandy roll. On the network of wires other wires were soldered serpentine fashion across the dandy roll from edge to edge, and in about every fourth row of spaces the letters were formed in metal.

It follows that on the dandy roll there should be no less than thirty-two waved serpen-

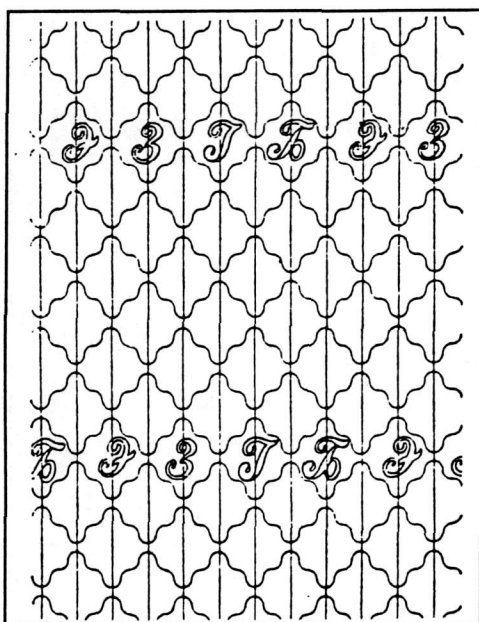


Figure 7: Russian watermark in a sheet of stamps, showing the bottom row of letters misplaced to the right.

tine lines, in order that similar letters might be repeated in every fourth row of diamonds lying exactly vertically in line with the row above it. It is, however, probable that the wavy lines were only repeated thirty times, so that to obtain four sets of letters equidistant one row from the other, they had to place the letters slightly higher or slightly lower, in the row of diamonds half a space to the left or to the right of the proper row, thus getting the letters half a space out of line (vertically) with the row above it.

In any case we are of the opinion that no mistake was made in placing the letters on the dandy roll, but that they had to be soldered on slightly out of place owing to the number of serpentine lines not being divisible by four. We conclude that the rows of letters were repeated four times on the sheet, from very careful examination of the twenty-five Bulgarian sheets already referred to. A complete turn of the dandy roll would cause the watermark to consist of six more serpentine lines than are shown in illustration 8, and on these the top row of letters

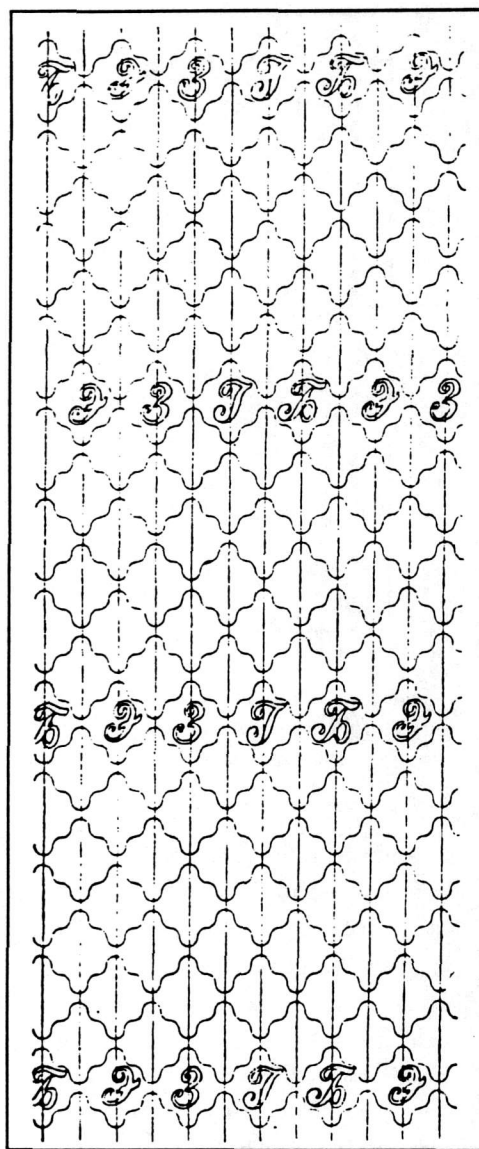


Figure 8: Russian watermark in an entire sheet of paper.

shown in that illustration would begin to be repeated. From that fact it follows that in one fourth of any given number of sheets the letters would appear misplaced to the right; and another quarter, misplaced to the left; and in one half all the letters would be vertically in line.

It is quite clear that the size of a sheet of stamps bore no relation to the positions of the rows of letters in the watermark, but that the paper as it was delivered was cut into sheets of

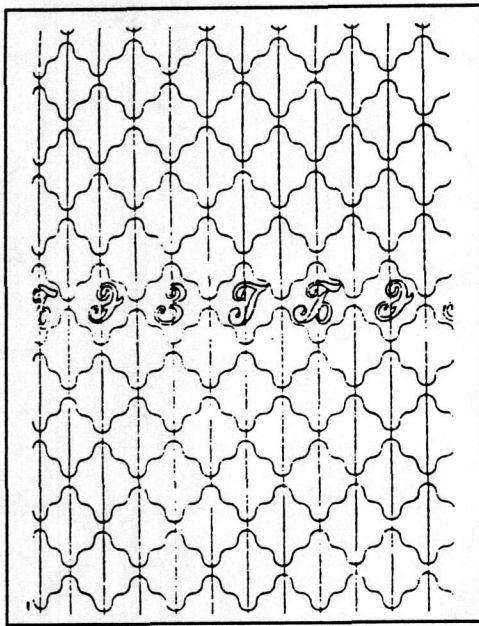


Figure 9: Russian watermark in a sheet of stamps, showing only a single row of letters.

a suitable size for printing; thus the rows of letters are found in all sorts of positions in the sheets of stamps. The rows of letters occur at various heights in the sheets, generally twice, once at the top and once at the bottom. The nearer one row is to the middle of the sheet, the closer the other row approaches to one of the edges, and when one row is seen in the bottom row of the top half of the sheet, the lower row of letters will have entirely disappeared. In such sheets only a single row of letters is visible, as in illustration 9. In the case of such sheets it can only occasionally be determined whether they belong to those in which similar letters are placed vertically below one another, or to those in which one row is misplaced sideways (or rather *would be* misplaced if a second row showed); thus we cannot reckon sheets showing only one row of letters in our analysis of groups. Of the four sheets previously mentioned which were in that condition, we were only able to determine the group in the case of one sheet, in which the letters would have been placed vertically below

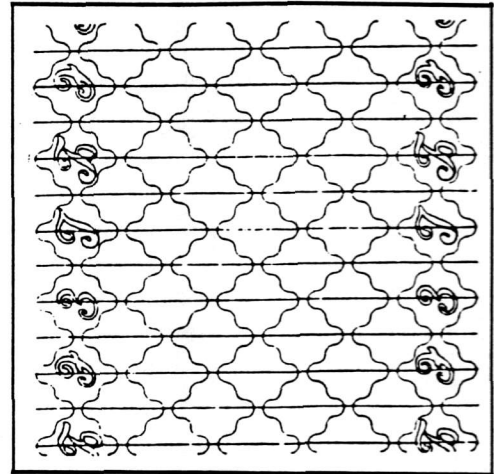


Figure 10: Russian watermark placed vertically in a sheet of stamps and showing two rows of letters exactly in line with each other.

one another if a second row had been visible; *seven* waved, serpentine lines were visible below the row of letters, so had the sheet belonged to the group in which a row of letters was misplaced, the upper portions of a second row of letters would have been just visible. As the letters were *not* visible, it was evident that they occurred below the *eighth* waved line, and so we conclude that the letters in the two rows *must* have been placed vertically in line.

We would make it clear that many sheets of stamps appeared to show no letters at all in the watermark, and that because the letters do not always come even with the edge of the sheet.<sup>2</sup> The plate in these cases ends on both sides just outside the letters of the watermark, and on the edges of the sheet we only see the ramifications of the waved serpentine lines and the laid lines of the paper. Of course, this can only occur when two rows of letters are placed one vertically in line with the other, or when there is only one row of letters in the sheet.

As we get reversed and inverted water-

marks, it is pretty obvious that the stamps were not printed on an endless roll of paper, but that the latter was cut up into sheets; otherwise, in a small number of sheets we should not find the varieties already referred to, which would occur in large quantities were our hypothesis not correct, owing to a whole roll of paper being incorrectly placed in the printing machine. We may convince ourselves of the accuracy of our statement by referring back to earlier issues, in which vertically laid paper is extremely rare, which certainly proves that the printing did *not* take place on endless rolls of paper.

In all sheets showing *vertical* laid lines the rows of letters must also naturally appear *vertically*, as in the sheet mentioned previously, viz. the one kopeck of the 1889 issue, which is marked "A. 03. E" in the *yellow* color of the stamp in the upper left-hand margin, signifying that the sheet was printed in 1903.

In sheets showing the rows of letters placed vertically, it is equally possible that two such rows should appear in one sheet; the width of a sheet is sufficient to accommodate eleven wavy serpentine lines, and, as we see in illustration 10, repetition of the letters requires only ten wavy lines, even when the letters are exactly in line. In the case of one row being misplaced, the occurrence of two rows of letters in a sheet would be still more likely.

It remains to us to endeavor to put all our conclusions together in order to ascertain, if it be possible, *how* a sheet of stamps was placed in the printing machine. It is evident that the sheets as printed must have been exceedingly large, and, comparing sheets containing vertical rows of letters with those containing horizontal rows, we have sheets with a minimum width of 95 cms., from which could be cut four sheets with horizontal rows of letters or three sheets with vertical rows. According to the same proportion the length of the sheet must have been 147 cms., from which could be cut five sheets with horizontal or six with vertical watermark. Thus a full sheet should measure 95x147 cms., from which could be cut twenty sheets of stamps with hori-

zontal, or eighteen sheets with vertical watermark. But the use of a sheet of such dimensions is extremely unlikely, as printing machines are made to take sheets of paper which are wider than they are long, so that if we accept sheets measuring 95x147 cms., we must admit sheets measuring 190x147 cms.; and so far as we know, paper nearly two metres wide cannot be had watermarked! We wish that we had more material to enable us to go deeper into this interesting question.

### Endnotes

1. The issue referred to is called the 1868–71 issue in *S. G.'s Catalogue*, in which the heading reads: "Watermark wavy lines far apart, small portions only showing on most stamps." The list is divided into stamps on horizontally and vertically laid paper.
2. We presume from this that the letters do not run the whole way across the sheet of paper, but there is room for a sheet of stamps to be printed at one side of the paper, or between two groups of letters. (ed., G.S.W.)

Translated from the *Deutsche Briefmarken-Zeitung* with the kind permission of the author and publisher, and originally printed in *Gibbons Stamp Weekly*, volume 10 (21 August 1909): 184–186, and (28 August 1909): 202–204.

# The Romanov – Zemstvo Connection

by George G. Werbizky

## Introduction

Rabbi L. L. Tann has written extensively on the 1913 Romanov issues. *Scott Catalogue* states that the seventeen stamps were issued “in commemoration of the tercentenary of the founding of the Romanov dynasty.” There were subsequent overprinted issues and the so-called money stamps. These issues are outside of this article’s consideration, the aim of which is to find zemstvo covers with both zemstvo and Romanov stamps. This idea belongs to Rabbi Tann, who mentioned it to me either in private correspondence or in one of his articles. For

quite awhile I ignored this question, but finally I have decided to explore it.

Few examples have been found, even far fewer than I expected. First, let us look at the Romanov–zemstvo mixed franking items that were found after examining about three hundred zemstvo covers. Interestingly, in O. A. Fabergé’s book *Imperial Russia Zemstvo Post*, there is not a single cover shown with a mix of zemstvo and Romanov stamps, while the mix of arms-type and zemstvo stamps is well represented.

The following examples are arranged by denomination, one kopeck and higher.

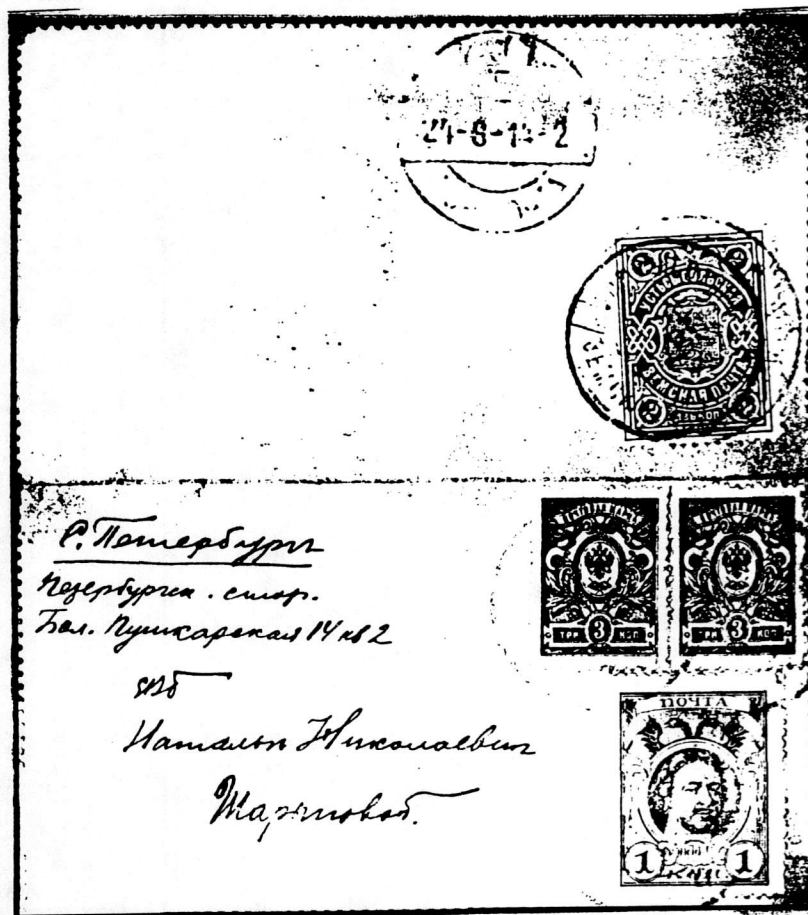


Figure 1: Ust'sysol'sk 2-kopeck zemstvo stamp with 1-kopeck Romanov on a lettercard.

The next example is a three-kopeck Romanov stamp on a postcard with a scarce Bugul'ma zemstvo postage-due handstamp dated 7 June 1914.

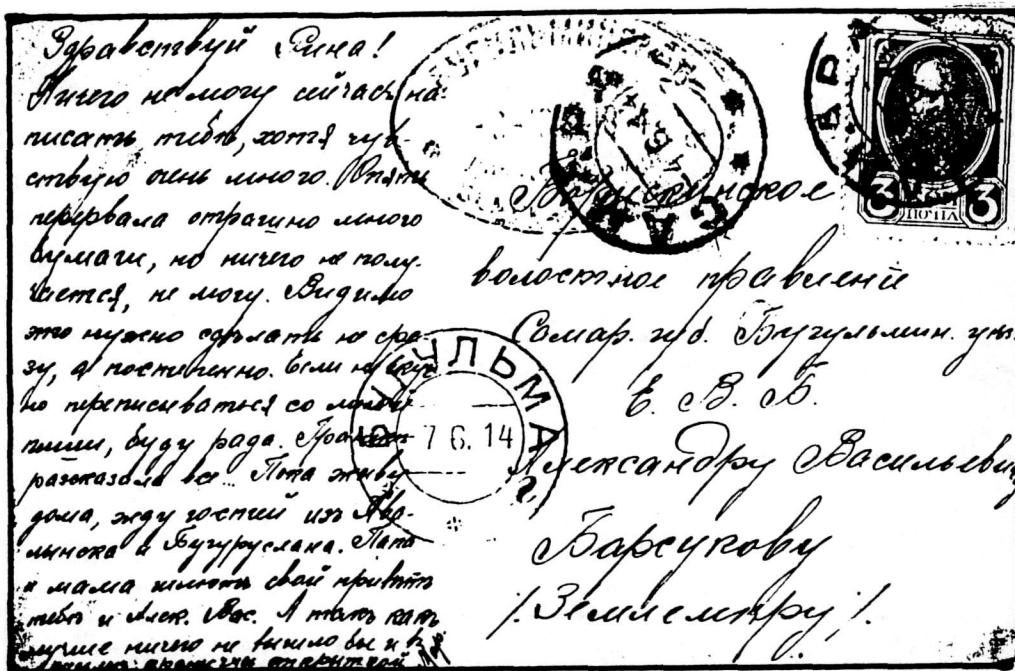


Figure 2: 3-kopeck Romanov stamp along with a Bugul'ma zemstvo postage-due handstamp.

The seven-kopeck Romanov stamp is found more frequently. This was the rate for a first-class letter, and it is not surprising that three covers were found, two with Ust'sysol'sk zemstvo stamps and one from Kamyshlov zemstvo.



Figure 3: 7-kopeck Romanov stamp on a cover from Ust'sysol'sk.  
 The cancel is a Riga-Tukkum railway handstamp — nice!  
 The zemstvo stamp is on the back of the cover, shown above with the front of the same cover.

The next seven-kopeck example is a Romanov stamped envelope. In general, any zemstvo or imperial stationery with zemstvo stamps is scarce, and even more difficult to find with a three-kopeck semi-postal stamp. Here again it is the Ust'sysol'sk zemstvo that handled this postal item.

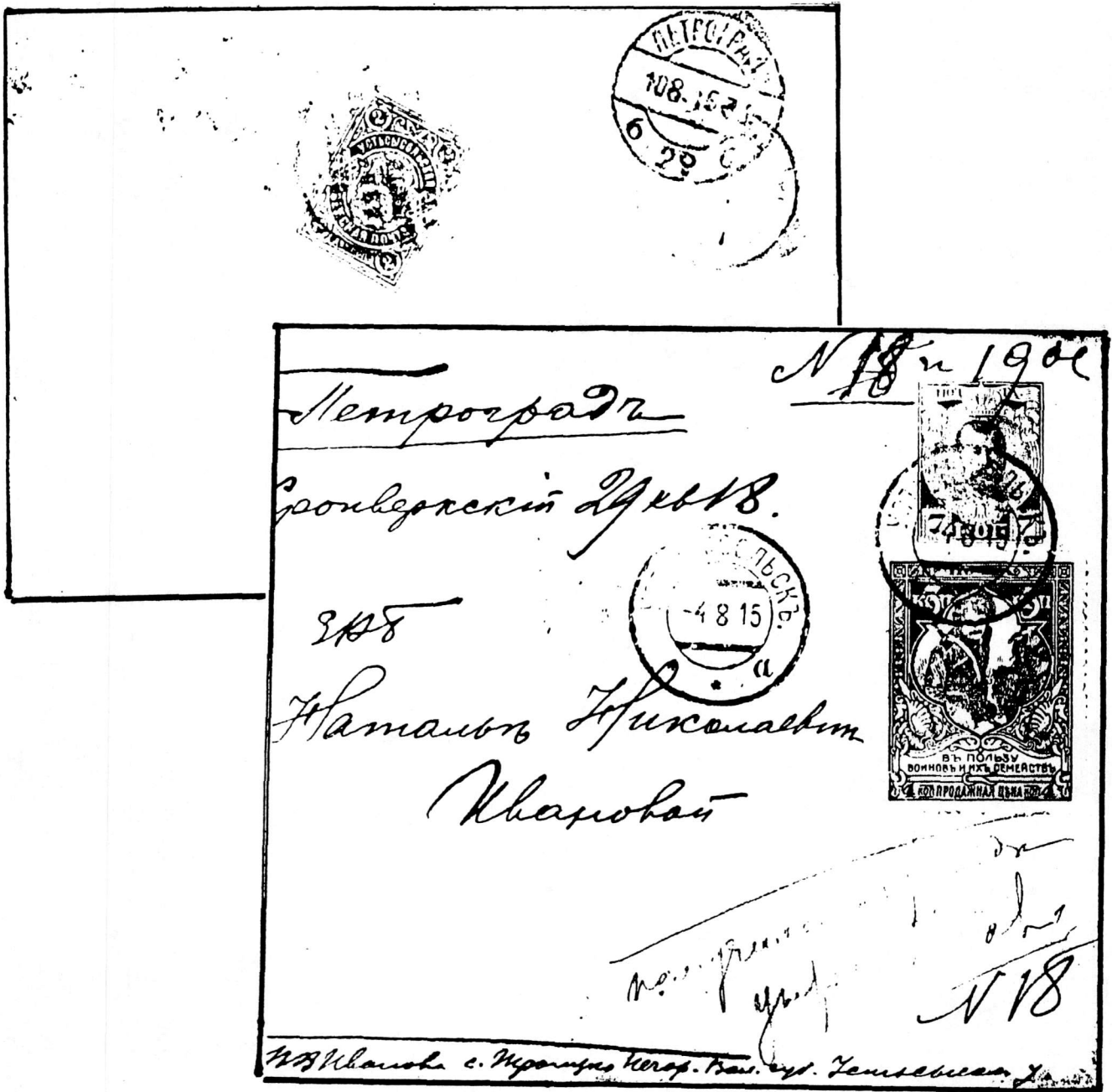


Figure 4: 7-kopeck Romanov stamped envelope with a 3-kopeck 1914 semi-postal stamp and an Ust'sysol'sk zemstvo stamp.

The ten-kopeck example is not a complete cover. The cover must have been interesting because thirty (!) kopecks' worth of Romanov stamps were used. It could have been a heavy cover requiring higher franking, or maybe a registered item.

The cover on the next page is of special interest to me. It was sent from Shatsk zemstvo

to St. Petersburg, to Гр (аФ) Count G. Vitte or Witte. The Witte family was a faithful servant of Russia. Sergei Witte was the Minister of Finance (1892–1902), while S. Y. Witte was head of the Council of Ministers in 1905. Anyone with information on G. Witte (see cancel date of 19 September 1913) is invited to send it to me, if not the rest of us.



Figure 5: 10-kopeck Romanov stamps along with an Irbit zemstvo 4-kopeck stamp.

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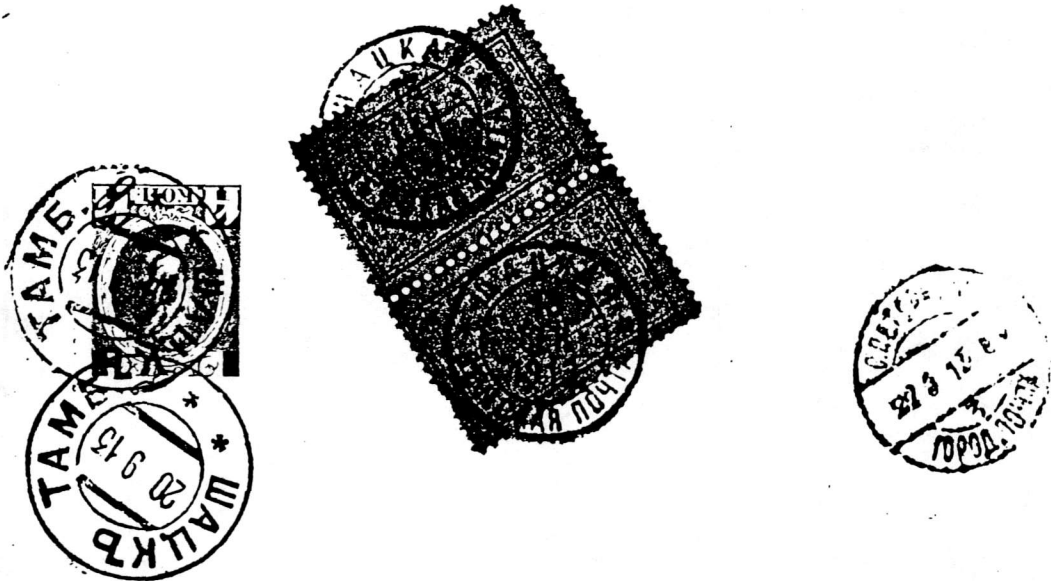


Figure 6: A registered cover from Shatsk zemstvo to St. Petersburg with a 14-kopeck Romanov stamp and a pair of Shatsk zemstvo stamps.

A final example of the Romanov-zemstvo connection is this cover mailed to England. The envelope was opened, resealed, and censored, as was the practice among all World War I participants. There are two censor's marks applied in St. Petersburg: No. 38 and a paper seal of the St. Petersburg Military Censorship,

along with a handstamp of Military Censor No. 602. The zemstvo connection is the round handstamp on the back of the cover, which reads: "The committee of the South-Western Front, All-Russian Zemstvo Union, 27th Epidemiological Detachment." This cover is in the category of a "collateral zemstvo."

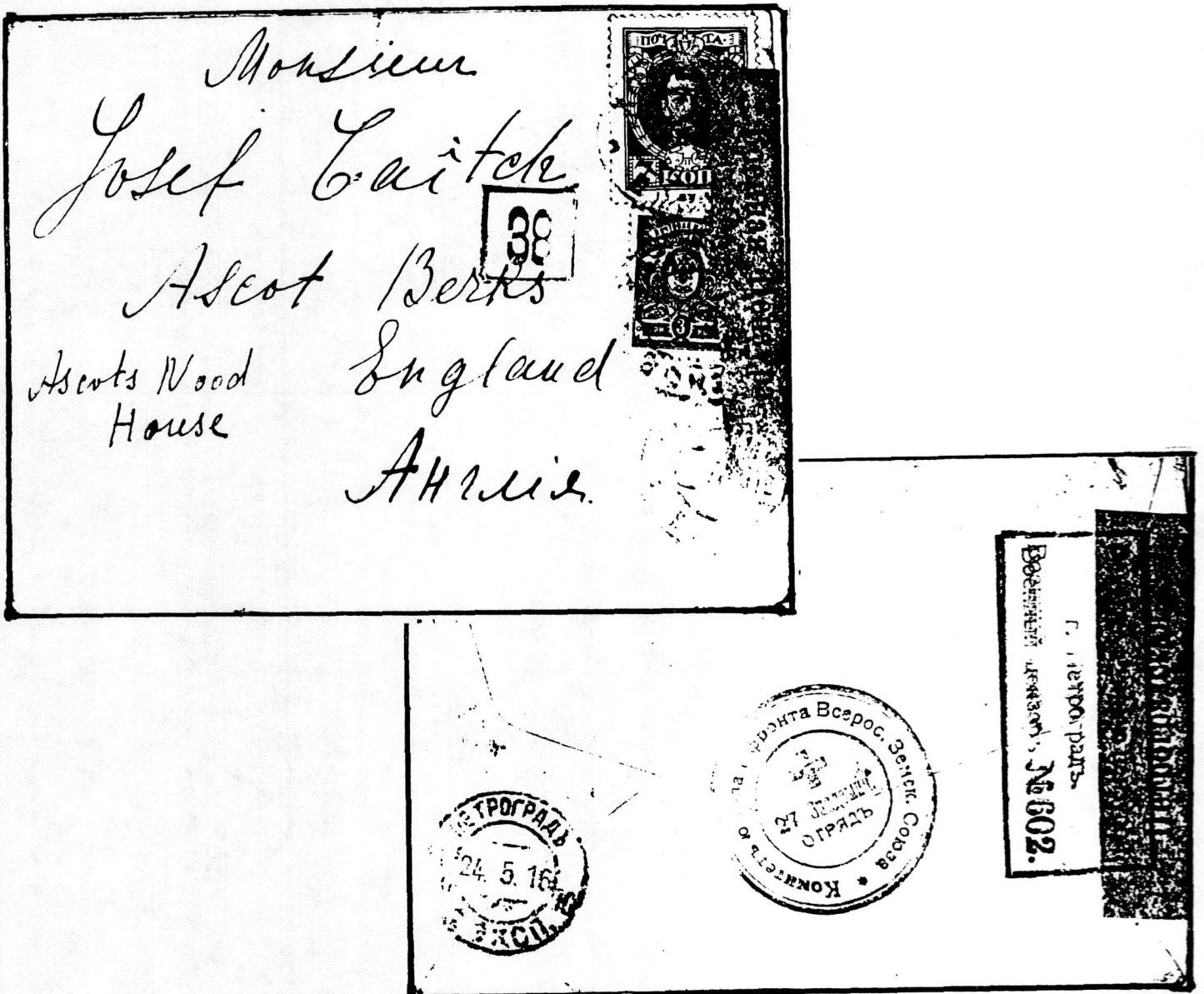


Figure 7: World War I cover mailed to England by the zemstvo auxiliary detachment, opened and censored.

## Conclusion

Why are Romanov–zemstvo joint frankings scarce? The answer is reasonably straightforward. By 1913, the need for zemstvo postal services had significantly diminished because the imperial postal system, through its route expansion, negated the need for the zemstvo post. Further, many post offices, stocked with arms-type issues, used these stamps; it is not clear how wide was the distribution of the Romanov tercentenary stamps. It certainly is of interest to have our readers report on the joint use of Romanov–zemstvo stamp denominations not shown here.

Rabbi Leonard Tann, after graciously reviewing this article, was kind enough to add these comments: “I’m very glad that George Werbizky has — as it were — taken up my challenge on this subject. True, by the time the Romanov stamps/stationery were issued, the imperial postal system was very highly developed. Further, in his conclusion, I think that our respected member George touches on an important point: the zemstvo post offices were well

stocked with arms stamps; they had no need for further supplies of similar value, and as they were not part of the imperial postal system, I do not think Romanov stamps were issued to them. The occasional — and, as we can see, scarce — use of Romanov stamps with zemstvos was caused by the sender having some of them with him/her at the time.

I have seen two or three covers with Romanov–zemstvo frankings that were clearly philatelic, although they had genuinely gone through the mails. From the items shown here, we can see that the period covered was not just a ‘narrow time-band’ in 1913, but beyond into 1915 or later. One might conjecture that there ought to be more items of Romanov–zemstvo use. Let us see if in the course of time they emerge.

I think, in its way this is a ‘ground-breaking’ article. I do not recall anything in any of the journals on the subject of Romanov–zemstvo use. From this collector at least, a warm thanks to George.”

## Freundeskreis der Rußlandphilatelisten in Deutschland

(German Circle of Russian Philately)

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GERMANY

# Russian Zemstvo Free-Frank Paper Seals

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by Bill Nickle

The zemstvo stamps and paper free-frank seals, which were used in rural Russia from 1865 to 1917, are an interesting and compelling part of Russian philately. The number and variety of these issues are surprising, with Chuchin (1984) listing more than three thousand stamps from 165 zemstvo districts. In addition, the zemstvos produced thousands of paper free-frank seals that were used to disseminate mail and packages across the rural areas of European Russia. These stamp-like seals and zemstvo stamps were used to supplement the official stamps issued by the imperial government.

As the volume of mail increased, the paper seals were found to be easier to use. They replaced the old wax seals and were affixed to the reverse sides of envelopes. The official mail of the zemstvo administration was carried free of charge within the district but it was necessary to identify it by sealing it with the official free-frank seal. An officially designated number, which identified the user, was prominently written on the front of the envelope along with the name and address of the person to whom the letter or package was being sent. These seals were authorized for use by many government agencies and private enterprises. They come in all shapes, sizes, and colors. Some were simple and some were elaborate. Covers during this period sometimes had both official paper seals and a stamp of the imperial government. Near the end of the paper-seal era, we can find similar designs using a rubber stamp, often with lavender ink.

A review of the recent literature on zemstvos and paper seals highlights the works of Speers (1960, 1964), Marcovich (1968), Murdoch (1984), and Werbizky (1994). Speers' excellent map of the zemstvo districts and provinces was complemented by his compilation,

which details the thirty-three provincial (*guberniya*) governments and the 165 stamp-issuing districts (*uezd*). In all, Speers listed four hundred zemstvo districts, many of which, though non-stamp issuing, had official paper seals to move the mail. Marcovich presented seventy-nine non-zemstvo paper seals of various government agencies, war departments, ministries, state banks, embassies, and other institutions. Murdoch points out similarities between zemstvo stamps and seals, and says that according to the dates on his covers, the seals reached their peak around 1880. The 1878 date is common on my thirty-five covers, which agrees with his data. Werbizky describes these seals as being an integral part of the free-frank mailing by various zemstvo government officials and offices; he lists eighteen paper seals.

The purpose of this article is to document for future researchers some of the photocopyable paper seals and a few rubber-stamped seals from my collection. These include the seals used by some of the 165 stamp-issuing districts listed in Chuchin, some of the thirty-three provincial governments, some from the other non-stamp-issuing zemstvo districts, and a few other interesting seals. It is my hope that this will supplement Marcovitch's work and encourage others to present their materials. Zemstvo free-frank paper seals are not common and command high prices, especially on cover, as this material was not saved by the rural population. Most of the remaining seals are probably in large collections in Europe and Great Britain.

The following pages of seal material are presented alphabetically. The color of the seal is also given. The black-and-white reproductions presented here do not do justice to these often very colorful official-looking seals.

An analysis of the material presented shows two hundred different paper free-frank seals from 114 zemstvo districts and nineteen provincial zemstvos, including seals from forty-two zemstvo districts and three provinces not listed in Chuchin. I have also used thirty-two covers to help date the usage of seals. The 1878 date was common in this group of covers, as are the imperial eagle, the town crest, and the word "packet".

I have presented a larger series of seals (figures 13–31) for the district of Balashov, which in 1897 had a population of 12,000. Balashov had only two regular zemstvo postage stamps in its stamp-issuing period from 1876 to 1880, but it had more than twenty-five different free-frank seals. One can see the variety of usages: courts, schools, doctors, councils, treasurers, subdistricts, etc. Consider also the small district of Ustyuzhna, Novgorod Province. Its population in 1900 was only five thousand residents. It is located in the north, near swampy tundra. Yet this district produced twenty-three different (Chuchin numbered) stamps, and I have thirteen different seals from this district zemstvo board. The seal shown in figure 177 can be found on eleven different colored papers, which are the same as each of the major zemstvo stamp issues over the eight-year period of 1889–1897. Other small districts had similar elaborate seals during the short life of their zemstvo post. Notice should be taken of the seals from the districts of Alatyr' (figure 1) and Toropets (figure 165), both of which had short zemstvo postal histories.

As the reader can see, the zemstvo paper seals are a worthwhile part of the zemstvo mystique. I would like to correspond with other collectors of zemstvos and zemstvo seals.

I am indebted to Leon Finik for providing much of the material presented; Dave Skipton for help with some of the Russian; and Gary Combs and George Werbizky for reviewing the manuscript.

## Abbreviations

dis. zem. bd. = district zemstvo board  
 prov. zem. bd. = provincial zemstvo board  
 vol. ad. bd. = volost' administrative board

## Captions

1. Alatyr' dis. zem. bd. Red on white.
2. Aleksandriya dis. zem. bd. of Kherson Province. White on red.
3. Aleksandriya dis. zem. bd. of Kherson Province. Red on black.
- 4–6. Aleksandriya dis. zem. bd. of Kherson Province. Blue on white.
7. Aleksandrov dis. zem. bd. Black on white.
8. Aleksinskoe dis. zem. bd. Blue on white. Cover, 1874.
9. Anan'ev dis. zem. bd. Black on red, also brown, also green.
- 10–11. Anan'ev dis. zem. bd. Blue on white.
12. Ardatov dis. zem. bd. Green on white.
13. Balashov dis. zem. bd. Black on white. Cover, 1888.
14. Balashov district school council. Black on gray.
15. Balashov district, head of 8th precinct, Saratov Province. Black on white.
16. Balashov district treasury. Red on white.
17. Balashov district zemstvo doctor, Saratov Province. Red on white.
18. Balashov district, head of 6th precinct. Black on rose.
19. Balashov district, head of 2nd precinct. Black on orange.
20. Balashov district inspector of public schools, Saratov Province. Black on rose.
21. Balashov, city judge. Black on bluish-green.
22. Balashov district, Saratov Province. Ol'ginsk volost' court. Black on pink.
23. Balashov district, Cerkavsk vol. ad. bd. Gold on black.
24. Balashov district, Arkadask vol. ad. bd. Black on yellow.
25. Balashov district, Police administration. Black on white.
26. Balashov district, Krasno-Kalenskoe vol. ad. bd. Black on rose.

27. Balashov district, Meshcheryakovskoe vol. ad. bd. Black on yellow.
28. Balashov district, Trostyanskoe vol. ad. bd. Black on rose.
29. Balashov district, Zav'yalovskoe vol. ad. bd. Black on bluish-green.
30. Balashov district, Andreevskoe vol. ad. bd. Gold on yellow.
31. Balashov district, Rostashovskoe vol. ad. bd. Gold on white, also blue, also peach.
32. Bessarabian prov. zem. bd. Blue on white.
33. Byelozersk dis. zem. bd. White on orange.
34. Bolkhov dis. zem. bd. Blue on white. Cover, 1875.
35. Bolkhov dis. zem. bd. Red on white. Cover, 1878.
36. Buinsk dis. zem. bd. Black on green.
37. Buguruslan dis. zem. bd. Lavender on white. Rubber stamp.
38. Byeletsk dis. zem. bd. Purple on white. Rubber stamp.
39. Byelev dis. zem. bd. Blue on white. Cover, 1878.
40. Danilov dis. zem. bd. White on red.
41. Dnyeprovsk dis. zem. bd. Blue on white.
42. Dnyeprovsk district, Dmitrievsk vol. ad. bd. Black on green.
43. Dmitrov dis. zem. bd., Moscow Province. Black on white.
44. Dukhovshchina dis. zem. bd. Black on green.
45. Elabuga dis. zem. bd. White on blue.
46. Elat'ma dis. zem. bd. Black on white. Cover, 1871.
47. Elat'ma dis. zem. bd. Black on slate blue. Cover, 1879.
48. Gadyach dis. zem. bd. Black on rose.
49. Gadyach district treasury, Poltava Province. Black on peach, also green.
- 50-51. Gadyach dis. zem. bd. Black on red.
52. Gorbatov dis. zem. bd. Red on white.
53. Gorodishche dis. zem. bd. Black on green.
54. Gryazovets dis. zem. bd. Black on white.
55. Ivanovo zemstvo hospital. Black on red.
56. Kaluga prov. zem. bd. White on red. On piece, 1880.
57. Kaluga prov. zem. bd. Black on pink, also blue.
58. Kalyazin zemstvo, 4th precinct doctor. Black on white.
59. Kamyshin office of zemstvo hospital. Black on white.
60. Kamyshlov dis. zem. bd. Black on white. Cover, 1878.
61. Kamyshlov dis. zem. bd. Black on red.
62. Kazan' dis. zem. bd. Red on white. Cover, 1878.
63. Kazan' prov. zem. bd. Blue on white.
64. Kazan' dis. zem. bd. Blue on white.
65. Kazan' prov. zem. bd. Lavender on white. Rubber stamp.
66. Kazan' provincial zemstvo board, credit office. Blue on white.
67. Khar'kov dis. zem. bd. Blue on white.
68. Khar'kov prov. zem. bd. Red on white.
69. Kherson dis. zem. bd. Red on white.
70. Kherson zemstvo agricultural school. Black on green. Cover, 1877.
71. Kherson prov. zem. bd. Black on blue, also yellow, also orange, also green.
72. Kholm dis. zem. bd. Black on slate blue.
73. Khvalynsk dis. zem. bd. Black on white. Cover, 1878.
74. Khvalynsk dis. zem. bd. Black on green.
75. Knyaginina dis. zem. bd. Black on brown, also blue. Cover, 1878.
76. Konotop dis. zem. bd. Blue on white. Cover, 1878.
77. Korochansk dis. zem. bd. Black on white.
78. Kostroma provincial district board. Blue on white.
79. Kostroma prov. zem. bd. Blue on white.
80. Kotelnich dis. zem. bd. Black on green.
81. Kovrov dis. zem. bd. Black on white. Cover, 1878.
82. Kozmodem'yansk dis. zem. bd. White on red.
83. Krasninsk dis. zem. bd. White on red.
84. Krasninsk dis. zem. bd., Smolensk Province. White on red.
85. Krasninsk dis. zem. bd. Black on grey.
86. Kremenchug dis. zem. bd. Lavender on white. Rubber stamp.



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87. Kursk prov. zem. bd. Lavender on white. Rubber stamp.
88. Kursk prov. zem. bd. Blue, also red, on white.
89. Kursk prov. zem. bd. Red on white.
90. Livny dis. zem. bd. Blue on white.
91. Lukoyanov dis. zem. bd. Blue on white.
92. Makar'ev dis. zem. bd. Black on white. Cover, 1878.
- 93–94. Maloarkhangel'sk dis. zem. bd. Black on white.
95. Mamadyzh dis. zem. bd. Black on white.
96. Morshansk dis. zem. bd. Red, white, lavender, and blue.
97. Morshansk dis. zem. bd. Black on white.
98. Morshansk, Ryzansk vol. ad. bd. Black on white. Wrapper.
99. Moscow dis. zem. bd. Black on white. Cover.
100. Mozhaisk dis. zem. bd. Black on orange.
101. Nizhnedeyevitsk dis. zem. bd. Red on black.
102. Nizhnii Novgorod dis. zem. bd. Blue on white.
103. Nizhnii Novgorod prov. zem. bd. Blue on white.
104. Nizhnii Novgorod prov. zem. bd. Red on white.
105. Nizhnii Novgorod prov. zem. bd. Blue on white.
106. Novosil' dis. zem. bd. Blue on white. Cover, 1878.
107. Novomoskovsk dis. zem. bd. Black on red, also gold on blue, also purple.
108. Novopokrovskoe district zemstvo medical doctor. Gold on red.
109. Novouzensk dis. zem. bd., Samara Province. White on red.
110. Odessa customs (not a zemstvo). White on green.
111. Orgyeev dis. zem. bd. Black on white.
112. Orel prov. zem. bd. White on blue.
113. Osa dis. zem. bd. Gold on red.
114. Ostrogozhsk dis. zem. bd. Blue on white.
115. Ostrogozhsk dis. zem. bd. Blue on white. Cover, 1876.
116. Ostrogozhsk dis. zem. bd. Blue on white. Cover, 1878.
117. Pavlograd dis. zem. bd. Black on green. Cover, 1889.
118. Penza dis. zem. bd. Lavender on white. Rubber stamp.
119. Penza prov. zem. bd. White on lavender.
120. Pereslavl' dis. zem. bd. Black on white.
- 121–122. Pereyaslav dis. zem. bd. Black on white.
123. Pskov dis. zem. bd. Black on lavender.
124. Pskov dis. zem. bd. Green on white.
125. Rybinsk dis. zem. bd. Black on white. Cover, 1878.
126. Rybinsk dis. zem. bd. Blue on white.
127. Romanov-Borisoglebsk dis. zem. bd. Blue on white. Cover, 1878.
128. Ryazan' dis. zem. bd. Black on lavender.
129. Sapozhok dis. zem. bd. Black on green.
130. Sarapul' dis. zem. bd. Blue on white.
131. Sarapul' district board. Light blue on white.
132. Saratov dis. zem. bd. Black on rose.
133. Saratov prov. zem. bd. Black on rose.
134. Saratov district and province, chief of 5th precinct. Black on rose.
135. Saratov provincial zemstvo veterinarian. Black on blue.
136. Serdobsk dis. zem. bd. Black on red.
137. Serdobsk dis. zem. bd. Black on pink.
138. Shadrinsk dis. zem. bd. Black on white.
139. Shadrinsk dis. zem. bd. White on red. Cover, 1875.
140. Shatsk dis. zem. bd. Black on green.
141. Shatsk dis. zem. bd. Lavender on white.
142. Shchigry zemstvo board. Lavender on white. Rubber stamp.
143. Slavyanoserbsk dis. zem. bd. Black on white.
144. Solikamsk dis. zem. bd. Black on white.
145. Solikamsk dis. zem. bd. Black on cream.
146. Spassk dis. zem. bd. Black on white.
147. Spassk dis. zem. bd., Ryazan Province. Blue on white.
148. Starobyel'sk dis. zem. bd., Khar'kov Province. Green on white.
149. Stavropol' dis. zem. bd., Samara Province. Blue on white.



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150. St. Petersburg dis. zem. bd. White on blue.
151. St. Petersburg prov. zem. bd. Blue on white.
152. Staraya Russa dis. zem. bd. Black on white.
153. Sudzha dis. zem. bd. Black on white.
154. Sumy dis. zem. bd. Red on white.
- 155–156. Syzran' dis. zem. bd., Simbirsk Province. Gold on red.
157. Syzran', chief of zemstvo 1st precinct. Gold on red.
158. Syzran' district zemstvo doctor's assistant. Black on white. Cover, 1913.
159. Syzran' district Sosnovyi solonets zemstvo hospital. Blue on white. Cover, 1909.
160. Tambov dis. zem. bd. Black on blue.
161. Tambov provincial zemstvo doctor. Black on pink. Cover, 1911.
162. Tauride prov. zem. bd. Blue on white.
163. Tetyushi dis. zem. bd., Kazan' Province. Blue on white. Cover, 1878.
164. Tiraspol' dis. zem. bd., Kherson Province. Blue on white.
165. Toropets dis. zem. bd. Black on lavender.
166. Tsaritsyn dis. zem. bd. Blue on white.
167. Tsvil'sk dis. zem. bd., Kazan' Province. Black on grey.
168. Tula dis. zem. bd. Blue on white.
169. Tver' dis. zem. bd. Blue on white.
170. Tver' provincial board. Black on white. Rubber stamp.
171. Tver' prov. zem. bd. Black on red.
172. Ufa dis. zem. bd. Black on white.
173. Ufa prov. zem. bd. White on red.
174. Urzhum dis. zem. bd. Black on red.
175. Usman' dis. zem. bd. Black on white.
176. Ustyuzhna dis. zem. bd. Black on yellow.
177. Ustyuzhna dis. zem. bd. Black on eleven colors.
178. Ust'sysol'sk zemstvo board, chairman. Black on cream.
179. Valdai dis. zem. bd. White on red.
180. Valk dis. zem. bd., chairman. Red on white.
181. Vasil' dis. zem. bd. Lavender on white. Rubber stamp.
- 182–183. Verkhotur'e dis. zem. bd., Perm' Province. Black on white.
184. Ves'egonsk dis. zem. bd. White on red.
185. Vyatka dis. zem. bd. Blue on white.
186. Vladimir dis. zem. bd. Black on white.
187. Vladimir prov. zem. bd. Black on white.
188. Voronezh dis. zem. bd. Red on white.
189. Voronezh prov. zem. bd. Black on white.
190. Vyazniki dis. zem. bd. Black on white.
191. Vyshnii Volochek dis. zem. bd. Red on white.
192. Yarensk dis. zem. bd. Black on white. Cover, 1878.
193. Yaroslavl' prov. zem. bd. White on red, also blue.
194. Ekaterinburg dis. zem. bd. Red. Cover, 1871.
195. Ekaterinburg dis. zem. bd. White on red.
196. Elisavetgrad dis. zem. bd. Blue on white. Cover, 1875.
197. Zadonsk dis. zem. bd. Blue on white.
198. Zen'kov dis. zem. bd. Blue on white. Cover, 1878.
- 199–200. Zolotonosha dis. zem. bd. Black on white.

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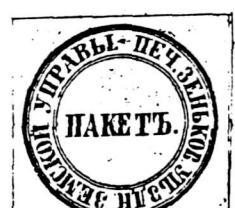
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# In Postmaster Gan 'ko's Footsteps: Lokhvitsa Zemstvo

by George G. Werbizky

This is a footnote to Terry Page's (*Rossica* No. 130) and my articles (*Rossica* No. 127 and 131/132) dealing with the Poltava zemstvo. It was alleged that the Lokhvitsa zemstvo followed Poltava practices in surcharging existing stamps with new denominations, needed or not. Recently I acquired six Lokhvitsa zemstvo covers, all unaddressed, with surcharged stamps. Figure 1 below shows one of these covers. Four covers

were canceled on 28 January, one on 1 July, and one on 6 November 1910. Clearly, these covers were prepared for collectors, ready to go.

In a way I'm glad that the Lokhvitsa postmaster prepared these items, even though no postal needs were served. The beneficiaries of the described manipulations were and continue to be stamp collectors.

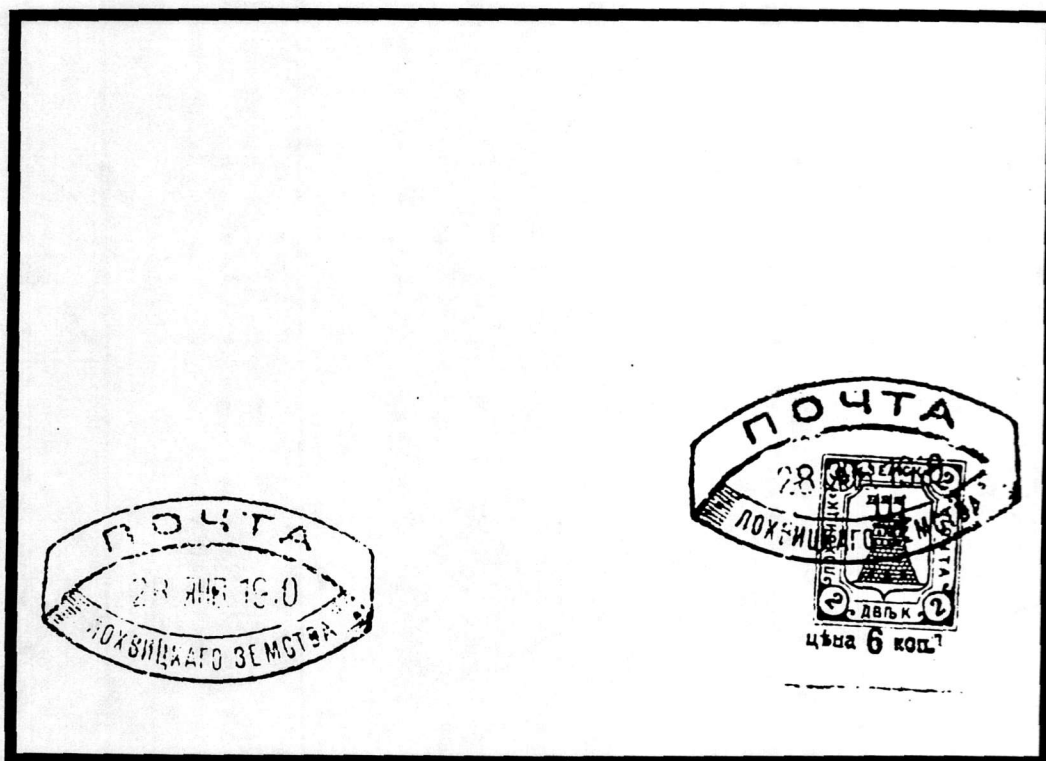


Figure 1: Unaddressed Lokhvitsa zemstvo cover.

# International Collector Societies

by Gary Combs



Figure 1a: Front of postcard sent by Baron Rosen to California in 1907.  
Note the "Please exchange Baron Rosen" at the bottom center.

A couple of years ago, I purchased the remnants of a postcard collection. Actually, the "Stick" had already paid for his trip to the exhibition and felt sorry for me sitting there in my tattered clothes with hunger in my eyes and an almost empty wallet. The number of cards was small, but they all had one thing in common: reference to a postcard society. For whatever reason, I put aside the collection until recently.

In interchanges with other philatelists, I asked if anyone had heard of a Baron Rosen from Tula, and presented what I thought were his credentials. At the recent exhibition in Nürnberg, Philip Robinson remembered my interests when he discovered a postcard from Baron Rosen. After examining the postcard, I remembered the lot that was gathering dust on the

shelf. What happened next and the information presented in this short article is the "rest of the story" and another aspect of our hobby.

The credentials presented for Baron Rosen:

Baron Roman Romanovich Rosen (1849–1922). Graduate of the Imperial School of Law; entered the section for civil affairs in the First Department of the Ministry of Justice, 1868; in the Asiatic Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 1872; Vice-Consul in Yokohama, 1875, and later secretary of the Russian Mission in Yeddo (Tokyo), in which capacity he remained until 1884; Consul-General in New York, 1884–1890; Minister to Mexico, 1890–1895, to Belgrade, 1895–1897, to Tokyo, 1897–1899, to Munich, 1900–1901, to A-

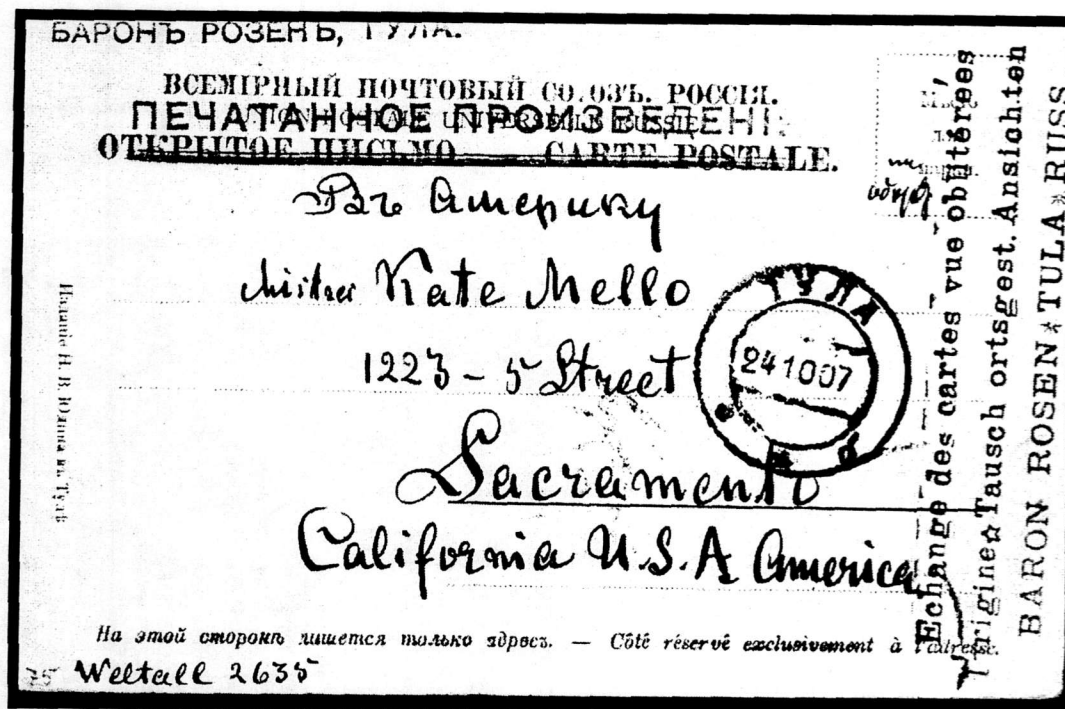


Figure 1b: Reverse of postcard sent by Baron Rosen to California in 1907.  
 Note the "Weltall 2635" at the bottom, lower left.

thens, 1901–1904; returned to Tokyo in 1904 but was obliged to leave in January when diplomatic relations were severed; Minister to the United States, 1905–1911; second plenipotentiary at the peace negotiations at Portsmouth, 1905; member of the State Council, 1911.

Figure 1 is the postcard that Philip Robinson found. This is a very nice piece and may indicate that the good baron was a collector. Well, at least he perhaps collected postcards with postmarks. The card was posted in Tula in 1907 and sent to the United States. It bears a pair of the 1-kopeck stamps of 1902–1905. On the front we see the manuscript "Please exchange Baron Rosen." On the reverse, lower left, we see the notation "Weltall 2635." Could this be a membership number in a collector's society?

Now that I have a captive audience, let us quickly move into the second phase of this discussion. The postcard lot had several postcards bearing information about an "International Soci-

ety of Postcard Collectors 'GLOBE'." All of the postcards are picture postcards and were sent to a Miss Ingeborg Hansen in Copenhagen between February 1911 and July 1912. On every card, the sender lists a "Globe" number. Personal correspondence with Chris Puttuck initially stated there was such a society and they claimed a membership near 100,000. Additionally, they advertised in local media for members.

The limited sample I have yielded postmarks from the following locations: Revel', Riga, St. Petersburg, Pavlovsk, Luga, Warsaw, Bakhchisarai, Kiev, Moscow, and Kaunus.

Member numbers include a "21" either normally offset by a comma (1128, 21) or in parenthesis (1128(21)). Numbers noted are: 638, 1128, 1175, 1825, 1866, 2430, 2473, 2487, 2550, 2551, 2676, 2742, 2788, 2840, 3126, 3159, 3176, 3285, 3426, 3539, 3592, 3607, and 3701.

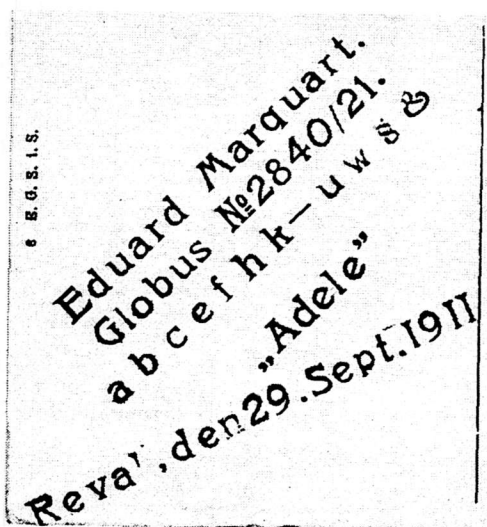
There are other marks about which I cannot determine the exact meaning. On many of the cards there appear names like "Adele,"

"Bertha," "Martha," "Genoveva," and "Dorothea." Perhaps this is a name or something else? Perhaps they are chapter names? Many of the members also include letters, numbers, and symbols that may also mean further subdivisions of their collections. Maybe this is really prison or censored mail and Dave Skipton needs to look at it? Perhaps it is encrypted and Dick Dallair needs to be recalled to service? Maybe John Briggs can get a Grand Reserve by exhibiting it?

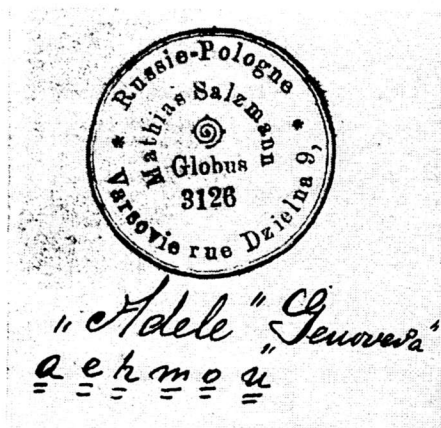
Maybe these are really zemstvo marks? Care to guess?

There appear to be four methods by which the sender indicates membership in the society: manuscript, handstamp, label, or a combination of any or all methods. Names noted are: Adele, Bertha, Dorothea, Martha, Genoveva, and Hedwig. The letters/numbers noted are: any letter from the Latin alphabet from "a" to "z"; the numbers "2" and "3"; symbols —, \*, &, and §.

### Handstamps indicating member number



Globe No. 2840



Globe No. 3126



Globe No. 1175

*Adele*  
*Genoveva* a. e. s. §  
 Kusmopolit 9077. ☐☐☐ Globus 21-2290  
**JOHANNES LEPSON**  
 REVAL ☐☐ RUSSIA  
 Kl. Balesnoi-Strasse No. 4  
No. 660 Verlag R. von der Ley, Reval

Globe No. 2290

**Globus No 2550**  
**W. Kulikowsky**  
*Langstr 18*  
*Reval*

Globe No. 2550

**S. GORBUNOW.**  
 INGENIEUR  
 ST.-PETERSBURG 13. VII. 1911  
 Putilowsky Sawod  
 Globus No 2676. (21)

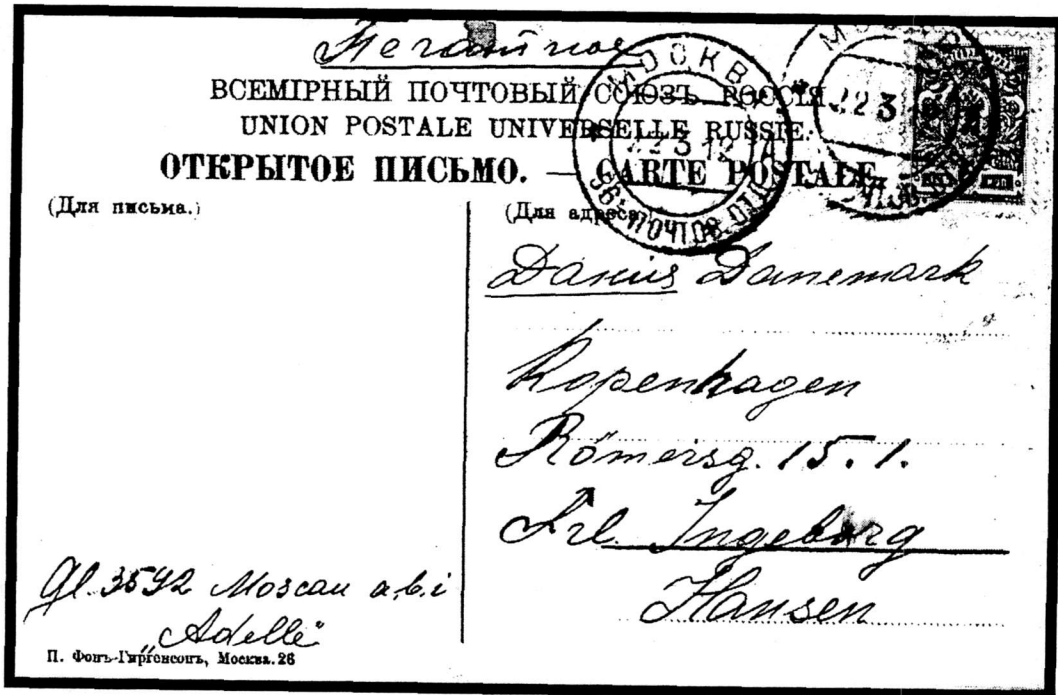
Globe No. 2676

**Gl. No 1828, 21**

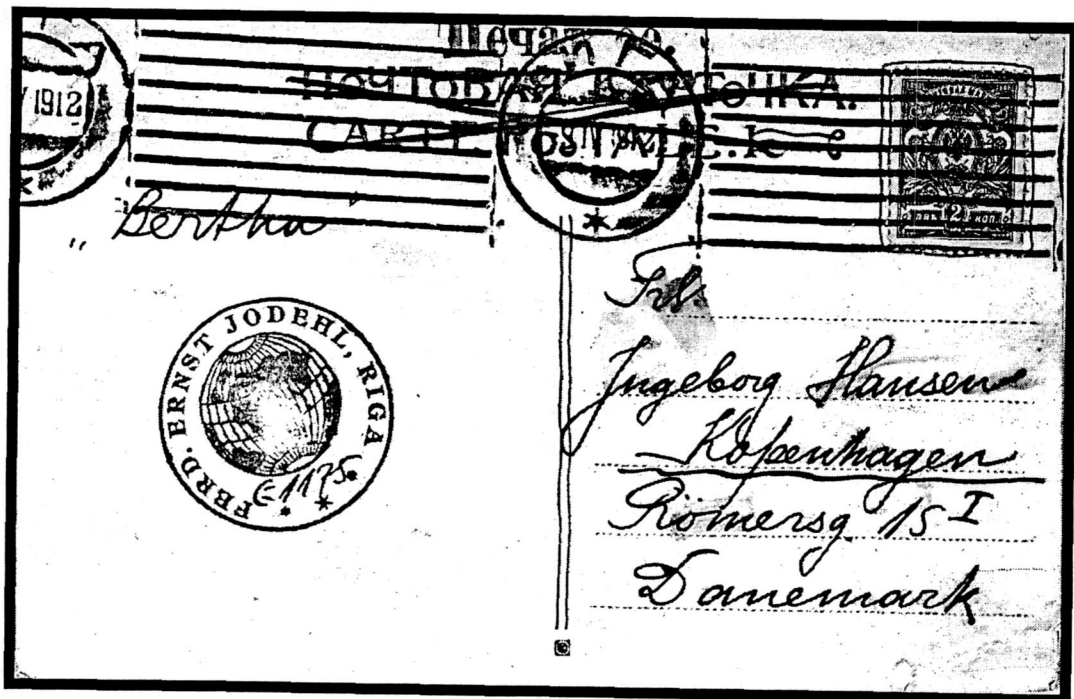
Globe No. 1828



Examples of postcards observed

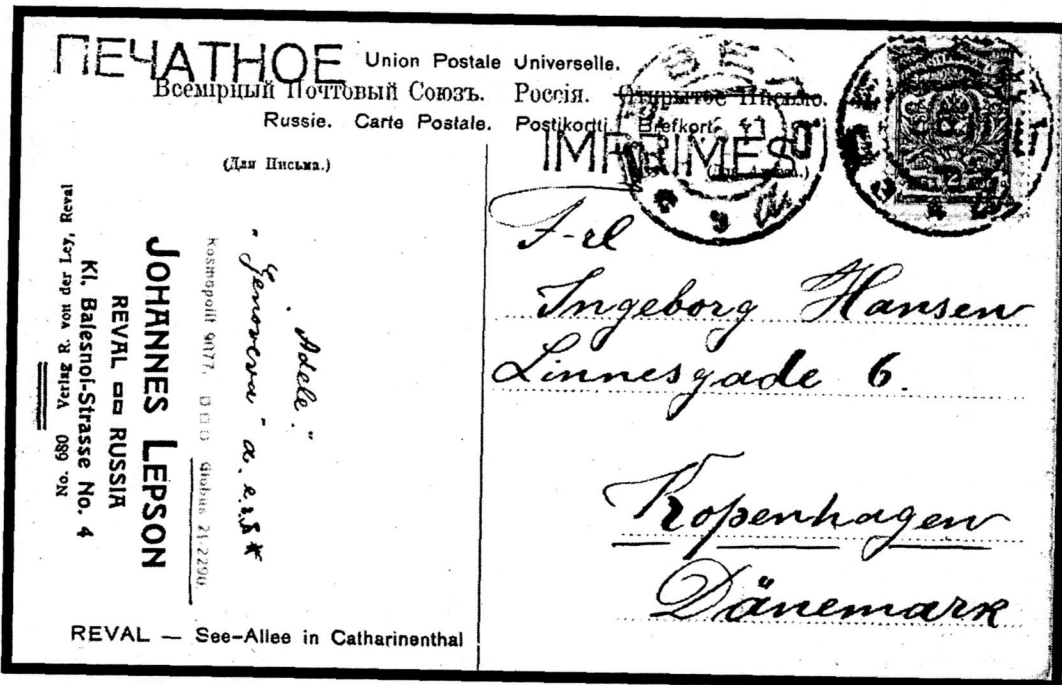


Card 1: Manuscript. Globe No. 3592. Moscow. "Adele." Letters: a, b, i.

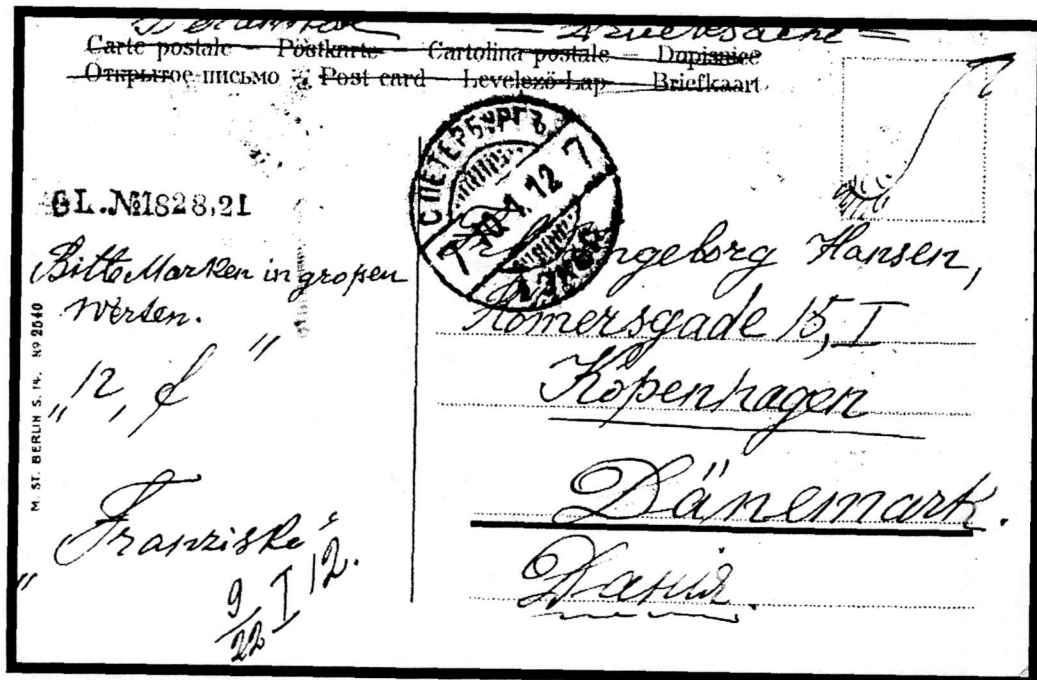


Card 2: Handstamp. Globe No. 1175. Riga. "Bertha."

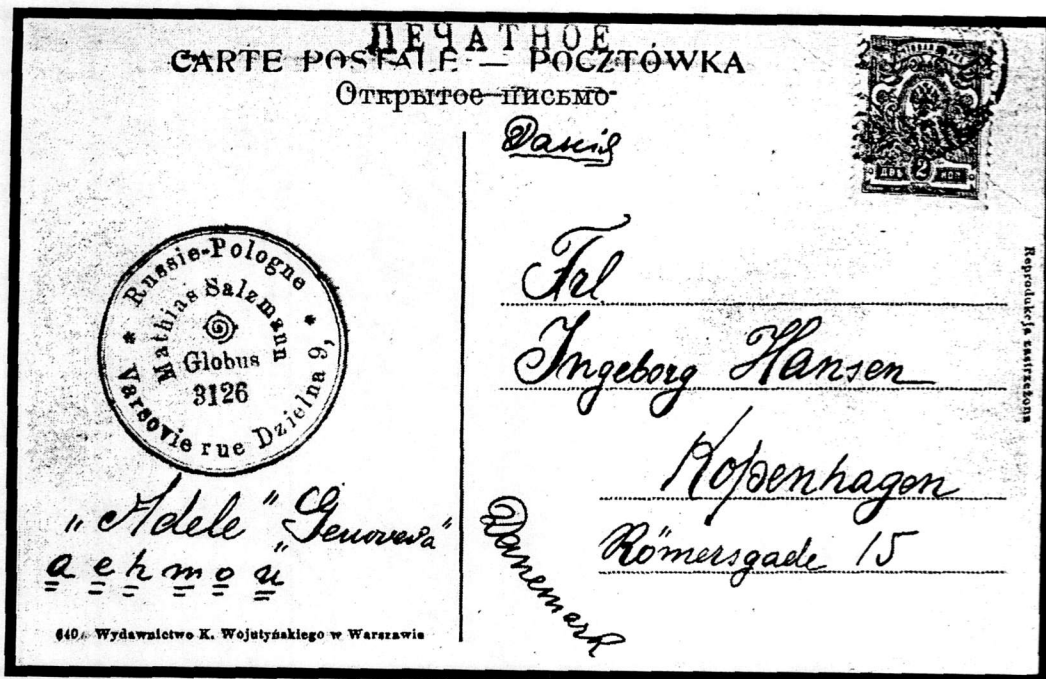




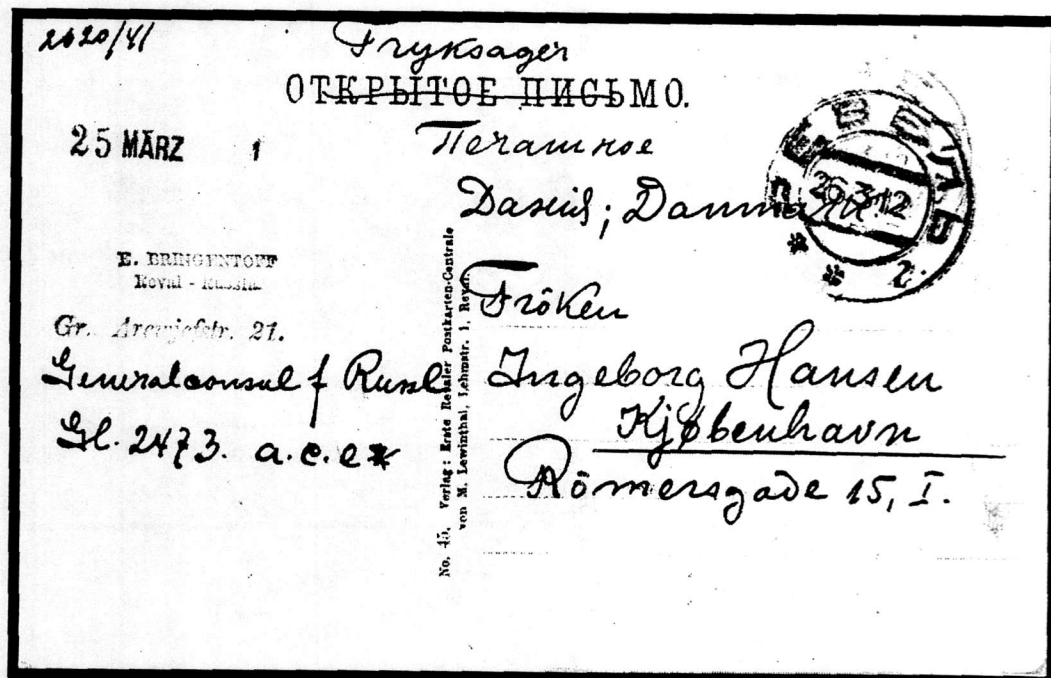
Card 5: Handstamp. Globe No. 2290. Revel. "Adele, Genoveva." Letters: a, e, z, &,\*.



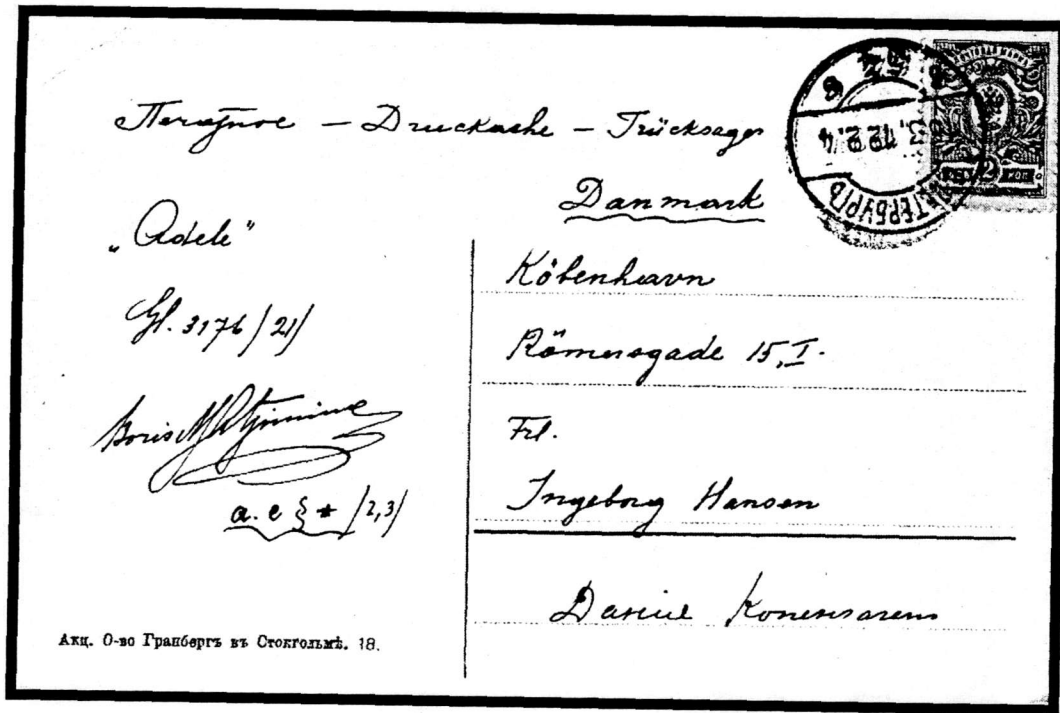
Card 6: Handstamp. Globe No. 1828. St. Petersburg. "Franziska(?)." Letters: n, f.



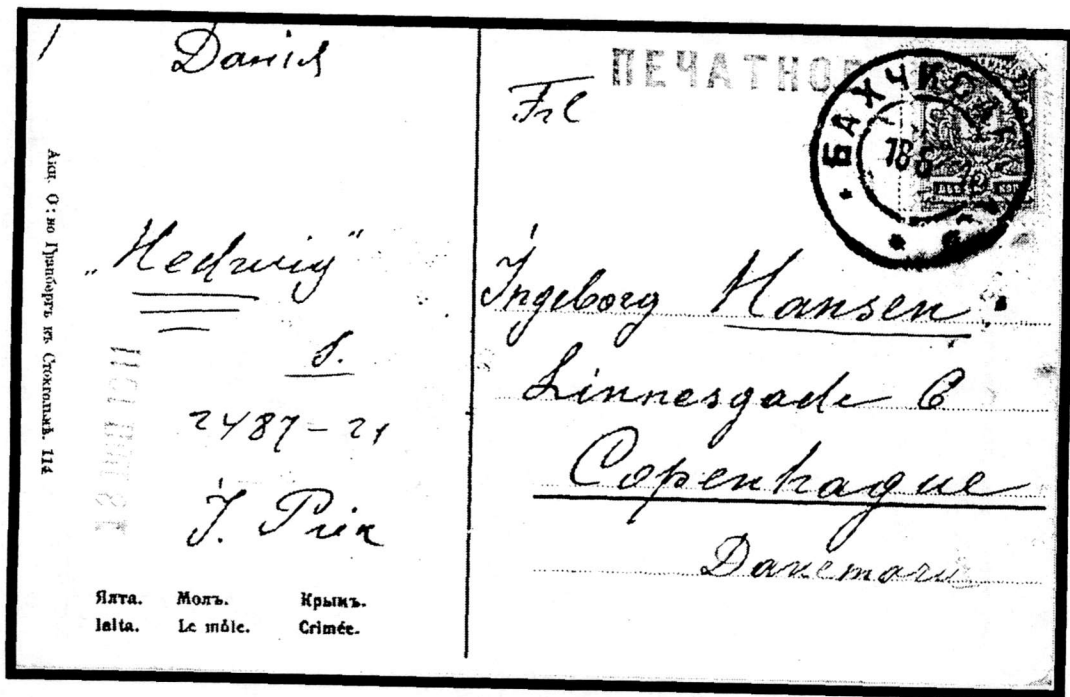
Card 7: Handstamp. Globe No. 3126. Warsaw. "Adele, Genoveva." Letters: a, e, h, m, o, u.



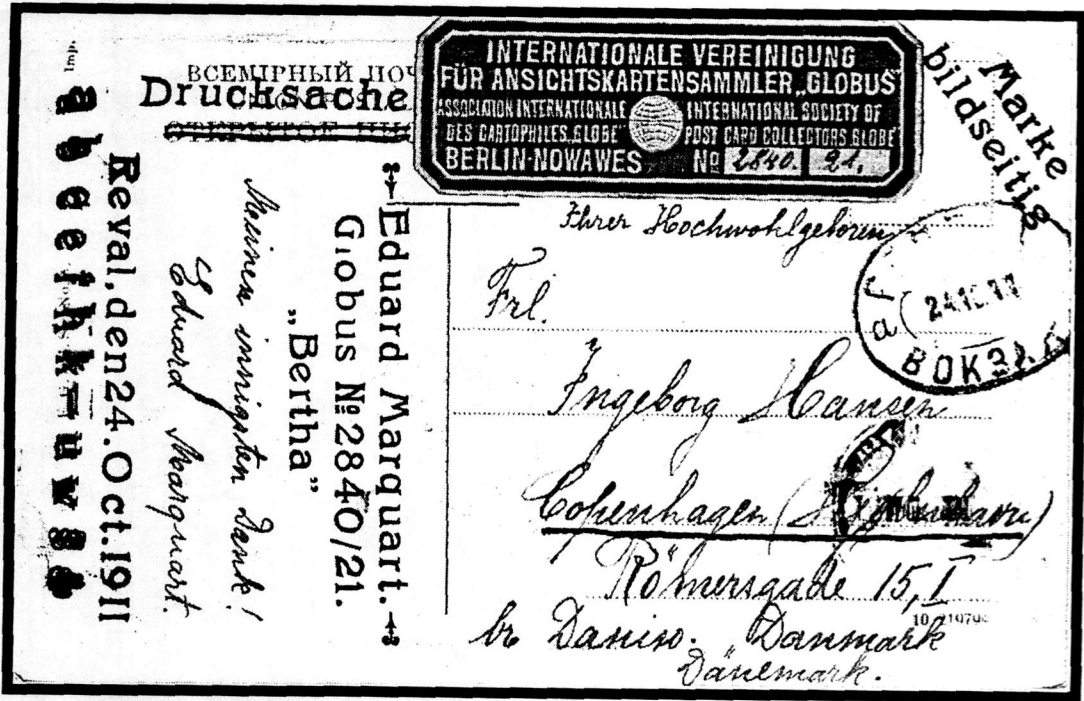
Card 8: Manuscript. Globe No. 2473. Revel. Letters: a, c, e, \*.



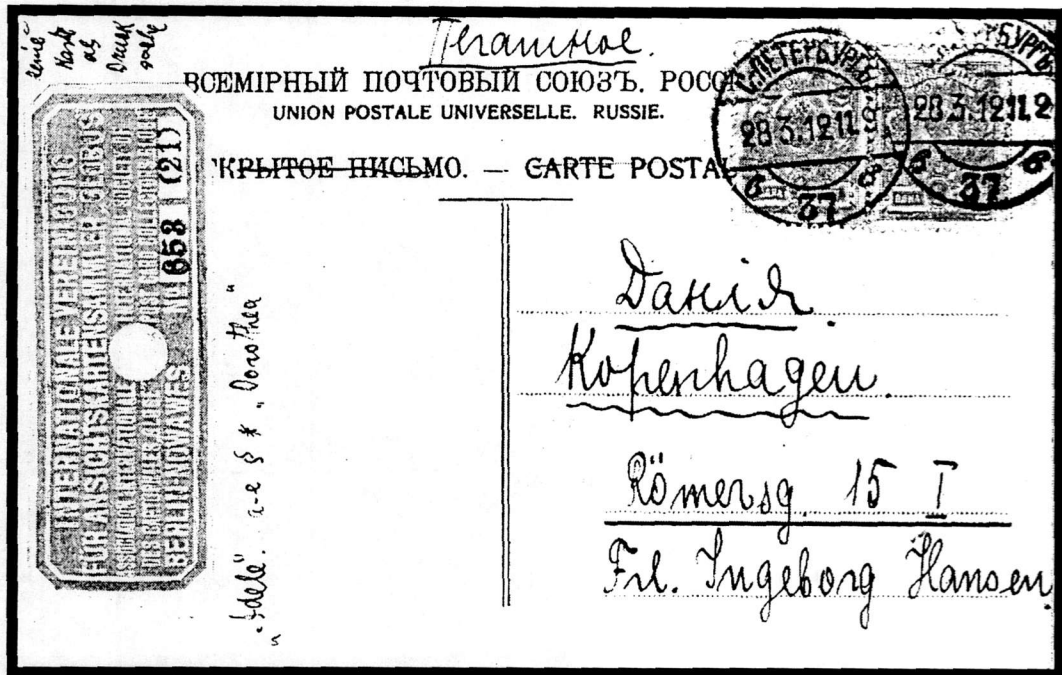
Card 9: Manuscript. Globe No. 3176. St. Petersburg. "Adele." Letters: a, c, §, \*, /2. 3/.



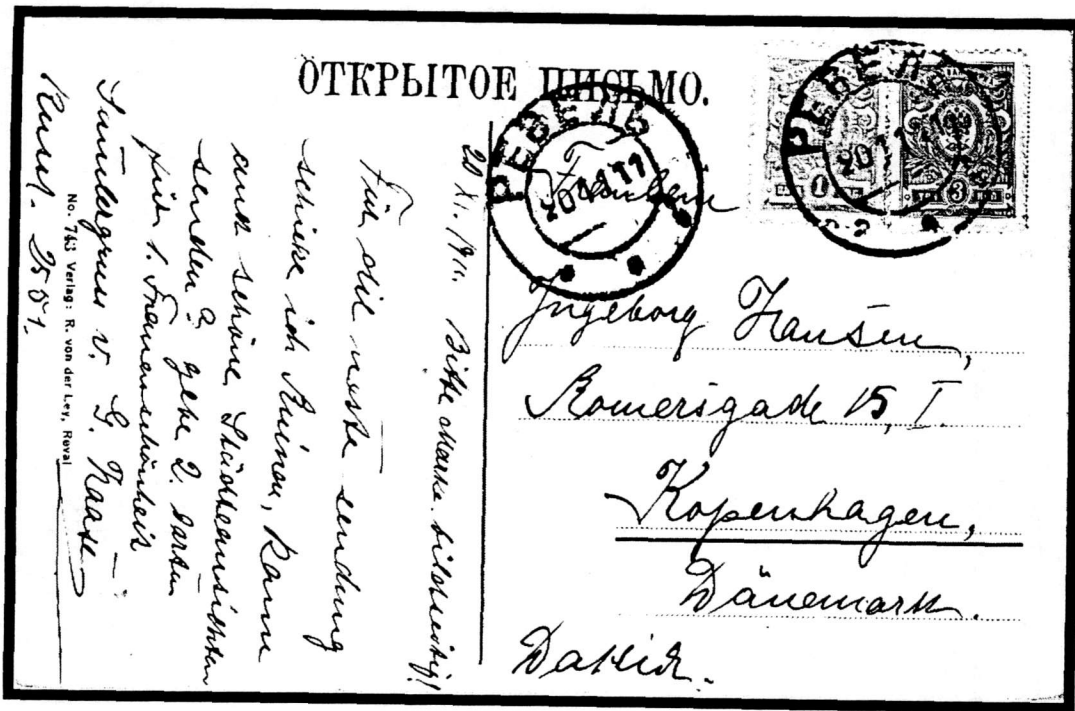
Card 10: Manuscript. Globe No. 2487. Bakhchisarai. "Hedwig."



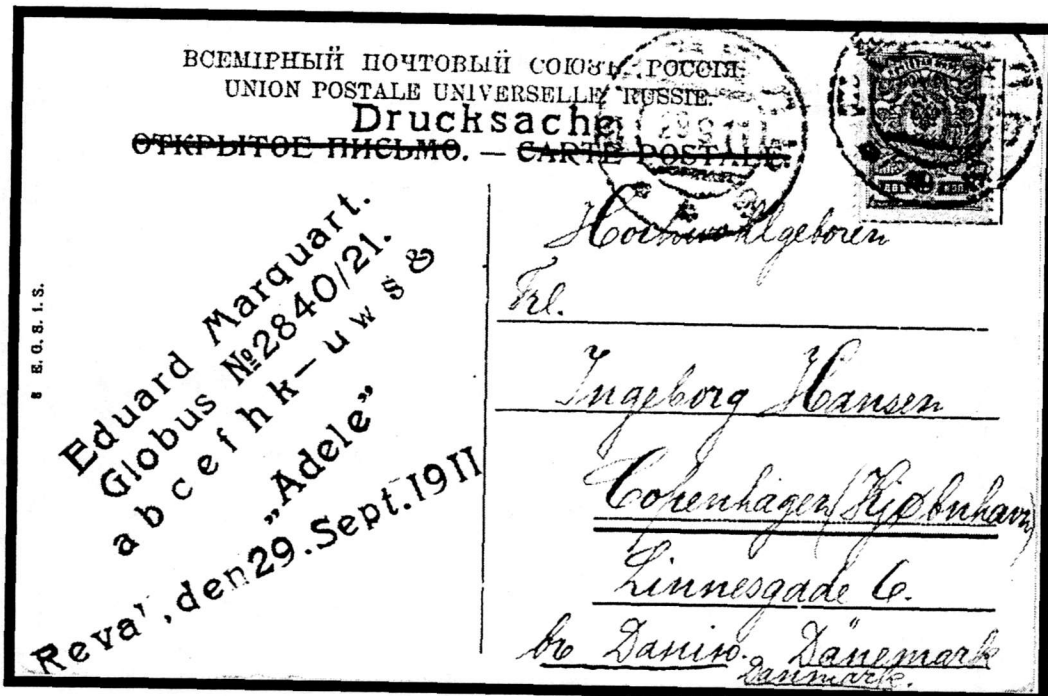
Card 11: Label and handstamp. Globe No. 2840. Revel. "Bertha."  
 Letters: a, b, c, e, i, h, k — u, w, s, &.



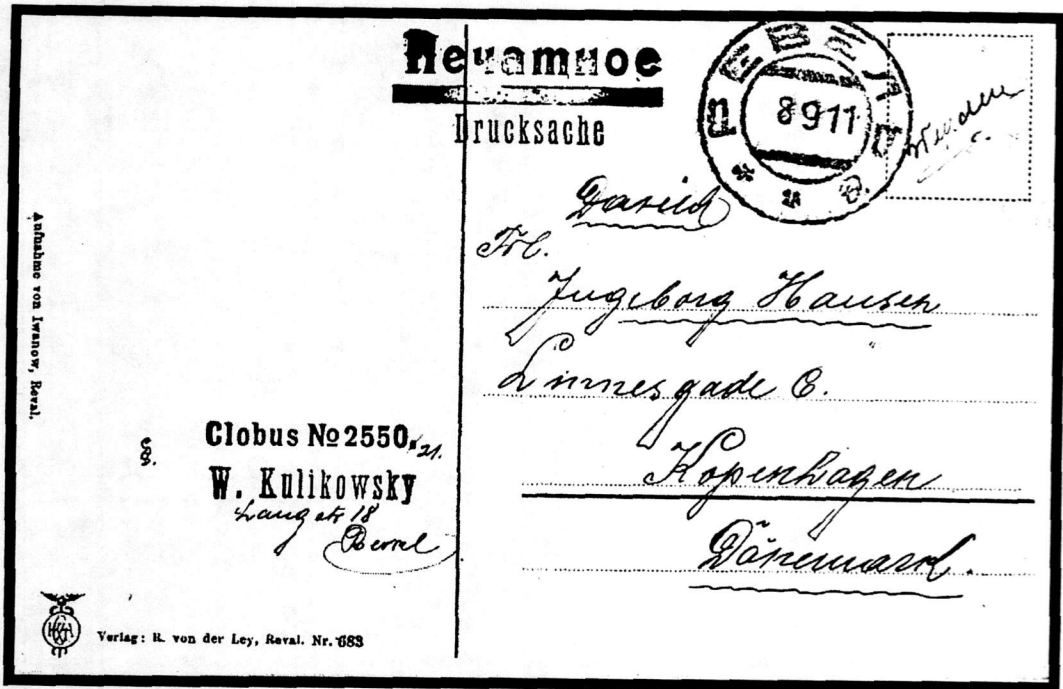
Card 12: Label. Globe No. 653. St. Petersburg. "Adele, Dorothea."



Card 13: Manuscript. Globe No. 2551. Revel'.



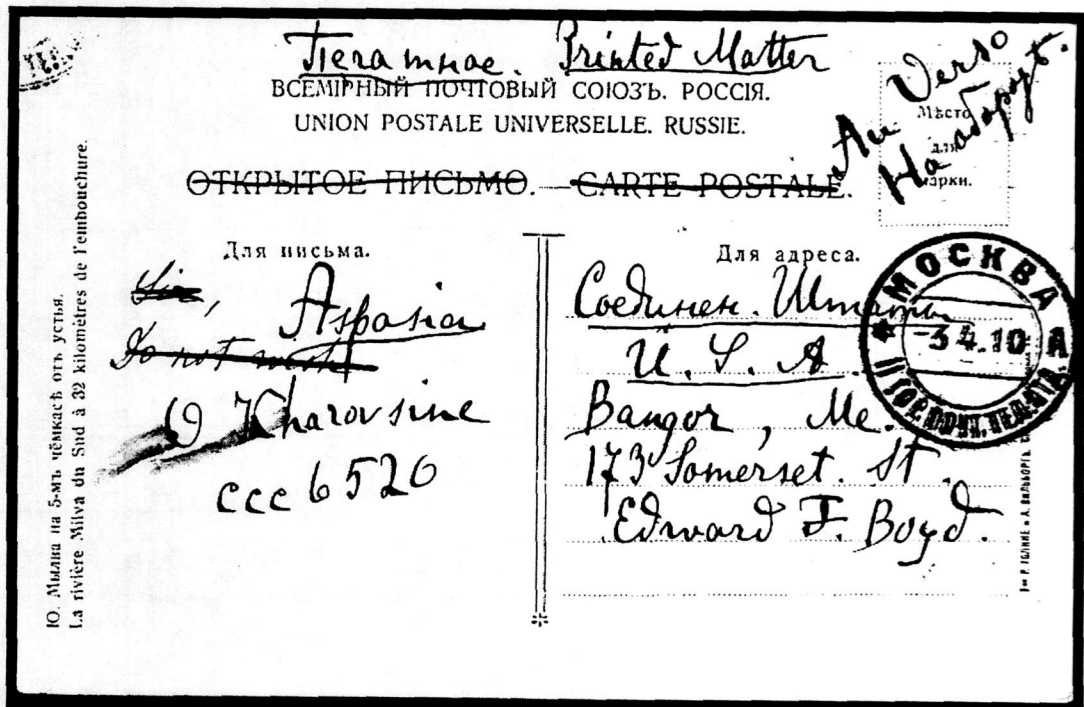
Card 14: Handstamp. Globe No. 2840. Revel'. "Adele." Letters: a, b, c, e, f, h, k — u, w, §, &.



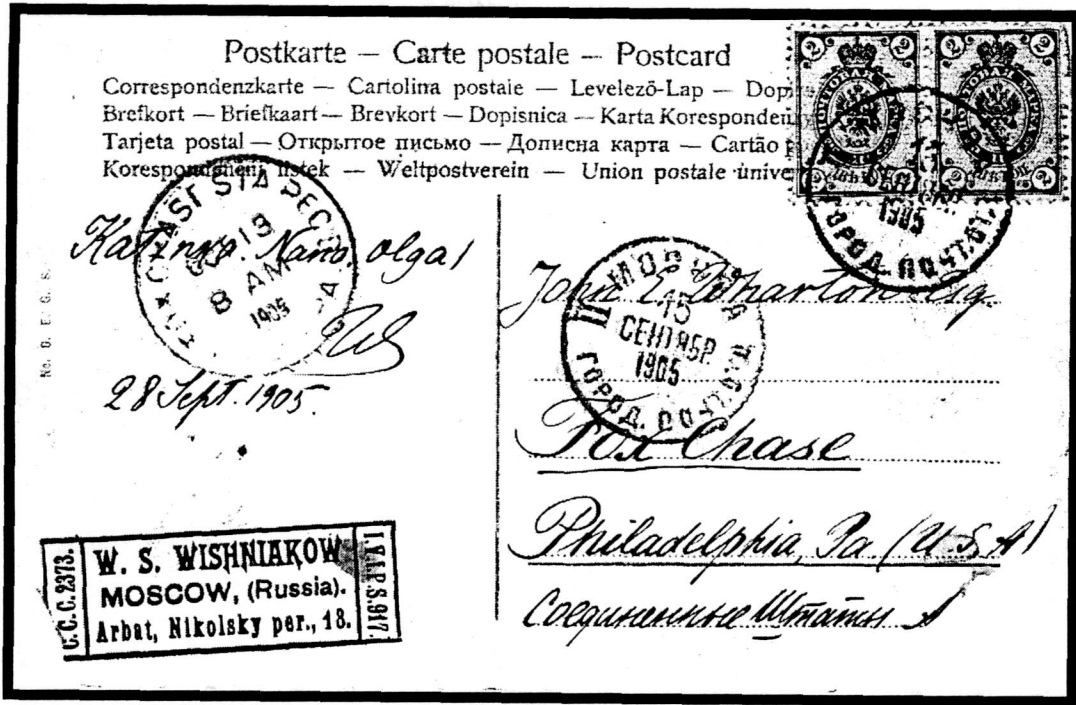
Card 15: Handstamp. Globe No. 2550. Revel.

Now let us mix it up a bit. If I did not include something from Moscow, Uncle Vinny would surely pay me a visit. Since I treasure what I have, compliance is a must. Sorry Leonard, no choo-choos here. The following

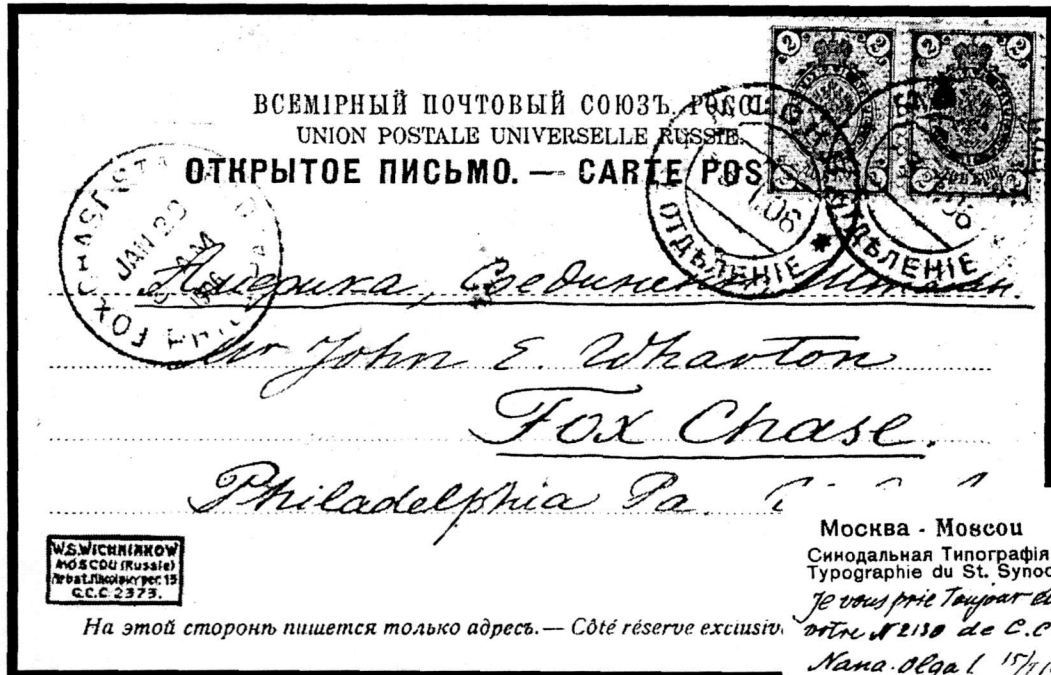
illustrations show two individuals from Moscow who indicate a membership (?) in a "CCC" and give a number. All correspondence noted to date has been to the United States.



Card CCC-1: Manuscript. No. 6520. Moscow to United States.



Card CCC-2: Handstamp. No. 2373. Moscow to United States.



Card CCC-3: Handstamp. No. 2373. Moscow to United States.  
Inset from front of postcard indicates the recipient is [member] No. 2130.



Card CCC-4: Handstamp. No. 2373. Moscow to United States. Note name and numbers to the right.



One last item. Pat Eppel has several labels (example above enlarged) that indicate the existence of a Moscow Society. According to Pat, “These are commemorative labels of the ‘Moscow Society of Postage Stamp Collectors.’”

However, these labels do lead to a few questions:

1. The dates “1858–83–1907.” 1858 and 1883 are no problem. But what happened in 1907? Could that have been when this society was founded? These labels then being

a “celebration” of the first year of existence? If not, what else?

2. In his catalog, Marcovitch lists these labels in five colors: red, blue, violet-blue, green, and black. I understand they are also listed in one of the Michel catalogs and that some of the colors listed there do not match Marcovitch. To further complicate matters, there were seven copies of this label in the Marcovitch collection, which was sold in 1998. Unfortunately, I have only a black

and white photo of the collection. Now, since Marcovitch was not in the habit of mounting duplicate material in his collection, are there really seven colors of these labels? And, if so, what are they? You will also note that mine are red (no problem), blue (or deep blue), and aqua (maybe light

blue). Or, could these last two be Marcovitch's violet-blue and blue?

Any member with information about any of these societies is hereby cordially invited to send the information along with photocopies to the author so we can give this little story a proper ending. Until then, it will remain mostly a mystery.

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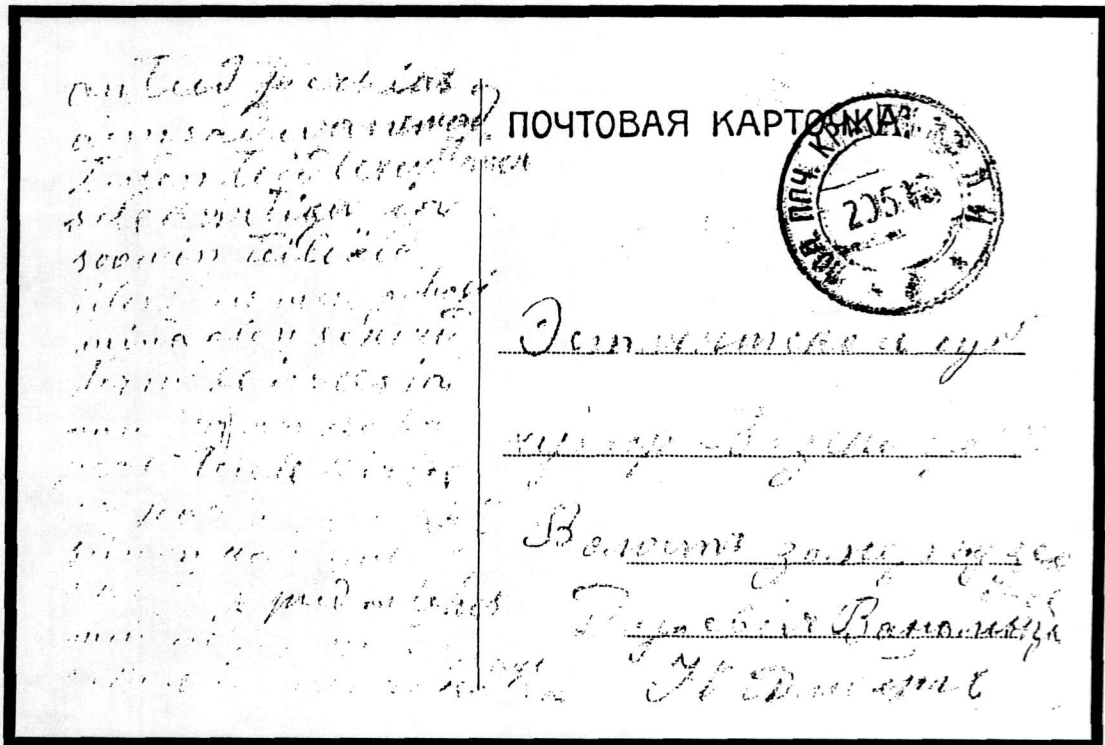
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# The Russian Field Post in the Caucasian World War I Theater-of-War: Addenda & Corrigenda

by A. Epstein



As mentioned in my original article (*Rossica* No. 128–129 [October 1997]: 160–191), there were two headquarter FPOs in the Caucasian theater-of-war designated by the Cyrillic letters “И” (“I”) and “З” (“Z”) and attached, respectively, to the headquarters of the Caucasian Army and Commander-in-Chief in the Caucasus (later, the Caucasian Front). This attachment is confirmed by archival documents. When trying to retrace the locations of these FPOs, I started from the fact that all Russian headquarter FPOs in the European theater-of-war were once attached to headquarters of a particular army and

remained with it until the end of the war or, in the case of disbandment, were transferred to another army headquarters together with the former army headquarters staff (e.g., the 5th Army to the 12th Army and then to the North Front, or the 13th Army to the 12th Army). However, it seems that this was not the case in the Caucasus.

Figure 1 above shows a free-frank soldier’s postcard mailed at HQ FPO “И” with postmark serial “e” applied on 20 May 1916. There is also a light, barely legible cachet of some Red Cross unit or institution. The message in Estonian begins with the words “Sent from Persia.” How-

ever, the Caucasian Army HQ was never located in Persia. In this connection, I remembered a note in the *British Journal of Russian Philately* (no. 59 [1982]), in which a postcard from Hamadan, Persia, was mentioned that had a postmark dated 6.7.16 with the alleged text "POL. POCh. KRA GL. KV. R. K.", serial "b" (i.e., almost the same as in the postmark on the card in figure 1 or Type HQ2 (figure 7 in my original paper) except for the last two letters. While the Cyrillic letters "Л" "И" (L. I.) are abbreviations for "Letter I", the letters "P.K." (R.C.) could be deciphered as "Russian Corps", so I thought initially that a postmark of the FPO attached to the Russian Expeditionary Corps in Persia had been found and described in the *BJRP*. Later, I abandoned this opinion and decided that, taking into account the complete similarity of the remaining text on both postmarks, the matter was merely an erroneous reading of letters because of an unclear strike (i.e., all these postmarks actually belong to FPO "I"). In this case, we have, at least, two items of mail from Persia postmarked at FPO "I" within the time interval from May to August 1916, and this cannot be a coincidence.

Hamadan had been the location of the Russian Expeditionary Corps Headquarters from January to August 1916, when the town was abandoned to the Turks. This force, which under the command of General Baratov landed in Enzeli, Persia, in October 1915 and soon after were concentrated in Kavzin, was not a regular corps but rather a large detachment. Thus, at best it had the right only for a Reserve FPO. However, there was evidently no free field-post establishment at the time. While its headquarters was in Kavzin, the unit was served by the field-post office opened there at least a year before the beginning of World War I for the Russian detachment occupying this region of Persia. Yet, when the headquarters was transferred to Hamadan, the lack of an FPO attached to it probably became obvious. In April 1916, the detachment was given the status of a regular corps and designated as the Caucasian Cavalry

Corps (later, the 1st Caucasian Cavalry Corps); consequently, a Corps FPO could be attached to this unit.

It can be surmised that, again, no FPO was available at that time. To solve the problem, HQ FPO "I" was detached temporarily from the Caucasian Army HQ and transferred to Hamadan. This hypothesis is based on the existence of the postcards from Persia mentioned above.

There remain, however, other questions. The first is when did this act take place. It is impossible to answer this question definitely without documents and based only on these few pieces of mail. One may suppose that such a transference took place either soon after the Russian forces occupied Hamadan (in January 1916) or when the corps received its official status (in April or May 1916). The first date seems a little more realistic because at the end of 1915 the Caucasian Army started a large-scale offensive, the first stage of which ended with the capture of Erzerum on 3 February 1916. Certainly, it would have been easier to transfer the FPO to Hamadan from Karaorgan or Kars, where it had been located before the offensive, than later from Erzerum.

The second question is how long FPO "I" stayed with the 1st Caucasian Cavalry Corps. Evidently, the need for this FPO continued until the arrival of FPO No. 162, which was specially destined for the corps. However, we still do not know exactly when this happened: soon after abandoning Hamadan or later? In any case, we can now state with a great degree of certainty that this FPO was functioning in Hamadan and was temporarily attached to the 1st Caucasian Cavalry (Expeditionary) Corps HQ, at least in the period from May to August 1916.

One more problem connected with these events is which particular FPO served the Caucasian Army HQ during and after its advance from Karaorgan via Hassan-kaleh to Erzerum if FPO "I" had been transferred to Hamadan prior to the offensive. It may have been HQ FPO "Z", but it would have been much simpler to send this FPO from Tiflis directly to Hamadan

instead of FPO "I". A more logical explanation is that during this period, the Caucasian Army HQ used the services of the nearest corps FPO, namely FPO No. 29 of the 1st Caucasian Army Corps, which advanced directly to Erzerum, captured it, and whose HQ later remained for some time in the town. It is known definitely that both HQ FPOs "I" and "Z" were functioning in Erzerum in April 1917.

However, there is one more possible explanation of the FPO "I" postmarks on the mail from Hamadan, namely that this FPO was temporarily divided and some of the officials went to Hamadan while the other group remained at the Caucasian Army headquarters. This scenario could be confirmed if mail items from Erzerum with postmarks of FPO "I" could be located from this same period.

Returning now to the Expeditionary Corps, there remains the question about the location of FPO No. 162 during the second occupation of Hamadan by Russian troops beginning in April 1917. The literature sources give contradictory information on the whereabouts of the 1st Cau-

casian Cavalry Corps HQ in this period: while some sources insist that the HQ continued to stay in Ave, other sources point to Hamadan. Thus, FPO No. 162 could have been located at either Ave (or Kazvin) or Hamadan. There is still no answer to this question.

On the other hand, there are now some indications that Reserve FPO No. 115 was located in Melyazgert in 1916–1917 and that Line-of-Communications FPTB No. 250 was at Station Sophali of the Maku Railway in 1917. In my original article, I suggested connections between Line-of-Communications FPTB No. 242 and the 1st Kuban Infantry Brigade, and between FPTB No. 243 and the 2nd Kuban Infantry Brigade. Both brigades were evacuated in the summer of 1917 to their native Kuban via the port of Enzeli. So the FPTBs lost their attachment and could have been placed at either location on a more permanent basis. There are also now indications that Station Keprikei of the Erzerum Railway was the location of FPTB No. 242 during the second half of 1917.

# Additional Notes on the American Relief Administration Courier Service

by Raymond J. Pietruszka



Figure 1: Front of a card from the Don University in Rostov-on-Don to professors at McGill University in Montreal, Canada.

The February 1922 postcard rate of 6000 rubles is paid with two 300-ruble stamps revalued to 3000 rubles each.

This article documents additional information that has been reported to me since the publication of my original article on the American Relief Administration (ARA) in *Rossica* No. 129–130 (October 1997). Four items are discussed here: a new group of cards; cancellations used in Moscow; an early usage; and a courier cover to a third country.

In the previous article, four phases of the mailing of ARA cards were identified. Phase 1 was from late 1921 to mid-March 1922, in which cards were mailed without cancels but with the correct postage. In Phase 2, from mid-March until June 1922, cards with Russian stamps had additional postage and cancels added

at the courier destination, usually New York City or a European capital. During Phase 3, which partially overlapped the early phase and ran from mid-May to June 1922, cards were canceled in Moscow. Phase 4, after June 1922, had cards that were sent through the normal postal system.

## A New Group of Cards

In response to the first article, I received three replies with information on fourteen additional cards and letters. These items help fill in some of the missing details. The new cards show a far wider circulation than previously seen before. Cards were from Rostov-on-Don, Kiev,

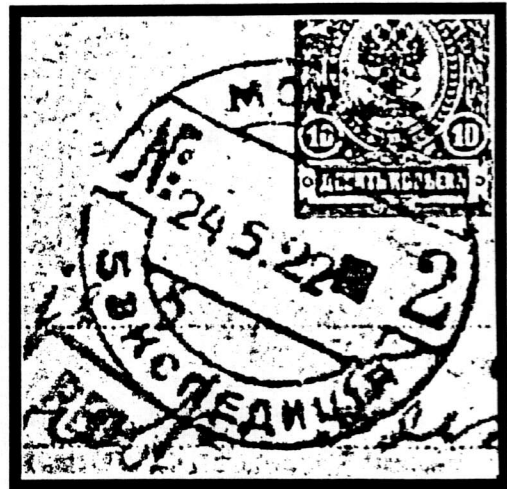
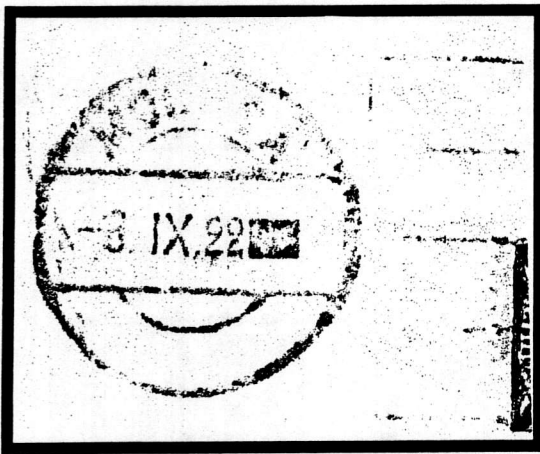


Figure 2: The most common Moscow cancels:  
on the left is the Moscow machine cancel and on the right is the Moscow 5th Dispatch Office cancel.

Saratov, and Minsk, just to name a few of the different locations. These cards are still dated mainly in the April-to-June time frame, and they follow the pattern of Phase 3 (i.e., canceled with current stamps) but with a major difference: many of these cards passed through the regular Soviet mails and were not couriered through Moscow by the ARA.

This implies that a number of these cards were mailed at the source and traveled through the normal mails. Of the ten cards studied, four traveled through the normal mails. I surmise that these were mailed by the individual who had received the food package instead of turning them over to the ARA to be filled in and posted (figure 1). Is it possible that the bulk of ARA cards were filled in by ARA personnel because the majority of the people to whom they were delivering food were either illiterate or too poor to pay the postage to mail the cards back?

Based on the dates of these four cards, they traveled concurrently with the bulk movement of cards through the ARA's Moscow office. When added to the previous cards recorded, the data indicate that about five percent of the cards passed through the normal mail system. This

would make them a large enough group to be considered a separate group of Phase 3 (group 4).

The key characteristics of group 4 would be: mailed between mid-April to mid-June 1922, bearing current postage (see note on postal rates below), and canceled in the city of origin. They sometimes have additional postmarks such as the three-diamond postmark of Moscow or a postmark from one of the other major transit point cities. A key point is that they would not have only a Moscow machine or 5th Dispatch Office cancel.

#### **A Note on Cancellations**

An additional point about the Phase 3 cards: at least two types of cancels were used. The most common is the Moscow machine cancel. Less common but still not rare is the Moscow 5th Dispatch Office cancel (figure 2). In order of frequency, I would rate the Moscow machine cancel very common, used on about sixty-five percent of the cards; the Moscow 5th Dispatch Office cancel, common, on about thirty-five percent of cards; and non-Moscow cancels, uncommon, about five percent. I would not consider any of these truly rare.

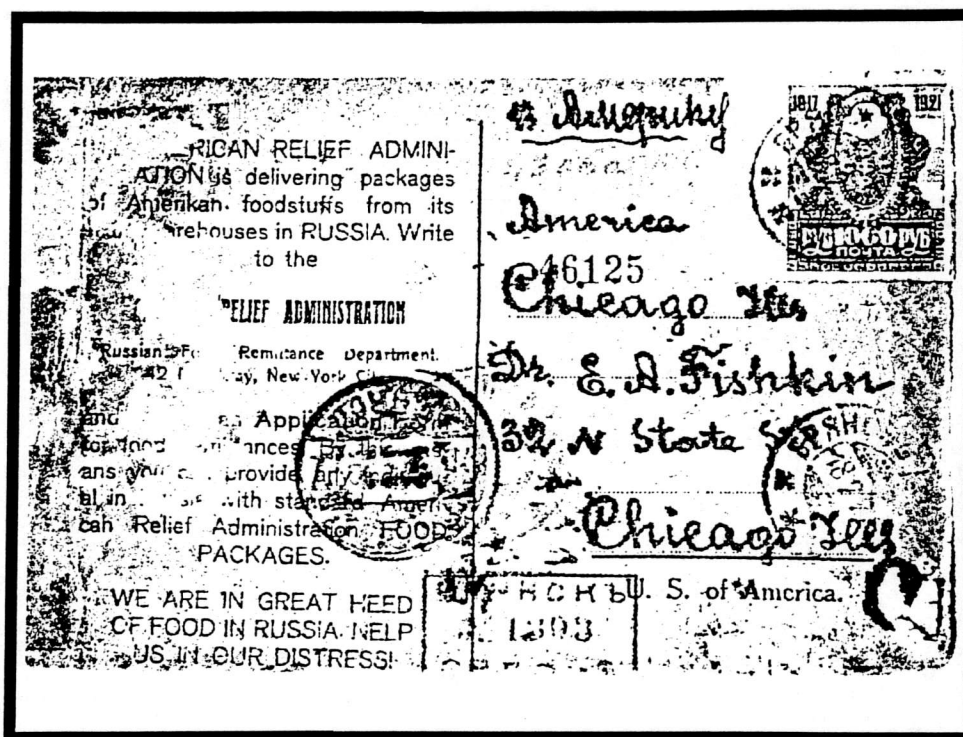


Figure 3: Card from Bryansk to Chicago. Early mailing.

1 February 1922 registered postcard rate of 7000 rubles paid with a 5th Anniversary Issue and missing stamps.

### A Very Early Card

A great find in this lot is a very early card. It is a registered card from Bryansk, dated 18 February 1922 and sent to Chicago, passing through the regular mail (figure 3). The card appears to be missing 6000 rubles in postage, probably five additional 6000-ruble stamps of the Anniversary issue. The rate was 2000 rubles for the card and 5000 rubles for registration.

### A Courier Card to a Third Country

Also included is a card that wonderfully shows the courier system at its best. Figure 4 shows a card that reentered the mail stream in New York and then traveled to Uruguay without any additional postage. This is a Phase 3, group 3 card. It has 8000 rubles in postage, a Moscow machine cancel, and is addressed to Montevideo, Uruguay. In addition, it has a Varick Street Station postmark of New York City

as a transit mark as well as a Uruguay receiving mark! The transit dates were: 21 April Moscow, 3 June New York, and 27 June Montevideo, Uruguay.

### A Note on Postal Rates

ARA cards did not always follow the published postal rates of the period. There is the previously reported 8000-ruble rate and other inconsistencies. With ARA cards, it must be understood that most of them did not travel through the Russian mail system and so it did not matter. But in viewing these additional cards, there were several cases in which cards that did pass through the mail system did not have the current rates. With these cards you see the problems of inflation and the availability of stamps. For example, the postcard rate is 18,000 rubles but the card is franked with 20,000 rubles

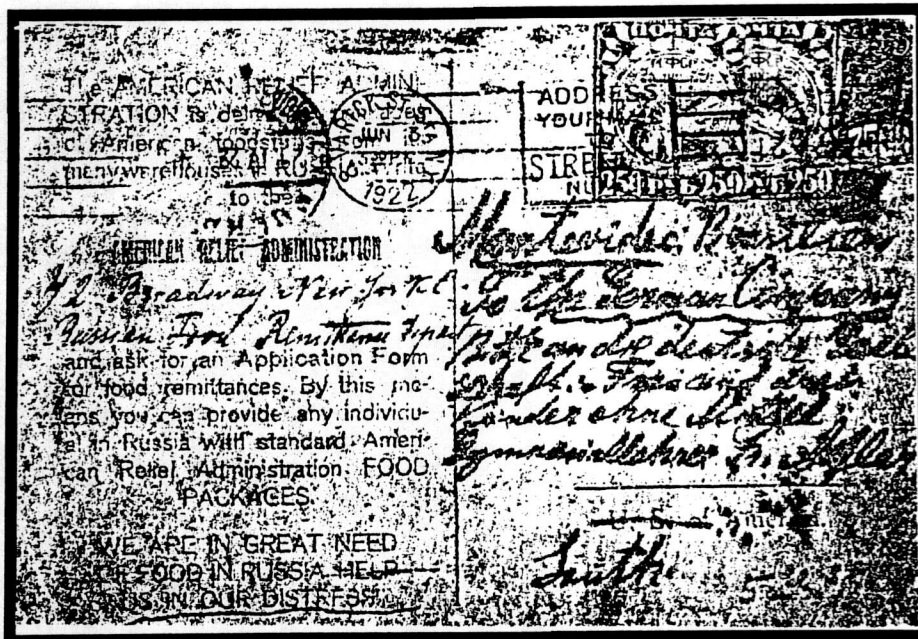


Figure 4: Couriered card to a third country: Odessa via Moscow to New York City by ARA courier. Re-entered mail at New York and delivered to Montevideo, Uruguay. Franked with the unofficial ARA rate of 8000 rubles.

in stamps, or 121,000 rubles for the 120,000-ruble rate. Most interesting is that the card was franked with 200,000 rubles to pay for the 120,000-ruble rate. The letter rate was 200,000 rubles. In two of the cases when it was overpaid, it appears to be the result of which stamps were available: one of these cards has a single 2-kopeck stamp and the other card has two 10-kopeck stamps. A point to remember is that the difference in value of 120,000 rubles versus 200,000 rubles was equivalent to less than 3 cents! Being 10,000 rubles off at the end of the day most likely didn't matter much.

A final comment about the cards is that I still have not seen a card postmarked after July 1922 that was used as designed. Cards have been reported used after that date but as private stationery, not as the food receipt cards of the

ARA. If anyone has one of these cards please contact the author.

I would like to thank the following members for responding to the first article and providing photocopies of cards in their collections: Robert Taylor, Mike Ercolini, and Asdrubal Prado. It is their contributions that have made this article possible.

# Revenue Stamps of Soviet Ukraine

by Inger Kuzych and Viktor Mohylny

The 1918 documentary and theater fiscal stamps of independent Ukraine have been thoroughly described in two articles by Val Zabijaka (references 3 and 4). Far less well known, however, are the revenue stamps issued between 1919 and 1922 by the Soviet Ukrainian government. Six of these values that we have been able to document are described below. If you think the “regular” revenue issues of 1918 are difficult to track down, particularly used, the Soviet Ukrainian emissions present an even greater challenge. They are extremely rare.

All of the Soviet Ukrainian issues were produced and released in Khar'kov (Kharkiv), the capital of the Ukrainian Socialist Soviet Republic<sup>1</sup> from 1920 to 1934. The first two stamps, from 1919, are simple overprints on the myrtle green 50-shahiv value of the documentary fiscal issue released a year earlier by the independent Ukrainian government. The first overprint was made with violet ink using a hand-held device. Two lines reading upward state: **ОДИН Руб / 1 Руб** (One Rub./1 Rub.). The second overprint was lithographed using black ink; it obliterates the old value and underneath adds: **РУБ 40 ЛЕЙ** (RUB 40 LES) (figure 1).<sup>2</sup>

The remaining four stamps were printed as a set and date from 1922. They are listed in Maksymczuk's 1962 catalog (page 31) as “Revenue Stamps of the People's Commissariat of Finances USSR. Soviet Emblem. Inscription in the Ukrainian language: ‘Revenue Stamp’.”<sup>3</sup>

1. 15 kop. red/yellow
2. 30 kop. raspberry/pink
3. 40 kop. blue/yellow
4. 50 kop. bronze/ochre

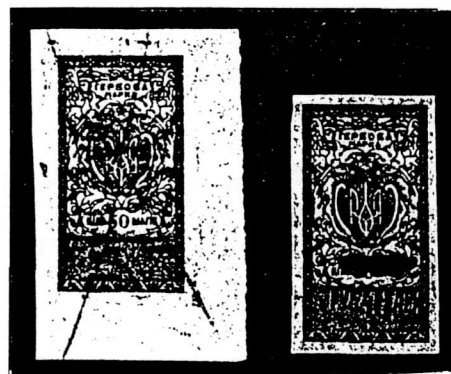


Figure 1: The first Soviet Ukrainian revenue stamps, issued in 1919.

Figure 2 shows a document dated 13 October 1922 with two pairs of 50-kopeck revenue stamps. A number of other such fiscal documents are known; the earliest recorded date is 11 October 1922. Figure 3 shows a mint 15-kopeck value from this set.

From 25 November 1920 to 1 April 1922 — a period of runaway inflation — revenue stamps were not used in the Ukrainian Socialist Soviet Republic. It is quite probable that the new set of revenue stamps was printed between April and October 1922. However, it is also a good possibility that this set was printed sometime in 1919–1920, but not released because inflation would have rendered the issue useless.

The abbreviation on the 1922 stamps is actually incorrect for its time, as the initials read “YCCP” (USSR/Ukrainian Socialist Soviet Republic in Russian). This Russian inscription is also found on the coat of arms of Soviet Ukraine in 1919, but three years later it should have read “YCPP” (USR, for Ukrainian Socialist Soviet Republic).

Д. № 27

УСР [signature]

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за № 3350-51

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Алексаандри Демидовою  
Рому.

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Огарушка севбовета крону Аляган  
и не и сестри моеи - Елене Демидовою  
бабука удостоверенни о мурнасти

13 Октября 1922.

просителница

Алексаандра Ромашко

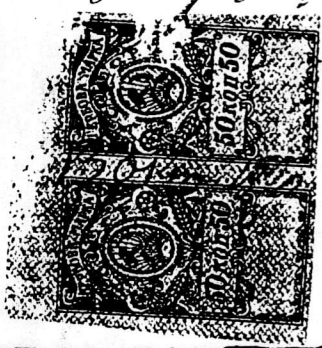
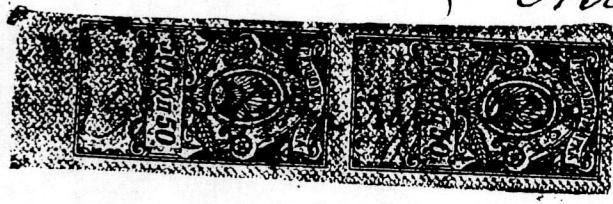


Figure 2: A document with two pairs of 50-kopeck Ukrainian revenue stamps.



Figure 3: A 15-kopeck Ukrainian revenue stamp of the 1923 issue.

### Notes

1. The Ukrainian Socialist Soviet Republic was renamed the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic in 1937.
2. There is one more overprint on the 1918 50-shahiv revenue stamp. It was made in Rostov in 1919 and is properly classified as a Russian revenue stamp. Its violet, Russian-language inscription (made with a handstamp) reads "Воор. сили Юга Россіи" (Military Forces of South Russia).
3. Maksymczuk's catalog incorrectly lists this issue as having been released in 1923.

### References

Maksymczuk, Julian G. *Catalog of Foreign Private Stamps and Entires, Cancellations, Revenue Stamps, and Flap Seals Pertaining to Ukraine* [in Ukrainian.] (Chicago: Ukrainian Philatelic Library, 1962), pages 30, 31, plate 2.

Mohylny, Viktor. "Enigmatic Revenue Stamps Labelled 'USSR'" [in Ukrainian], *Ukrainian Philatelic Herald* 40 (1996): 50-52.

Zabijaka, Val. "Ukrainian Revenue Stamps," *Ukrainian Philatelist* 39 (1977): 6-9.

Zabijaka, Val. "The Ukrainian Revenue Issues of 1918: Documentary and Theater Tax Stamps," *Ukrainian Philatelist* 76 (1996): 97-101.

### Lindner T - album pages with preprinted stamps

	pages	DEM	(US\$)*
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1923 - 1934	29	92.00	(54.12)
1935 - 1944	45	144.00	(84.71)
1945 - 1949	57	182.00	(107.05)
1950 - 1956	52	166.00	(97.65)
1957 - 1960	55	176.00	(103.53)
1961 - 1963	47	150.50	(88.24)
1964 - 1966	55	176.00	(103.53)
1967 - 1969	47	150.00	(88.24)
1970 - 1973	58	185.00	(108.82))
1974 - 1976	42	134.00	(78.82)
1977 - 1979	47	150.00	(88.24)
1980 - 1982	39	124.00	(72.92)
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# More Siberian Surprises: Comments on the Article by Ivo Steyn and Something Else

---

by A. Epstein

In the previous issue of the *Rossica Journal* (no. 131–132), Ivo Steyn introduced us to his impressive new findings in the field of Siberian stamps and postal history.<sup>1</sup> In the present notes, I would like to present some additional information as well as propose my own theory concerning the origin of the Kolchak stamps.

## The Kolchak Issue: Date of Issue

Based on the article by V. Yudkin,<sup>2</sup> Ivo Steyn came to the conclusion that the date of this issue was May–July(?) 1919. Actually, that article deals generally with the first two sets of postal rates of “White” Siberia, which were documented by references to the corresponding newspaper publications of that time. As a matter of fact, nowhere in his article did the author say that the announcement about the second set of rates introduced on 15 May 1919 also mentioned the overprinted stamps that were to be used for franking mail. Actually, the corresponding phrase was formulated as an author’s conclusion (that seems rather wrong to me) and reads:

... The issue of stamps overprinted with new values was occasioned not so much by the change of postal rates as by [a] shortage at the postal administration of postage stamps of the all-Russian pattern with the face values 35k, 50k, 70k, 1r, and 3r.

Indeed, the 5-ruble value is omitted here. However, Yudkin’s article begins with the following sentence: “In December 1918 stamps of Russia were overprinted with [a] new value in

Omsk. The new face values were 35k, 50k, 70k, 1r, 3r, and 5 rubles.” In this case, we have only an assertion unsupported by any documented evidence. The above date of issue appears to be V. Yudkin’s invention.

The date of May 1919 proposed by Ivo Steyn as the earliest date of issue seems more realistic. However, my theory is that there were actually *two separate issues* of Kolchak stamps, and the reasons for such an assumption are given below.

First, we should remember the fact pointed out by Steyn that while the 35- and 70-kopeck values were used in a large territory, including West and East Siberia, the Far East, and the area of the Chinese Eastern Railway, the rest of the stamps are found used only west of Lake Baikal. This did not happen by coincidence. An obvious guess is that the 50-kop., 1-, 3-, and 5-ruble stamps simply could not be delivered farther to the east than Irkutsk because of the chaotic conditions in Siberia after the defeats of Kolchak’s armies in the summer and autumn of 1919.

Another reason follows from studying the postal rates. History shows that during a shortage of postage stamps of particular values, the surcharges necessary for the most widespread kinds of mail are the first to be manufactured. Up to 15 May 1919, former Soviet postal rates were applied in “White” Siberia: 20 kop. for post-cards, 35 kop. for inland letters, and 70 kop. as the registration fee. It seems there was still an adequate supply of 20-kop. stamps to frank post-cards, but stamps with values of 35 kop. and higher were in short supply because they had been used to frank the corresponding mail dur-

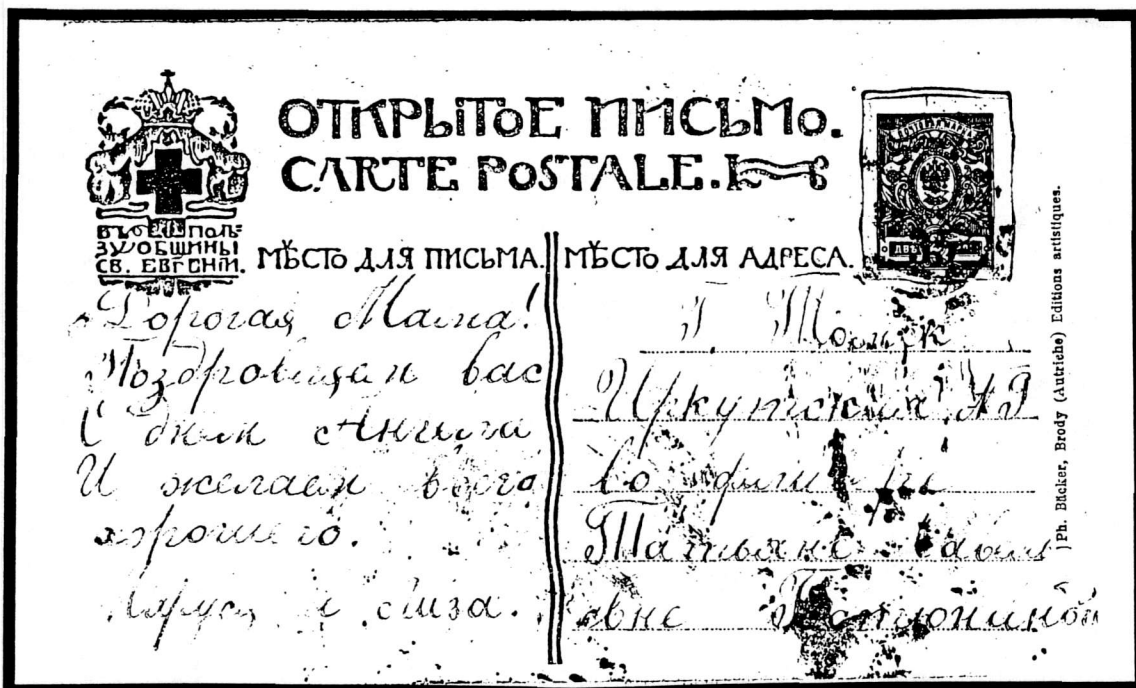


Figure 1: A postcard franked with an imperforate 35/2-kop. stamp, dated 25.7.22.

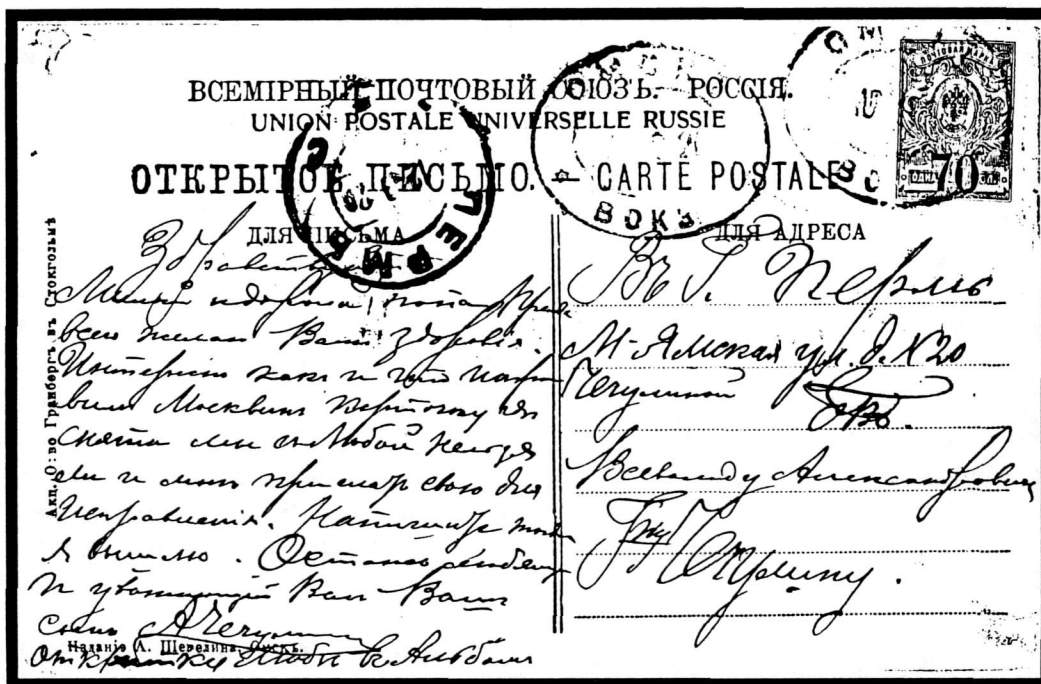


Figure 2: A postcard franked with a single perforate Kolchak 70/1-kop. stamp, dated 10.9.20.

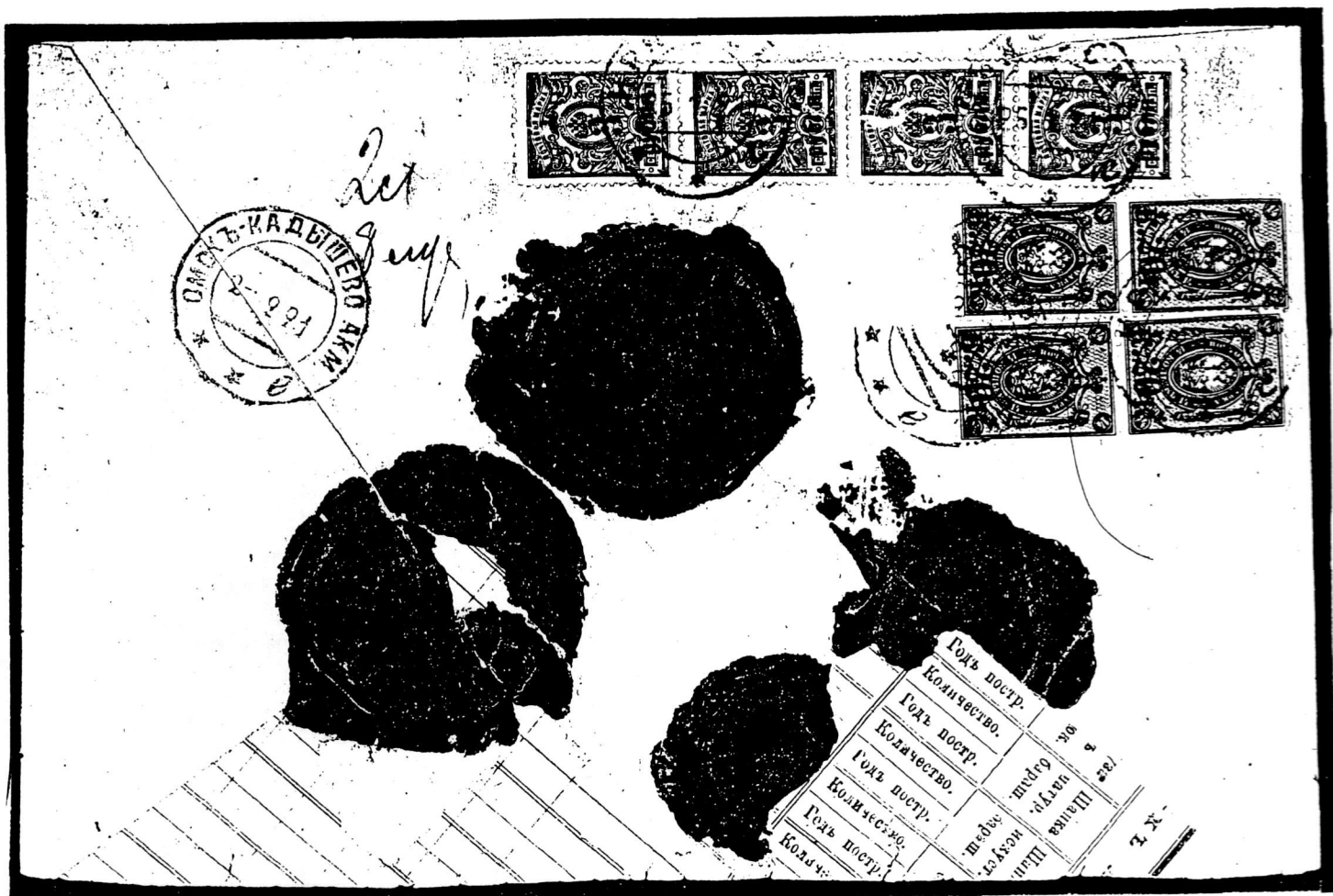


Figure 3: A letter with a declared value of 5000 rubles sent from Irkutsk to Omsk on 25.1.21.

ing the earlier Soviet period. So it was logical to surcharge the stamps of the lowest face value (1 and 2 kopecks) for use in franking ordinary inland letters and to prepay the registration fee. It could be that the overprinted stamps were ready as early as May, although the decision about their manufacture was made earlier.

However, after 15 May the domestic postal rates changed. The registration fee remained 70 kopecks, but the ordinary letter rate was raised to 50 kopecks. Therefore this value now became the most necessary, and a decision was made to issue another set of overprinted stamps of this value as well as in the 1-, 3-, and 5-ruble values, which could be used for franking heavy mail,

money transfers, and parcel cards. This time, basic arms-type stamps of the higher face values (3-, 4-, 7-, and 14-kops.) were used because they were now unusable with the new rates. However, the issue of additional surcharges could now have been ordered long before the introduction of the new rates, i.e., not earlier than May. Some time was required for preparing the plates and overprinting the stamps. Therefore, it is quite probable that the additional issue was effected only in July, and there remained time just for delivering these stamps only as far as Irkutsk. It is very probable that this was done already after the occupation of west and central Siberia by the Red Army at the end of 1919.

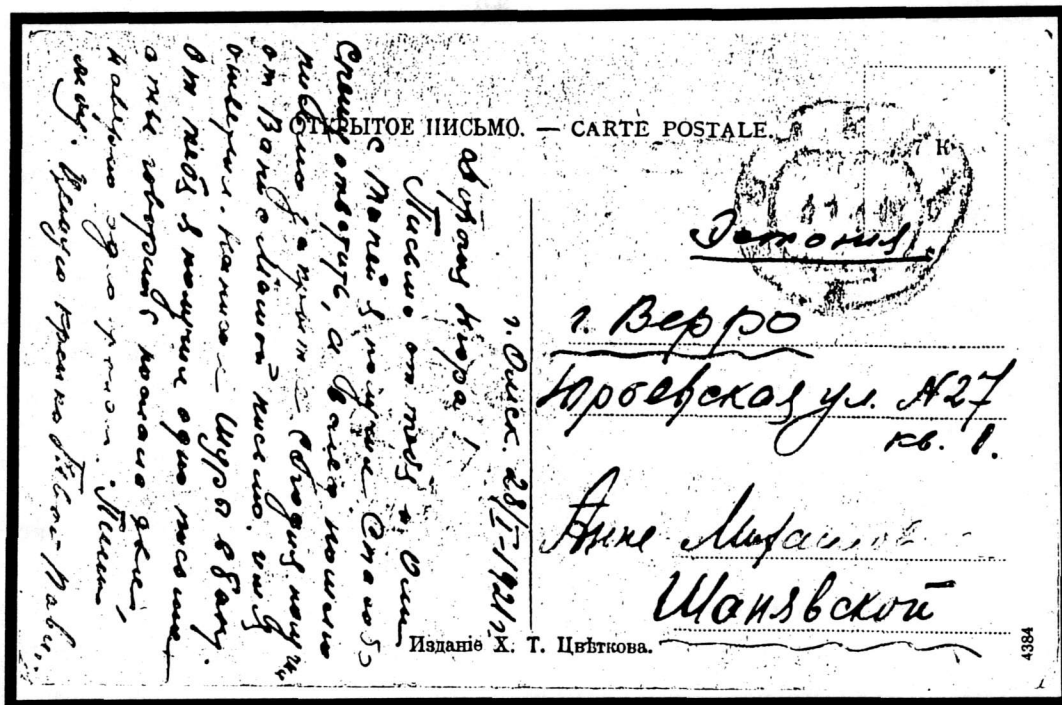


Figure 4: A postcard sent from Omsk to Estonia post-free.

At least to me, these values are known to have been used only under the Soviet administration. So, such is my theory.

#### The Kolchak Issue: Dates and Area of Use

Concerning the area of use, I can only confirm Steyn's conclusions, adding that beside the ruble values, the 50/3-kop. stamps were never used east of Lake Baikal. I would also like to add the information from Tchilinghirian and Stephen that the imperforate 70/1-kop. stamps were used at the Dzhalaïnor and Yaomyn stations on the Chinese Eastern Railway.

However, I can extend the period of use to a much later date. Figure 1 shows a postcard franked with an imperforate 35/2-kop. stamp with a very indistinct cancellation (from a worn device) on which the placename is almost illegible (probably Omsk), but the 25.7.22 date is quite visible. At the time, the ordinary postcard rate was 20,000 old inflated rubles or 2 rubles of 1922, and unsurcharged imperial arms stamps

revalued 10,000 times were generally used in Soviet Russia for franking purposes. Consequently, the Kolchak stamp was used in this case as a usual arms stamp (ignoring the surcharge). I also have a loose 50/3-kop. imperforate stamp cancelled on 30.8.22 at a place that cannot be deciphered from the strike.

There are two more points that I would like to discuss in these notes.

#### The Domestic Rates of Siberia Following the First Two Sets

It seems that in October 1919, the domestic postal rates were raised again. This increase was decided, evidently, on the eve of the evacuation of Omsk by the Whites in the second week of November. As of yet, there are no available documents on this matter.

Items of domestic mail passed through the post at the end of 1919 but later items from 1920 are rarely found and their franking shows considerable scattering. However, one can de-

duce from the available material that the rates were raised on to average three times the rates of 15 May. The most probable rates seem to be 70 kopecks for postcards, 1 ruble 50 kops. for ordinary inland letters, and 2 rubles for registration (the two latter were already suggested by Steyn<sup>3</sup>).

The most intriguing thing is, however, that these rates, including ordinary mail, were applied also under the Soviet administration for rather a long time, while in Soviet Russia the ordinary mail was sent post-free. This fact itself is not surprising: the same situation occurred in Soviet Russia, but there the former rates were applied for only two to three months.

An ordinary postcard posted at Omsk Station to Perm' is shown in figure 2. The card is franked with a single perforated Kolchak 70/1-kop. stamp and cancelled by an oval station postmark dated 10.9.20.

Figure 3 shows a letter with a declared value of 5000 rubles sent from Irkutsk to Omsk on 25.1.21. The franking consists of three 3 rub./7-kop. Kolchak stamps and four 20 kop./14 kop.-arms stamps revalued to 20 kop. each, but one stamp of unknown value is missing from the cover. The current postal rate of the RSFSR for letters with a declared value was 5 rubles per 15 grams for the weight, and 2 rubles for each 100 rubles declared (or part thereof). So the missing stamp most probably was another 20 kop./14 kop., for a total of 112 rubles., i.e., only 2 rubles overfranking if the letter weighed between 15 and 30 grams. The conclusion from all that has been said above is that the general postal rates of the RSFSR were not introduced in Soviet Siberia earlier than 1 December 1920 or, more probably, on 1 January 1921. The postcard in figure 4 from Omsk, with the message written on 28 January 1921, was sent to Verro (Võru), Estonia, post-free, although the foreign mail should have been franked with stamps; however, no postage due seems to have been collected. The postmark of Omsk from an extremely worn device has the date 3.1.18 or

19. There is another, quite illegible arrival or transit postmark.

### **How was it done in the FER, with the capital in Chita, before the issuance of its own stamps?**

Covers franked with the stamps of the Chita definitive issue and posted in 1923 (i.e., when the Far Eastern Republic [FER] ceased to exist) are not too scarce. Much rarer are such covers from 1922, to say nothing of those used at the end of 1921. Almost nothing is known, however, about how the FER's postal service functioned before the issue of these definitives in November/December 1921.<sup>4</sup> The FER was officially proclaimed in April 1920 in Verkhneudinsk, and in October its government was transferred to Chita when General (*ataman*) Semenov was chased out of his capital. Initially, the authority of this government was extended only to the western part of the Transbaikal area, while its eastern part, including Chita, was under the administration of General Semenov and protected by Japan. In August 1920, Amur province, with its capital in Blagoveshchensk which had earlier been ruled independently by a communist administration, agreed to subordinate itself to the FER. In December the same was done by the Maritime Province with its capital in Vladivostok, but this arrangement remained actually rather nominal and ended in April 1921 after Merkulov's coup d'état.

The postal activities in the Maritime Province (of the FER with the capital in Vladivostok) are rather well documented by the existing postal history material.<sup>5,6</sup> A few covers also exist from Amur oblast', where local stamps were used for franking mail.<sup>7</sup> But how was it in the Chita area?

Figure 5 shows a cover with a declared value of 12,010 rubles sent to Omsk from Chita on 28.12.20. The franking consists of thirteen 20-kop.-arms stamps revalued to 20 rub. each, for a total of 260 rubles. This amount is in complete conformity with the above-mentioned

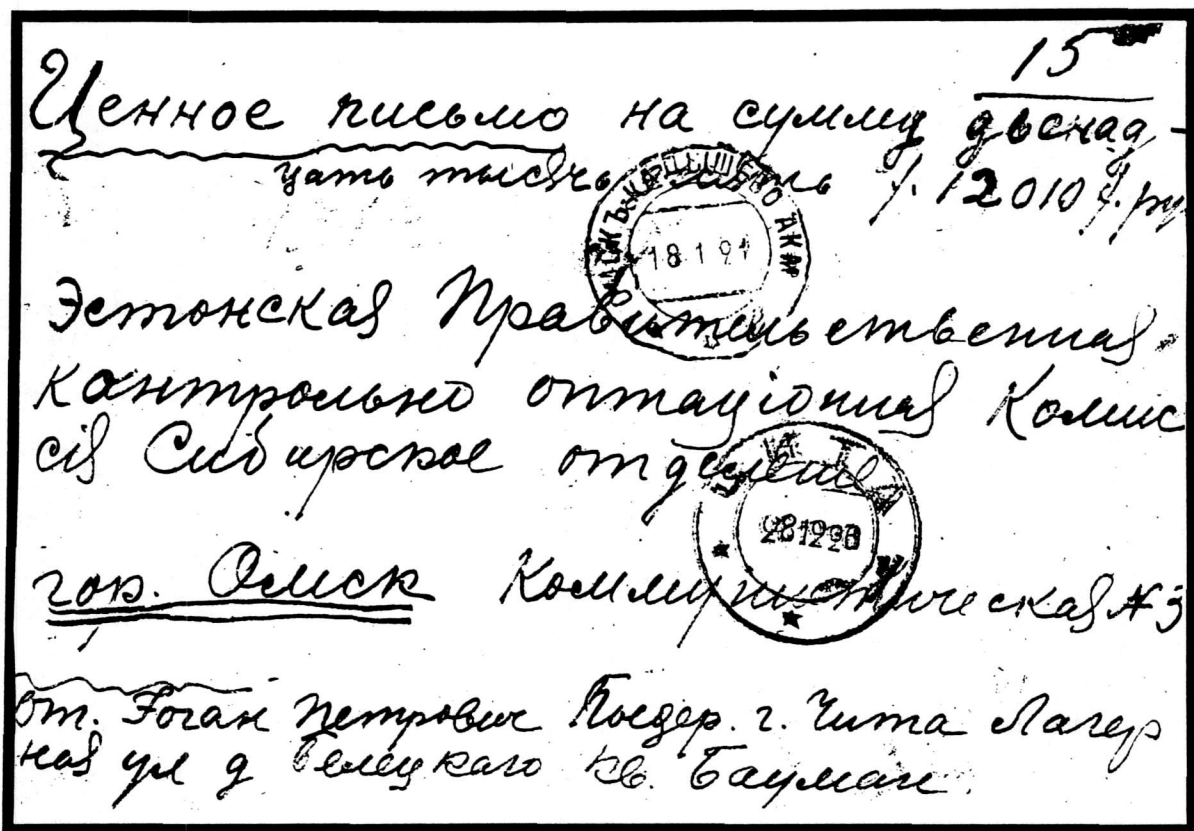


Figure 5: A cover with a declared value of 12,010 rubles sent to Omsk from Chita, dated 28.12.20.

rates of the RSFSR if we ignore the weight charge (a minimum of 5 rubles, i.e., about two percent of the total franking). The conclusions are that the same postal rates as in the RSFSR (at least for letters with a declared value) were also applied in the FER, and the same imperial arms stamps were used for franking mail during this period. There probably were no low face-value stamps, such as the 5 kop. (= 5 rubles), at the Chita post and telegraph office to prepay the weight charge.

However, because of the shortage of postage stamps, on 27 January 1921 the FER government ordered that special handstamps be applied to covers to pay the rates for internal mail. A currency reform introducing the gold ruble was carried out in the FER (Chita) on 16 May 1921, i.e., nine months after the same had been

done in Vladivostok.<sup>3</sup> According to the governmental decree of 25 July (supplemented on 1 September), new stamps of the original design in gold currency were to be issued, which actually happened by the end of the year. The face values of these stamps corresponded to the new postal rates apparently adopted in the summer of 1921.

The new stamps were not yet ready by this time, when the postcard shown in figure 6 was posted. This postcard, sent from Blagoveshchensk on 17 October 1921 via Moscow (censored there on 17.11.21, see the oval postmark, also a transit postmark of Moscow dated 18.11.21 on the reverse) to Tallinn, Estonia (arrived on 23 November) was franked with a 4-kop.-arms stamp stuck on the card's reverse (as is usual for the Esperantists' correspondence)

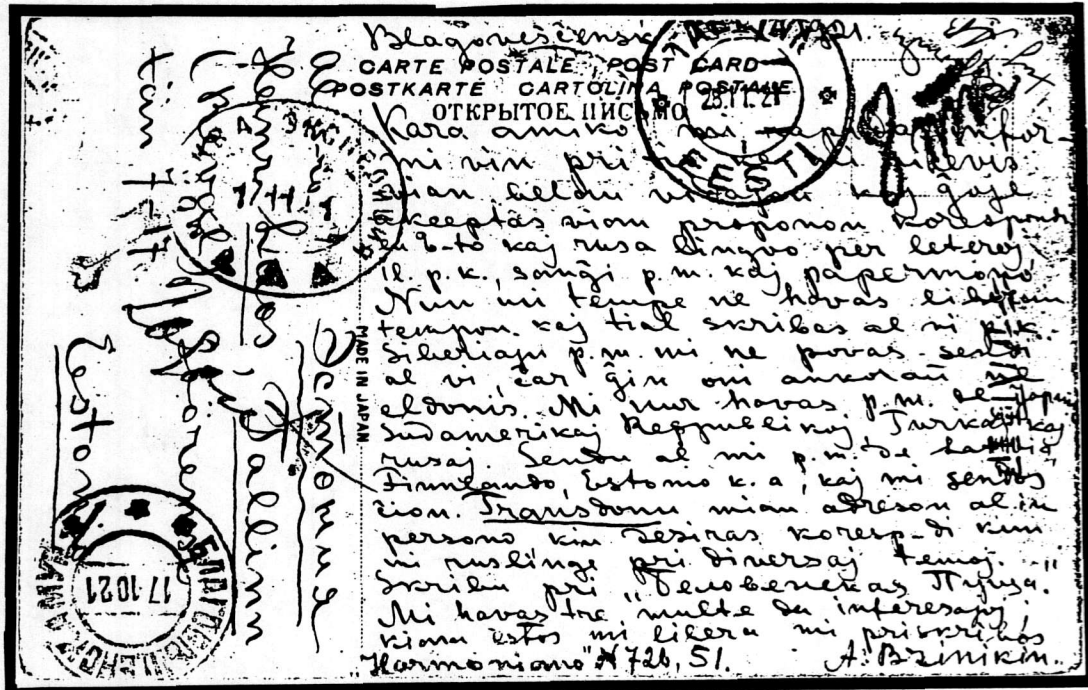


Figure 6: A postcard sent from Blagoveshchensk, on 17 October 1921, via Moscow to Tallinn.

in accordance with the foreign postcard rate in force. The stamp was not cancelled, however, and there is a postage-due marking "T" with the sum of 20,000 written by hand in black ink, probably in Moscow; there is another manuscript "8 mk" in red added in Estonia. The 28 January decree said nothing about foreign mail, so it remains for us to guess whether the stamp on the reverse remained unnoticed or whether such a franking was not recognized as valid.

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2. V. Yudkin, "Pochtovye Tarify v Sibiri 1919 g.," *Filateliya* 9 (1996): 49–56.
3. Ivo Steyn, "Siberian Postal Rates: A Re-construction," *The Post Rider* 25 (December 1989): 9–16.
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6. Ivo Steyn, "The Far Eastern Republic: New Information," *The Post Rider* 20 (June 1987): 70–73.
7. Ivo Steyn, "The Blagoveshchensk Issue," *British Journal of Russian Philately* 69 (Sep-tember 1990): 22–25.

# The North Pole Overprints of 1955–1956

by Dave Waterman

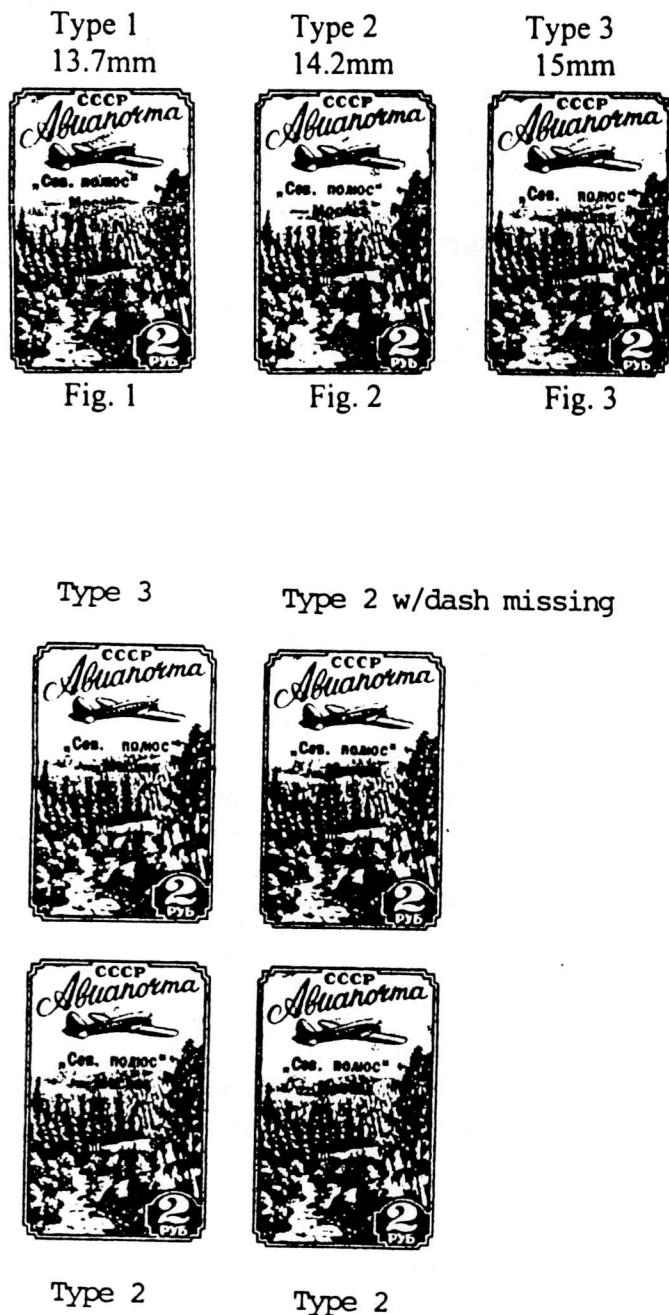
This issue has always been confusing to me. I knew there had to be more to it than I could find in the several catalogs I was using. Some serious research and the von Rolf Weinbrecht catalog have given me an understanding that I would like to share.

There are three major types of overprints as well as two perforate varieties of this issue: 12x12.5, the common perforation, and 12.5, the rare variety. The three printing varieties can be distinguished easily by the length of the first line of the overprint. This is the same for both the 1-ruble and 2-ruble values.

The obvious distinction is the space between the words. The words all appear to be the same size, but are farther apart on each type. When two types are side by side, the difference is seen readily without a magnifying glass. The variety with the dash missing only exists as Type 2. There is also a variety on Type 1 that has a small open “c” in “Mockba” that exists on the 2-ruble value only. The perf. 12.5 only comes on Types 2 and 3, and with the dash missing on Type 2.

The original overprinting was made in 1955 as Type I. There was a reissue in 1956, when Types 2 and 3 appeared. Both of these are found on the same sheet, and so vertical and horizontal pairs can be found (figure 4).

There are two types of fake overprints to be found. One seems to have originated in Germany, and the other in the Soviet Union. When placed side by side with a genuine stamp, both fakes are easily recognized. On the German fake, the cyrillic letter “Ю” appears as “10” and the color is off. The Soviet fake has a first line of 17mm long. This fake is seldom seen in the United States.



## Soviet Intercosmos Issues '78-'87

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by Jeff Dugdale

Following the first international flight (Apollo–Soyuz in 1975), between the late 1970s and 1980s the U.S.S.R. flew a dozen guest researchers in Soyuz craft to orbiting space stations within its Intercosmos program initially for Soviet-bloc countries, and for each issue prepared a three-stamp set. Additionally several miniature sheets celebrating various stages of the project were issued by the Soviet Union, for example 50-kopeck sheets marking international space research in 1978 and for Space Day in 1980 and 1983.

All Soviet and most partner country stamps in the series bore the red, blue, and gold circular project emblem whose central soaring image is reminiscent of the Moscow Space Obelisk. This image appears to make its debut (in different colors) on 15 October 1976 on the 20-kopeck issue (*Scott* 4493) within a five-issue set marking international space cooperation, two of which celebrate ASTP. Its demise comes on the 1987 Soviet issues to mark the Syrian flight (*Scott* 5580–83 + miniature sheet); the next international flight (Bulgaria in June 1988) bears the new Glavkosmos symbol (*Scott* 5674).

At this point issuing policy changed and further “guest in space” flights were celebrated by the issue of only one stamp, commencing with that second Bulgarian flight in 1988 and sometimes no stamp at all was produced (e.g., for French cosmonauts Tognini in 1992, Heigener in 1993, and André-Deshays in 1996, and for the flights of Germans Merbold and Reiter in 1994 and 1995 respectively).

This article suggests that the first twelve Intercosmos flights themselves would be an interesting sub-theme in a collection or a display topic because there are many related curious aspects.

The group of twelve divides into two

phases, the first nine flights, averaging a week in length, being packed into the period March 1978 (Czechoslovakia) to May 1981 (Romania) with the other three stretching over five years: France (June 1982), India (April 1984) and Syria (July 1987).

With the exception of the Bulgarian and Hungarian issues, which are in 6.5 x 3.3 cm vertical format, all issues are in 5.2 x 3.7 cm format, all but three in horizontal format. The standard face value series is 6–15–32-kopeck, although the final three have vary considerably: France (6–20–45), India (5–20–45), and the Syrian issue curiously bears the face values 5–10–15 kopecks. These last three issues were also complemented by the issue of a 50-kopeck miniature sheet.

A study of the design of these three dozen stamps allows one to draw some fascinating inferences. First of all, only thirty-five of the thirty-six designs were put on sale, the 15-kopeck value for the Bulgarian flight (April 1979) not being issued presumably because the design showed a Salyut interior while the actual flight failed to dock and lasted only two days.

Of the twelve sets, the first nine and the last are stylistically very similar but in fact the designs were shared between two designers and surprisingly — because to me the differences are undetectable — the first four (Czech–Bulgaria) are by G. Komlev with the rest by Yu. Levinovsky. (Komlev and Levinovsky, along with R. Strelnikov, have dominated space stamp design for the Soviet Union in the last twenty-five years with occasional input by others including cosmonauts Leonov and Dzhaniybekov.) Komlev and Levinovsky are also the designers of several pre-stamped items of postal stationery within the Intercosmos era. In particular, Komlev prepared some special cacheted and canceled envelopes

## The Story of A(ny) Mission



medical testing, centrifuge endurance, bus to launchpad, entering Soyuz



docking, adapting to weightlessness, experiments and exercise, re-entry



soft landing in Kazakhstan, traditional capsule marking, arriving in Moscow as heroes, post-flight press conference

and cards for some Intercosmos flights complete with flight crew signatures of which only 100 were made. (He has also designed space stamps for some African countries.)

The French and the Indian issues stand out as being stylistically different, the latter in particular. (The Indian set is not really about *manned* spaceflight at all.) However, if we examine the other twenty-nine stamps we quickly conclude that if the country flag was removed from each stamp almost all are entirely unspecific with regard to which mission they relate. In fact, the design content of the issues for Czechoslovakia, Hungary (?), Vietnam, and Romania is absolutely and totally interchangeable! Where there *is* mission-specific data it is minimal and related to one stamp only: the Polish 15-kopeck shows the "Syrena" crystallization experiment on Soyuz 30 (which manufactured cadmium-tellurium-mercury semiconductor materials); likewise the East German 15-kopeck mentions "Raduga"; the Cuban 32-kopeck shows the cosmonauts writing in chalk by tradition on their capsule after landing, but *mutatis mutandis* this *could have* related to any mission; if you look *very* closely at the Hungarian issues you can see that the guest cosmonaut has a mustache, and Bertalan Farkas did have a mustache, but then so did the Bulgarian and Syrian guests! The Mongolian 15-kopeck is indeed particularly mission specific as it shows Mongol citizens in native dress watching details of the flights on television and the Syrian 10-kopeck shows data being sent down to the capitals of the two countries and a building in Damascus.

One other difference is that the French and Indian issues bear a different legend from all the others:

СОТРУДНИЧЕСТВО В КОСМОСЕ  
"cooperation in space" instead of "international  
space flights,"  
МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫЕ ПОЕТЫ В КОСМОС  
which is used on the first nine sets and which  
curiously re-appears on the final Syrian set after  
a six-year absence. The first term "cooperation

in space" indicates more research activities, joint technical work, and exchange of information, while the second phrase just relates to "joint flights."

The design concept of each set requires an in-flight scene on the middle value to be sandwiched between a scene depicting mission preparation and an end-of-flight scenario. So the 6-kopeck values depict such events as medical testing and cosmonauts waiting to enter their capsule; the 15-kopeck stamps show docking or cut away to let us see on-board activity; and the highest value stamps show undocking, re-entry, and landing scenes.

Given this and the "pick-and-mix" nature of most of the stamps it is possible to shuffle almost all of the issues and create a display which one could call "The Story of A(ny) Mission" as I have done on the previous page.

My overall impression of the twelve sets is one of innocence and cuteness largely due to the highly colorful drawings of the cosmonaut figures which remind me of comic cartoon-strip characters. With the exception of the Indian issue, I suspect that a very high percentage of the designs (and others not used) were done as a job-lot early and following each flight an official picked out three from each of the before, during, and after-flight pools of designs and had the designers append the national emblems and year date. This might explain why the Syrian set reverts to type after the stylistic changes in the French and Indian flight stamps.

Particularly in larger blocks, all sets are delightful and a display bringing them all together only underlines their color and ever-so-slightly naive designs!

With thanks for help to Alexander Kapitanov, Yuri Kvasnikov, Barry Smith, and Mikhail Vorobyov.

This article is reprinted from the March 1997 issue of *Orbis*: The Journal of the Astro Space Stamp Society, by the kind permission of the editor.

STAMP DETAILS	SCOTT	ISSUE DATE	SOYUZ	LAUNCH DATE
Czechoslovakia	4645-47	10.3 1978	28	2 March 1978
Poland	4670-72	28.6-5.7 1978	30	27 June 1978
East Germany	4690-92	27.8-3.9 1978	31	26 August 1978
Bulgaria	4747-48	10-27.4 1979	33	10 April 1979
Hungary	4835-36	27.5-4.6 1980	36	26 May 1980
Vietnam	4849-51	24.7-1.8 1980	37	23 July 1980
Cuba	4865-67	19-27.9 1980	38	18 September 1980
Mongolia	4921-23	23-30.3 1981	39	22 March 1981
Romania	4940-42	15-23.5 1981	40	15 May 1981
France	5059-61 + MS 5062	24.6-2.7 1982	T-6	24 June 1982
India	5241-43 + MS 5244	3-5.4 1984	T-11	3 April 1984
Syria	5580-82 + MS 5583	22-30.7 1987	TM-3	22 July 1987

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# “Historic Ukrainian Churches”: The Stamp-Production Process

by Ingerth Kuzych and Val Zabijaka



Figure 1: A block with the four designs.

Artist Yuriy H. Lohvyn is one of the most prominent artists in Ukraine today, and is also a prolific stamp designer. Since 1991 when Ukraine once again became an independent postage-issuing entity, more stamps have entered circulation bearing Lohvyn's imprint than any other artist. Ukrainian collectors have twice awarded him the Heorhiy Narbut Prize for best Ukrainian stamp design<sup>1</sup> and his definitive series “Ethnographic Scenes” continues to be the workhorse of the Ukrainian mail system. In all, by the end of 1997, Lohvyn was responsible for twenty-seven of Ukraine's stamp issues.

Although not a prizewinner, it is his 1996 designs of “Historic Ukrainian Churches” that have garnered the most critical acclaim from Ukraine collectors worldwide. The vivid colors used and the dynamic cloud patterns make for an appealing and eye-catching postal commemorative set.

On 25 December 1996, Ukraine Post re-

leased the set of four stamps in what has remained its most elaborate emission to date. Five different types of panes depicted these stamps: one containing nine blocks of all four stamps (in a 3-block-by-3-block, or 6-stamp-by-6-stamp configuration); and four panes each carrying eighteen stamps of one of the four churches alternating with eighteen descriptive labels, arranged in a checkerboard pattern.<sup>2</sup>

Over the past several months, the authors of this article have been able to obtain items representing three distinct stages of the production process for these stamps: preliminary drawings (signed by the artist), final essays (also signed), and proof printings. Together these materials portray the evolution of this postal issue and provide a fascinating glimpse into some of the steps pursued by the artist in his dealings with Ukraine Post. Before presenting our detective work, however, a bit of descriptive background on the stamps of this issue is necessary.

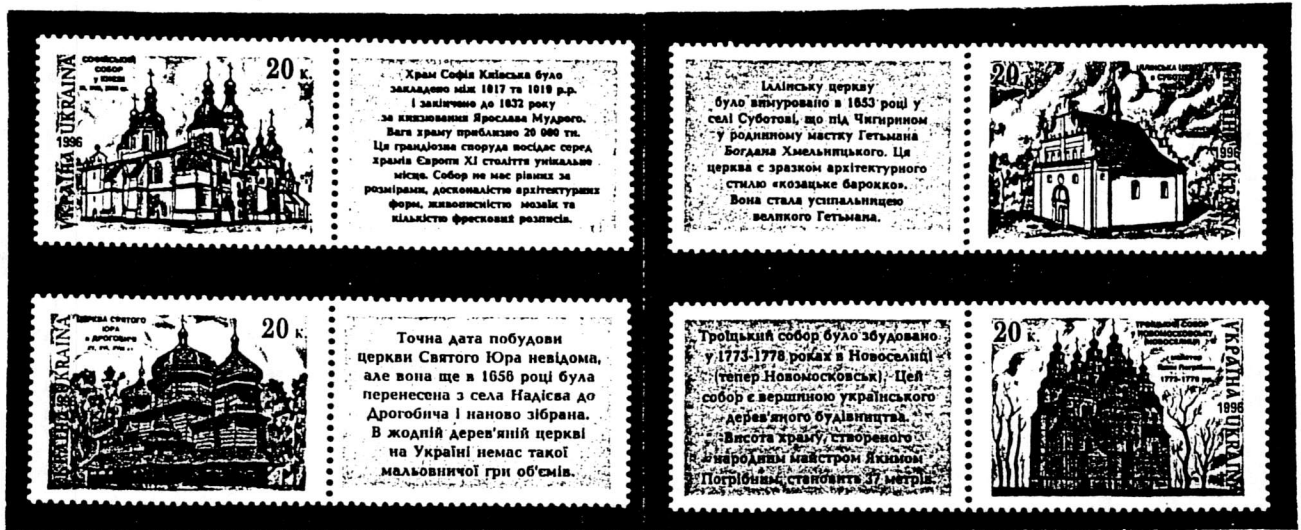


Figure 2: In an alternating format, each stamp was also presented with a descriptive label.

### The Images

The four stamps of the “Historic Churches” release depict places of worship that have been designated as architectural monuments by the Ukrainian government; each church is shown during a different season of the year. The first stamp is of Ukraine’s most famous church, the St. Sophia Cathedral in Kyiv, which has now been designated a United Nations World Heritage Site. Built during the eleventh century and transformed during the baroque era, it is shown in a springtime setting. The darker (reddish-brown) areas of the cathedral façade reveal some of the original medieval brickwork underneath the white, seventeenth- and eighteenth-century overlay of stucco and whitewash. The sepulcher of Grand Prince Yaroslav “the Wise” is housed in this structure.

The next stamp shows St. Elijah’s Church in Subotiv (Cherkasy oblast’) during the summer. This seventeenth-century building is the architectural prototype for the “cossack baroque”

style; it serves as the final resting place of hetman Bohdan Khmelnytsky.

The third stamp presents St. George’s Church in Drohobych (Lviv oblast’) surrounded by orange-yellow autumn foliage. Although the exact age of this wooden structure is unknown, it has stood for at least five hundred years. No other Ukrainian wooden church displays such a high degree of artistic construction.

The final stamp depicts the Trinity Cathedral of Novomoskovsk (Dnipropetrovsk oblast’) in winter. Completed in the late eighteenth century, it represents the apex of Ukrainian wooden construction.

### Preliminary Sketches

The design work for the “Historic Churches” apparently began in 1995 because the preliminary drawings all carry that year. The artist already had a good idea of how he wanted to present the churches by means of watercolor: he elected to show them in the various seasons



Figure 3: The original watercolor sketch of St. Sophia's (186mm x 129mm). The artist's signature is in the lower right-hand corner along with the date 1995. Illustration courtesy of Karen Lemiski.

and with the country name in bold lettering (both in Cyrillic and Latin) along a side of each design. The two left-sided-text designs (St. Sophia and St. George) and two right-sided-text designs (St. Elijah and the Trinity Cathedral) help give a frame impression when the images are viewed together as a block of four. The preliminary artworks — each picture averages 186 by 129 mm in size — do not display any value designations. Rather, they were used to present the overall design concept and color scheme. The descriptions of the churches were indicated using the same cyrillic-type style as the country name, but in a smaller size (figure 3).

### Essays

By the latter part of 1995, Lohvyn's basic designs had been approved by Ukraine Post, but decisions were still needed on what values would be assigned to these stamps and which type style would be used for the church descriptions. The essays, which are slightly more than half the size (140 x 97 mm) of the preliminary paintings, show more structural details in each of the buildings. While one essay still displays a 1995 date, the others carry 1996, but it is possible to see that the "6" had previously been a "5". Additionally, the 50,000 [karbovanets] value first assigned to each of the stamps was



Figure 4: The essay of St. Sophia's, including the denomination and the date 1995 (140 x 97mm).

changed to 20,000 for three of the designs. A final ruling on what type style to use to describe the churches had still not been made. Three of the illustrations display a block-type print while the fourth uses an italic style (figure 4).

### Approved Designs

By about the middle of 1996, the final approved designs — which did not differ greatly from the essays — were ready to be converted into stamps. Figure 5 shows part of a proof pane of the St. Sophia Cathedral issue: a block with three stamps, a corner label, and production notations. Immediately to the right of the illustrations is the statement “For the II [second] Proof” and two signatures, both dated 9 August 1996. Below are two alteration statements by the artist and his signature, all in black ink. The instructions are: “shadows on the building require more ultramarine,” and “green color on

roof and cupolas needs to be more intense.” The third change, added later in blue ink, instructs “change values to 20 k[opiyyky].” This was done to accommodate an impending currency adjustment.<sup>3</sup>

### Final Printing

Additional changes made before the final printing included using the simpler block-style print for the descriptive text, which was deemed more appropriate than the italicized version. A decision was also made to print these stamps in different formats: panes with blocks of all four stamp designs and panes of each design with descriptive labels. Apparently, the original intention (as seen on the proof) was to use only labels in each corner of a 6 by 6 format, similar to what had been done three months earlier with the “Antonov Aviation” release. Subsequently, someone at Ukraine Post decided to be different

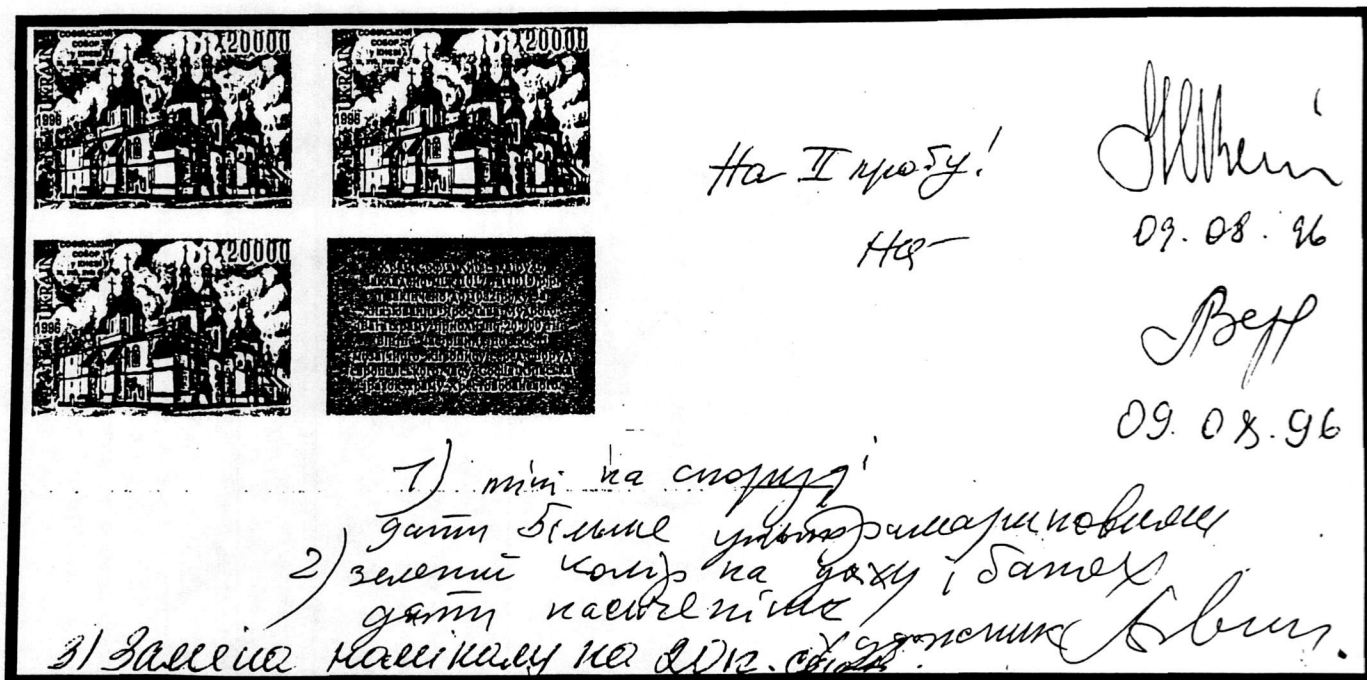


Figure 5: The proof pane of St. Sophia's.

and create a new pattern, alternating eighteen stamps with eighteen labels on every pane.

Eventually 100,000 copies of each stamp were printed by "Derzhznak" in Kyiv: 200,000 on panes with blocks and 200,000 on panes with labels. The 13.75 perforation remained the same regardless of production format.

#### Notes

1. Initiated as an "annual popularity competition," the Heorhiy Narbut Prize was created in 1992 by Ingert Kuzych in conjunction with the Ukrainian Philatelic and Numismatic Society (UPNS). Voting for the award is open to anyone willing to submit a ballot, selecting the artist who has designed the most attractive stamp or stamp set of the previous year. In 1994, Lohvyn received the award for his "75th Anniversary of Ukraine's First Postage Stamps" and in 1996 for the "Hetmen of Ukraine" series.

2. Two other Ukrainian emissions, the 1996 "Antonov Aviation" set of four and the 1997 "Folk Art" set of four, were also released in elaborate formats, but these were not quite as complex as the "Historic Churches" issue. The "Antonov Aviation" issue was made with four different panes: one with nine blocks of four and three panes each depicting one of the Antonov airplane stamps. Descriptive labels only appeared in the four corner positions of these three panes, resulting in 32 stamps on each pane. The four "Folk Art" stamps were released on separate panes of 36 (without any descriptive labels) and in block form on a vertical miniature sheetlet of eight stamps (one block atop the other).

3. On 2 September 1996, Ukraine introduced the hryvnia as its new main currency unit; it is composed of 100 kopyyky. By decree, 100,000 of the old karbovantsiv equaled one new hryvnia.

# Philatelic Books: Printing, Publishing, and Plagiarism

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by P. E. Robinson

In recent years, improvements in printing technology have led to a large increase in the number of books published in small print runs for specialist readers. Apart from stamp catalogues and a few introductory handbooks, most philatelic books are printed in small numbers, 250 to 500 copies being typical for a specialist handbook.

At one time, such a book would have been printed using traditional letterpress or lithographic equipment, and the “setting-up” cost (that is, the cost of preparing type, plates, etc.) was the largest single factor contributing to the total cost of printing a book. The setting-up cost could be the same for a 100-copy print run as for a 5,000 copy run, and so the books that were published tended to be either those for which there was likely to be a strong demand, or short-run books whose publication was subsidized. In regard to specialized philatelic books, it is a sad fact that many manuscripts never saw the light of day. At best, they would be lodged in a philatelic library (which may or not have been easily accessible to researchers) while at worst, the results of patient research would be lost.

This situation began to change with the development of short-run lithographic machines using paper masters (as opposed to metal plates), but the new opportunities for publishing short-run books increased with computerized typesetting, desk-top publishing, and low-cost, high-quality photocopiers. For example, both editions of my *Siberia book*<sup>1</sup> were printed by a xerographic process.

As the cost of printing books has become decreased, the problem of plagiarism has become more acute. Anyone can use a photocopier to reproduce books and sell them for a profit —

and it happens. In 1986, my *Siberia book* had hardly been published before photocopied “editions” began to be offered for sale in the former USSR. In financial terms the losses must have been minimal, and I can quite understand that the average Russian collector would otherwise have had difficulty obtaining the book. In fact, the book sold out, was reprinted, and sold out again, and so I was not unduly worried by this *samizdat* publishing trade. However, the speed with which the “pirate” copies began to appear was an indication of how things had moved on since the days when printing was an expensive process.

In more recent years, the Internet has begun to play a larger part in our lives — or at least for those of us with access to it. In order to “publish” printed material, it is no longer necessary even to go to the expense of printing or photocopying: the material can be scanned and made available to anyone with a computer and modem. Also, philatelic works are beginning to be published in non-printed forms, on CD-ROMs and other discs. This makes it even easier for the published information to be disseminated beyond the control of the original author or publisher.

In legal terms, copyright exists and can be defended, but the high legal costs mean that lawsuits regarding philatelic books are rare (though they have occurred, the main winners usually being the lawyers). Copyright law does, of course, vary from country to country. In the United Kingdom, for example, copyright does not have to be registered: it exists as of right, while in some countries a registration system is in place. However, in regard to philatelic books, we are often concerned more with fairness than with legal considerations.

Without resorting to expensive legal matters, an author or publisher can at first request the person illegally copying his work to desist, and if this does not work, can report the matter to a philatelic body. The people plagiarizing other people's work, or selling copies of books in breach of copyright, are often members of philatelic societies, and the societies are able to play an important part in discouraging plagiarism.

For example, a number of pages from my Siberia book, and much of the content of a book by another author, were photocopied and included in a philatelic book with neither permission nor acknowledgment. When the culprit refused to admit to any wrongdoing, he was

summarily expelled from a specialist philatelic society.

I doubt if any author would object to single copies of books being copied for private use, especially when the books are out of print. Indeed, in some countries this is not illegal anyway. But the publication of "pirate" editions for profit is another matter, and is to be condemned by philatelists in general and by organized philately in particular. It is just another form of forgery.

#### **Endnote**

1. P. E. Robinson, *Siberia: Postmarks and Postal History of the Russian Empire Period*. Sheffield, 1986. ISBN: 0-9511603-1-1.

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**E-mail: m.holmsten@rurik-acn.inet.fi**

## From the President

---

Where has the time gone? It seems like just yesterday that I had to prepare my last message. A lot has happened during the last year and I would like to share some of it with you.

We continue to be a very strong society with a membership of over four hundred people. This may not seem like a lot, but compared to some other organizations, it is a lot. Now if I can only get people to communicate. . . .

The response was positive from the membership regarding the officers not having to pay annual dues. Starting with the year 2000, elected officers and those appointed officers selected by the president will not have to pay annual dues. Currently, the appointed officers who will not have to pay annual dues are the *Bulletin* and *Journal* editors. This is but a small token of appreciation from the society.

One of our strongest points is publishing philatelic research literature. Unfortunately, the cost of doing business, coupled with lower than anticipated demands for the literature, have put us in a position requiring a modest increase in dues to help continue our publications. The dues have remained stable for over a decade, although the cost of everything has continued to rise. The officers voted at the annual meeting in August 1999 to raise the dues starting in 2000 from \$20 to \$25 with a \$5 discount, if paid before 31 December 1999. [The former ten percent discount is no longer valid.] Members who have paid several years in advance are not affected by this increase.

The Constitution has been revamped to better reflect who we are today. The revised copy has been included with this *Journal* issue, for your ratification. Please vote! The Constitution governs our activities.

We have many strong points and these need to be emphasized more than the majority of my perceived negative issues.

- \* We have very strong and energetic *Journal* and *Bulletin* editors. Both positions are appointed by the president and technically are not voting members of the "politburo." I feel they should be part of the decision-making process and make every effort to include them in all discussions.
- \* We have a very strong and capable librarian. This is something we have not had for many years. Use of the library is up as a direct result. Our library is one of the largest in the western world on the subject. Ged has some fantastic ideas and I would like to encourage all our members to work with him as he takes us forward in that area.
- \* We continue to be a prominent and well-respected society in Russian philately no matter how many subscription services start and end or individual attempts at slander. Our cumulative knowledge is treated as valuable by the philatelic community at large.
- \* Our *Journal* is widely accepted throughout the world as a very good research publication. True, it does not have glossy pages or color centerfolds, but then it doesn't cost as much to publish and the quality of information continues to be exceptional.
- \* We offer more philatelic literature for sale than any other society or subscription service. There are more to come as well. We are leading the way among English-speaking collectors in making material available. We recently published a CD ROM version of the work Noel Warr and I have been researching for years as Part One of the Moscow study. It will be available on paper within a few months as well. We now offer a reproduction of Peter Michalove's book on maps, etc., on CD ROM. The Prigara and Bazilevich books will soon be available on CD ROM. Additionally, we have been

approached to publish what promises to be an outstanding book by Arnold Levin on the World War I mutes. This work will appear in both paper and CD ROM versions. More to follow.

- \* Our presence on the Internet is unrivaled by any other western society with the same collecting interests. Jay Guberman, Rainer Fuchs, Jeff Radcliffe, and Anatoly Kiryushkin are leading the way down this road and we are very well represented at each site and step of the way. It seems the Rossica membership isn't ready for this yet since the sites are not visited frequently. The three sites can be roughly described as follows:

- Jay Guberman's site deals with all things philatelic regarding the former Soviet Union's breakup. He has postal rates, exchange rates, new issues, and more. It is worth a visit! Since the site is maintained on Delphi, you will need to become a member. It is free.

- Rainer Fuchs is trying to approach the collecting of zemstvo stamps from a novice's viewpoint. It is not his intention to show all the rarities of this aspect, but rather to familiarize the collector with the subject.

- Anatoly Kiryushkin's site is a very comprehensive and fantastic site for all areas of Russian philately. Although it has been around only since February, the amount of information already residing at the site is beyond belief. This site belongs to the Worldwide Society of Russian Philately and as such has a membership fee. This fee, \$10 to Rossica members, is less than what some of us waste at a bourse before we realize we have paid too much for an item. The site recently won a 3-star rating (out of 5) from an FIP competition. It is well worth a visit if you collect stamps or postal history.

There are other sites, but there is not enough room to list them all here. All of these sites have links to the Rossica site. If you have not visited our site recently, please do so at: <http://www.rossica.org>. Jeff

Radcliffe is our webmaster and eagerly wants to hear from all the members.

- \* We published, as far as I know, the first *Bulletin* (or equivalent) over the Internet about Russian philately thanks to the superb efforts of our *Bulletin* editor. Ed Laveroni (Northern California Chapter) published the first *Chapter Newsletter* using the same medium. Actually, Ed did it before we sent the *Bulletin*.

- \* We have a Rossica email list maintained by Alex Safonoff, although it is woefully underutilized. Nearly forty percent of our members have Internet access and email capabilities.

*That's what Rossica has done in the past year.*

Some things I would like to see during the final year of this presidency:

- \* More awareness of what the society is, what it has to offer, and where to find information. The questionnaires of the past have not been a failure, but they also have not been the envisioned gold mine of information. It seems everyone is a "generalist" with no particular areas of expertise.

Fifty-four people this year claim they either: a) did not receive a dues notice, b) had no idea how much dues are, c) did not know where to mail them. All this in spite of the fact each person got a notice with the October *Journal* and, if overdue, a letter in January, a letter in April, and a dismissal notice in May. If the member lives overseas, s/he also received a personal letter in October.

Many people have told me they did not know that information about the society, along with an application blank, is on the Internet. Believe it or not, I have had several people tell me they were not aware we had a library much less who was librarian.

Many members are not aware that we have anything to sell.

- \* More member participation in local meetings, no matter how small. If we offer food

and a dealer, they will come by the truckload. If we offer just philately, they will not come. What's a person to do? Passive participation yields very few rewards when compared to active participation.

I would challenge the membership to take a more active role in the society. It is your society and is only as good as you make it. If you sit back and wait for everything to come to you, you are depriving the other members of your knowledge. You reap what you sow.

- ★ More diverse information in the *Journal*.

The collecting interests of Rossica members are extremely diverse and impossible to cover in a single journal or even a series of journals or all the web sites in the world without input. If we can take a brief trip to Fantasy Island for a moment . . . imagine a 100-page *Journal* with 100 one-page articles on different areas of Russian philately by 100 different authors . . . *Wow!* What a dream that was! Thus we are stuck with what we are fortunate enough to have. So, looks like it is postal history for the most part without new authors.

- ★ Continue to publish as much as possible and encourage our members to *read* what is available.
- ★ Move Rossica into the computer age before the computer age is over.

I hear from a lot of people that the computer and the Internet are causing more harm than good to our hobby. Usually these remarks come from people who are either intimidated by technology, resistant to change, or uninformed. The computer will not replace paper copy in my lifetime. The capability and capacity of electronic communications can assist, if people will only let it happen. Before someone states a CD ROM version of a publication is bad, ask them if they know how to make a paper copy of it. Chances are they do not. Technology is only as good as the people who use it. Remember the first TV? Microwave?

Dishwasher? Self-propelled lawn mower? Electricity? Assembly lines? Stereo? Audio CDs? DVDs? Laserdisks? Cruise control? Computer technology is no different and, in many cases, is a fundamental part of the technologies we all use every day.

#### *Copyright Violation*

Often I hear from other philatelists that they do not publish because piracy is a way of life for some people. I have heard, but cannot prove, that anything in writing sent to the former Soviet Union is reproduced almost immediately and offered for sale. While we cannot govern what happens outside the United States, we certainly can influence what does happen within the United States.

A lot of time and effort goes into publishing information. When an author decides to publish his/her research, the price is not one that will make a person rich. If that information is photocopied and sold, the copyright of the author has potentially been violated. This is *illegal* and the laws are very strict.

Photocopying a page or two here and there for personal research usually does not cause any problems. The problem arises when you photocopy and reproduce by any other means a significant portion or all of a publication and give it to another person. Even if you provide it at your cost, you have deprived the rightful owner of their compensation for the work. Put yourself in the position of an author.

I fully understand that there are philatelic works for which you cannot find an original copy. However, this does not give you the right to obtain a copy from another person who has the publication. For starters, consider writing the author, if possible. For those of you who are too cheap to pay for another person's effort, consider the loss of income if you are incarcerated for copyright violations or have to pay a stiff fine. It is your choice. Choose wisely.

Rossica does not condone this type of activity and will take all measures within our power to prevent it. If you know someone who

is doing this, do not be a part of the crime. Report it.

#### *Internet Auctions*

I notice that several of our members sell and buy on eBay. This offers a great chance to sell surplus items and purchase items for the collection. I am equally sure that many of our members have also noticed bogus material for sale as well as shilling by unscrupulous people. Everybody is an expert and all items are rare, right? Wrong! eBay is very much a buyer beware environment. If you do not know what you are doing, then be prepared to pay the price. Let-

ting a catalog govern your actions is destined for failure. I have seen several members purchase items that were not legitimate, as well as pay exorbitant prices for items. This is usually caused by a lack of knowledge. It is your money. However, do not expect to recover your costs for overpriced or bogus material. Also note that the sellers state up front that they are not responsible for items lost in the mail. This means that if you send your money for an item and the seller claims he sent it but you never received it, there is little you can do about it. There is nothing Rossica can do to help those who refuse to read the literature and the "fine print."

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## Library Notes

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by Ged Seiflow

### **Recent Library Acquisitions**

Over the last few years, the library has acquired several interesting and informative publications. If you would like to borrow any of these or other publications in the library, please contact the librarian (see inside front cover of this *Journal*). The only cost to members is to reimburse the librarian for shipping and handling (including insurance). The material may be borrowed for a month and is to be returned to the librarian insured for the same amount as when sent. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me either via regular mail or email (seiflow@bigfoot.com).

1. *List of Post Offices in the Russian Empire*, compiled by A. V. Kiryushkin and P. E. Robinson (1999). This book (over 350 pages) lists all types of postal establishments, arranged in Russian alphabetical order, and was compiled over the last fifteen years from official post office lists, post-telegraph journals, and other sources from Russia.

The authors believe that it is the most detailed list of imperial Russian post offices that has ever been made available to the postal historian.

2. *The Postage Stamps of Russia 1917–1923, Volume V, The R.S.F.S.R., Section C1, Parts 13–18, 1921 Issues, Definitives and Provisionals*, by Dr. R. J. Ceresa (1999). This is the latest volume in Dr. Ceresa's magnificent effort (the library has a complete set.) This volume covers the continuing free post, the first and second definitive issues, the 250-ruble rate general provisionals, postmaster provisionals, and cash frankings in the inflation period.
3. *Briefmarken Russlands 1908–1923, Taushcontrolmarken 1922–1933 Katalog-Handbuch*, by E. Fomin (1997). A truly wonderful effort, in German, with much information useful to the specialist of this period. Refer to *Rossica Journal* no. 130, page 72, for a more detailed review.
4. *R.S.F.S.R., 1918–1923: Spetsialisirovanni*

*Katalog Pochtovikh Marok [R.S.F.S.R., 1918–1923: Postage Stamp Specialized Catalog]*, edited by V. Zagorski (1997). Another wonderful effort in Russian on the RSFSR period. Refer to *Rossica Journal* no. 130, page 73, for a more detailed review.

### **New Library Summary Listing**

I am working with Jeffrey Radcliffe (Rossica's new webmaster) to provide a listing of the complete contents of the library on the Rossica web page. This will also be available in hard-copy format to members at a cost yet to be determined. This new listing, which is still a work-in-progress, will summarize what is in the library. My initial thoughts are that it will look something like:

#### **Journals**

##### *Rossica Journals*

a brief description of the journal would follow  
Numbers 1–69 (written in Russian)  
Numbers 44–132 (written in English)

##### *Russian American Philatelist*

a brief description of this journal would follow  
Numbers 1–24

##### *Russian Philatelist*

a brief description of this journal would follow  
Numbers 1–11

The purpose of this listing is to inform the membership of what is available in the library. Please remember that some of this material, because of age, rarity, etc., is not available for borrowing, and can only be ordered as photocopies. If you have any questions, please contact me, and I will give you additional information.

### **Updated Library Index**

I am also working on updating the library index; Part One was authored by Dave Skipton (the definitive librarian). We are investigating various ways in which this information can be made available to our members (including on

CD ROM). Where am I now? Well, I have moved the entire index as published to a spreadsheet (Excel) and I am in the process of updating this for items acquired over the last few years and filling in some gaps. This is a *major* effort and consumes a lot of time, but I am still hoping that it will be completed by the end of this year.

### **A Request**

I would very much like to hear from the members regarding what services the library can offer. It is being used by a small group (less than 30) of members and I would like to expand this group to include more members. I have some interesting ideas that I will share with you in the next issue of the *Journal*. Do you have any ideas? What information do you need that will help you use the resources of the library?

I will recount my own personal experience to illustrate the benefits of using the library. Ten years ago, I “collected” Russian Stamps. I used Scott's catalog and Stanley Gibbons “specialized” catalog and my basic goal was to collect one of each issue. I then discovered “The Library” and this hobby has never been the same since. I discovered there were many varieties, such as different printings, different paper, different shades/colors, different perforations and etc. I have become much more educated because of my use of the material in the library. The thought of writing a specialized catalog would have been inconceivable back then. And now I am completing the *fourth* section of the *Rossica Specialized Catalog of the RSFSR*. I am very pleased to say that this catalog has received many positive reviews from other philatelic journals. As a result of all the information I obtained from the library since discovering its potential, this hobby has become infinitely more interesting and personally rewarding.

One of my goals is to try and help you increase your enjoyment of this hobby too. If you don't use the facilities of the library, why don't you? What can I do? What information do you need from me that would help you? I would be

quite happy recommending catalogs, journal articles, etc., if you tell me basically what your collecting interests are. Let me know what areas you collect. You have nothing to lose and so much to potentially gain. Who knows, perhaps the copy of that one stamp you have is the

*second* printing and is much rarer than you thought. Perhaps your “duplicates” are not duplicates after all. I hope you will contact me with requests and also any suggestions/questions/ideas you might have.

As always, have fun collecting!

## Member-to-Member Adlets

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Rossica cannot assume any liability for transactions resulting from member responses to adlets nor get involved with mediating disputes. Members are cautioned to be fair in offering and in responding. Any material considered to be of value by the sender sent through the mails should be insured or registered for your own protection.

The regulations and prices are as follows:

- Member adlets are free with the following limitations: they must not exceed 480 characters. A character is defined as a letter, number, space, or punctuation mark. The member's name and addresses are **NOT** included in this 480-character limitation.
- For adlets that exceed the 480-character limitation, the price is 10 cents per word, no matter how long the word may be.
- Each adlet must include the name and address of the member placing the ad.
- No dealer ads will be accepted as adlets. The journal makes other provisions for strictly commercial advertisements.
- Adlet service is available to Rossica members only.
- All adlets exceeding the 480-character limitation must be accompanied by a check for the correct amount made out to the Rossica Society.
- Adlets for the April journal must reach the editor by 15 February.

- Adlets for the October journal must reach the editor by 15 August.
- Mail all adlets and checks to:

Rossica  
c/o Karen J. Lemiski  
2641 South Emerson Street  
Chandler, AZ 85248  
USA

**Wanted:** To sell, trade, or buy: Ukraine (1918–1920) — Western Ukraine (1918–1919) — Carpatho-Ukraine (1944–1945). Available: a lifetime of material in all specialties and areas, 1000s of stamps and 100s of postal history items. Contact: Ron Zelonka, 1274 Monks Passage, Oakville, Ontario, Canada, L6M 1R4.

**Wanted:** Non-postal souvenir sheets; collections, accumulations, whatever you have. I would also like to correspond with other collectors of these fascinating items. Contact: Pat Eppel, 108 Pinewood Circle, Apply Valley, MN 55124. Email: [peppel@agribank.com](mailto:peppel@agribank.com).

**Wanted:** Mute cancellations of Russia during World War I. Send me photocopies. I would also like to correspond with other collectors of World War I mute cancellations from Russia. Contact: Arnold Levin, 26–19 Fair Lawn Avenue, Apt. E2, Fair Lawn, NJ 07410, tel: (201) 791-6987.

**Wanted:** Any unusual material of the Valmiera (North Latvia) Issue of 1919. Covers, proofs, varieties, etc. Contact: Ian Stone, 13 Larivane Close, Andreas, Isle of Man, IM7 4HD, England, tel: (44) 1624 880454. Email: i.r.stone@mcb.net.

### Dealer-Member Ads

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The Editorial Board of the *Rossica Journal* invites advertisements from our dealer-members as well as nonmembers who conduct the occasional auction or mail-sale with a strong offering of Russian and related-areas material. The *Journal* appears twice a year, and reaches over 400 members and affiliates worldwide in April and October. Deadlines for submission of ads are February 15 for the April issue and August 15 for the October issue. We strongly prefer commitments for ads in three consecutive issues or more (except for the back cover) to aid us in planning. However, onetime ads for upcoming auctions or mail-sales can be accommodated and are welcome.

#### Rates:

1/4 page — **\$15** per issue  
1/2 page — **\$25** per issue  
full page — **\$50** per issue

Full page does not include the inside or outside of the back cover. The back cover is first come, first served. The rates for these are:

Inside back cover — **\$100**  
Outside back cover — **\$150**

If you have any questions, please contact the journal editor.

### Expertization

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One of the privileges of membership in *Rossica* is one free expertization per membership year. Policy on free expertizations is as follows:

- Only one free expertization per membership year.
- The privilege must be used during the membership year. It cannot be accumulated. The service was begun in the 1978 membership year, and prior membership in the Society has no bearing.
- The item must be submitted on an official expertization form available from Gary Combs or Leon Finik.
- Return postage must be included.
- Only one item per expertization form.

Anyone wishing to avail themselves of this service should write to the Treasurer, Gary Combs, or the Chairman of the Expertization Committee, Leon Finik (address below), enclosing a legal size (4 1/4" x 9 1/2") SASE for an expertization form. When submitting material for expertization, the owner must provide return postage to include insurance costs, if desired, for the material. Items will be evaluated by *Rossica* members specializing in the various aspects of Russian philately.

**Members with items to expertize should forward the completed form to Leon Finik at the following address:**

Box 740521  
Rego Park, NY 11374-0521  
USA

Since we occasionally have to send items to more than one member for an opinion, please allow at least six weeks before inquiring about the status of an item submitted. Items are looked at on a first come, first served basis.

## Society Publications For Sale

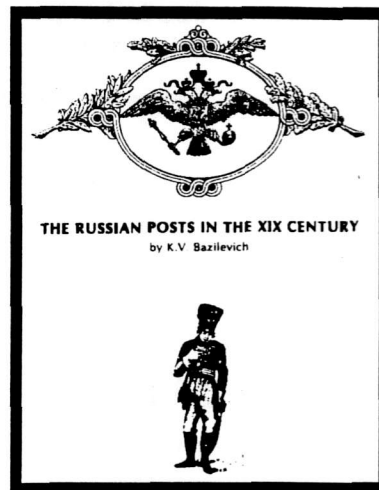
**The Russian Post in the Empire, Turkey, China and the Post in The Kingdom of Poland** by S.V. Prigara.  
trans. by Dave Skipton



This is the standard upon which many studies and conclusions have been established. Written in 1941, the book is considered by many to be the authoritative guide for Russian postal history. Any serious collector of Russian postal history must have this book on his shelf. The translation can be purchased from the Treasurer or Librarian at the following rates:

Non-Rossica member — \$40 postpaid  
Rossica members — \$35 postpaid  
Dealer rate — \$24 per copy for single orders of 5 or more.

**The Russian Posts in the XIX Century**  
by K.V. Bazilevich, trans. by Dave Skipton



The original work, published in 1927 in Moscow, is today almost impossible to find. It is one of the most detailed overviews of the imperial Russian postal system to be found under one cover, and contains a wealth of information and illustrations. Dave has provided many illustrations not in the original. If you want to learn about the whys and wherefores of old Russia's communications system, this book will oblige.

Intended as a companion to the Prigara translation, the Bazilevich book will be a handsome addition to your shelf: 165 pages on semi-gloss paper, casebound, with a purple-and-white dust jacket. Members may order directly from the Treasurer, Librarian, or Journal Editor of the society. Prices are as follows:

Non-Rossica member — \$50 postpaid  
Rossica members — \$45 postpaid  
Dealer rate — \$30 per copy for single orders of 5 or more.

**Imperial Russian Postal Placename List, Reverse Sort (1858–1915)** compiled by David Skipton.

Have you ever had a partial strike on a loose stamp or cover, where the first few letters of the placename are missing? If so, and you collect imperial Russian cancellations, this working aid is a must for you. It contains 18,187 postal placenames gleaned from ten sources, ranging from the Prigara book to the official 1916 Postal List. The Reverse Sort is 379 pages long, photocopy, printed on one side only, and unbound. It contains an introduction, an explanation of how to use the RS, compiler's notes, a list of cancellation abbreviations, format explanation, a list of sources, province and oblast' trigraph listings, a cyrillic–latin alphabet conversion chart, and 361 pages of cross–referenced placenames. A must for the serious cancellation collector. Members may order directly from the Secretary, Treasurer, Librarian or Journal Editor of the society. Prices are as follows:

Non–Rossica member— \$45 postpaid

Rossica members — \$40 postpaid (Overseas orders please add \$3 for surface mail on all orders.)

Dealer and bulk purchase rates are available upon request.

**Rossica Library Subject Index–Part One, by David Skipton.** Cost \$50 plus postage (\$5) for members.

Dave Skipton spent over a decade creating one of the finest Russian philatelic libraries in the world. However, all the knowledge of what is available has rested solely with Dave until now. Dave, with the help of J.D. Myke, Scott Allen, and Ged Seiflow has spent an incredible amount of energy in compiling a partial library index for general dissemination.

The Index is approximately 800 pages long and contains 10,600 entries, which are divided into 92 cross–referenced categories—and it is only a partial listing. A larger Part One would be too bulky and extremely demanding on the reproduction process. Part Two is currently in development.

The Index is mostly arranged first by subject, then by period of Russian history, and in some cases further by type. Each category is presented by title, author, journal, volume, date, page number(s), publisher, translator, and abstract.

A transliteration guide and a comprehensive philatelic or communications journal abbreviation list also is provided.

If you are serious about using your library for philatelic research, but do not know what if anything is available, then this Index is a must for your bookshelf. However, be sure that the shelf is sturdy since the Index weighs in at approximately four pounds!

The Index is currently being reproduced in limited quantities so order your copy now. Actual costs for shipping will be determined when the item is mailed—rates vary by type of postal service and location— and you will be notified of the additional charges.

Orders may be sent to Dave Skipton, or the Treasurer, Gary Combs. Please make checks payable to “The Rossica Society” and not to Dave or Gary.

## Back Issues of the Rossica Journal

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**Cumulative Alphabetical List 1858–1916**, by Gary Combs. 138 double-sided pages plus four introduction pages. Cost: \$45 for Rossica members, \$50 for non-members. Sent post paid at surface rate. Available from the author. Also available on floppy or CD ROM in Adobe Acrobat format.

In 1984 Dave Skipton introduced the Reverse Sort, which is used by Russian philatelists around the world. Nearly a decade later Gary Combs has taken this massive work—over 18,600 entries—and rendered a “forward sort” of the information and corrected a few minor discrepancies.

This work first appeared in English, and subsequently reworked to produce a Cyrillic version thanks to computer support provided by Pat Eppel. This version is better than the original.

As often as I use the Reverse Sort to find a location when only the last part of the placename is visible, I found a definite need for a work that provided the same information, but in a left-to-right or “forward” order. This work precisely fills that void.

Both the Cumulative Alphabetical List and its partner publication the Reverse Sort offer the postal historian and cancellation collector the most comprehensive listing of locations available, albeit not a complete listing of all possible locations. An effort to produce a document of that magnitude would clearly exceed the size of this work.

Gary has done an impressive job with this work and filled a void that has existed since day one of collecting for those without access to State archives in Russia or numerous postal listings. This work represents the largest single cumulative listing of Russian locations in existence in the Western world.

This publication is highly recommended for the serious postal historian or cancellation collector. Let him know if you want it sent via a faster method (and include extra postage).

We have a limited number of back issues of the journal for sale, both in English and Russian language editions. Russian editions available are numbers 44–69 (see list below for availability); English editions available are numbers 70–127. Unfortunately, there are many holes and some issues have less than three in stock. Prices listed for back issues are in U.S. dollars. To order, please contact the Treasurer.

### Single Issue:

Member — \$7.50

Non-member — \$10.00

Singles issues currently available are: 44–45, 54, 62–71, 73–75, 79–80, 88–89, 93, 110–112, 115–117, 119–127, 130

### Double Issues:

Member — \$15.00

Non-member — \$20.00

Double issues currently available are: 46–47, 76–77, 94–95, 96–97, 98–99, 100–101, 102–103, 104–105, 106–107, 108–109, 113–114  
Copies of issue 128–129 are available at a charge of \$20 for members and \$30 for non-members.

## New Rossica Publications

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Rossica is pleased to announce the long awaited "A Study of the Postmarks of Moscow, 1765-1917, Part One" by Gary Combs and Noel Warr. Over a decade has passed since the effort began. During the ensuing years, the scope of the work has grown tremendously with input from some of the world's best-known philatelists. Now Part One is ready for publication and comes in at nearly 300 pages.

Gary and Noel have captured information from many sources in their attempt to bring together information in English about this overlooked subject. Part One is just the tip of the iceberg. It is richly illustrated where possible. The amount of information contained in this study is staggering. However, as Gary and Noel say, "...there is still so much we do not know. If we hold off publishing waiting for more information, we would be re-writing the study over and over. It is now time to turn it over to the philatelic community and openly solicit their further input into the effort."

The study opens with a brief historical synopsis of the Russian postal system from the 1660s to roughly the 20th century. After the historical section, they launch into an incredibly detailed presentation of the post within Moscow proper. They include: the design of the city, locations of all the gates, a bit on the environs, and introduce the telegraph. Once all this is said and done, they get down to the main subject of this study, Moscow Postmarks. They have borrowed heavily from publications in Russian and include illustrations of rarely seen items where possible.

Links have been provided from the Table of Contents as well as the postmark reference tables to the appropriate page within the study. To view the study, you must have Adobe's Acrobat Reader installed on your computer. This software is also provided on the CD ROM.

This study will be available only on CD ROM to start in order to keep costs down. Publishing a 300-page document with a lot of illustrations can be very expensive. It will be offered in a paper addition at a later date. Cost for the CD ROM version is set at US \$40 for Rossica members and \$60 for non-members, which includes Air Mail shipping anywhere. Pricing for the paper version will be set later.

Anyone interested in purchasing this Rossica publication on CD ROM should contact Gary Combs at the address listed below or via email at [gcombs@erols.com](mailto:gcombs@erols.com). Cash, money order, or check drawn on a US bank and made payable to Rossica are accepted. Sorry, no credit cards or stamps or non-US currency are accepted.

Gary A. Combs  
8241 Chalet Ct.  
Millersville, MD 21108  
USA

## The Rossica Catalog of the RSFSR

Thanks to Ged Seiflow, Rossica Librarian, we now have a new and very interesting series available to the membership. This series (which has been several years in the making) is special and represents the fulfillment of a need that has existed for a long time. Ged has started what we believe is the most comprehensive catalog of RSFSR stamps available. Members can refer to issue 128–129 of the journal for a glimpse of this effort. This new catalog is ideal for the specialist as well as for the new collector just starting. It is profusely illustrated (most published catalogs are sadly lacking in this respect) and lists every known variety.

Why such a huge undertaking? Well, which catalog do you use when stamping around? Michel? Scott? Gibbons? Russian? French? Italian? Or do you have all of them like most of us? The reason for this is simple, no single catalog is sufficient when studying Russian philately. No catalog is complete. Additionally, no catalog is flexible enough to allow for additions and deletions without purchasing a new catalog—until now!

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

Each section is divided into three parts:

- Introduction

- Detailed illustrations of varieties

- Detailed catalog entries with prices

The first three sections released are:

- Section 0, Introduction —10 pages

  - Free with first section ordered

- Section 3, 1st Issue of the RSFSR, The Chainbreakers (35 and 70 kop.) of 1918—82 pages

  - US \$10 for members, US \$20 for non-members

- Section 7, 1st Standard Issue of 1921 (1, 2, 5, 20, and 40 rub.)—58 pages

  - US \$9 for members, US \$18 for non-members

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

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

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

Gary A. Combs  
8241 Chalet Ct.  
Millersville, MD 21108  
USA

[gcombs@erols.com](mailto:gcombs@erols.com)

In 1993, Peter Michalove published his epic work "**The Philatelist's Guide to Maps, Atlases, and Gazetteers of Russia.**" It was a limited edition and sold out over the years. Rossica is pleased to announce it is again available for publication in CD ROM format. Anyone interested should contact Gary Combs. Both the Moscow study and Peter's book may be had on a single CD ROM. Just let Gary know when you send in your order.

The Philatelist's Guide to Maps, Atlases, and Gazetteers of Russia, by Peter A. Michalove. 134 pages and 23 illustrations. Cost is \$22 for active Rossica members, \$30 for non-members.

This excellent reference book is a must for all serious Russian postal historians. The book contains three parts with topics as follows:

Part One: The Classic Cartography of Russia

- Contacts Between Russia and the West
- The Late 16th and the 17th Centuries
- The Reign of Peter the Great and Beyond
- References for Part One

Part Two: The Period of Imperial Russian Postal History

- Russian Postal Guides, Postal Lists, and Related Sources
- Other Sources for the Empire as a Whole
- European Russia
- Poland, The Baltic, and Finland
- The Caucasus, Central Asia, and Siberia
- Railway Routes

Part Three: The Soviet Period

- External Border Changes
- Placename Changes and Spellings
- Cartography in the Soviet Union
- Sources on the Soviet Union as a Whole
- European Russia, Ukraine, Belorussia, and Moldova
- The Baltic
- The Caucasus and Central Asia
- Siberia
- Railway Routes
- Epilogue

A transliteration guide and a list of Russian geographical terms also is included.

# Reviews of Philatelic Publications

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## BOOKS AND CATALOGS

**Russia: Catalogue of Local Issues 1995–98.** CTC Publishers Ltd, PO Box 395, Vilnius 2004, Lithuania. 126 Pages. Cost: \$9.99 cash, including postage.

Now, if you through the worst was over, you may be wrong. I have seen many of the “stamps” that were alleged to come from various Russian republics during the confused period of 1992–94. I also saw some of the labels from Tuva and Batumi that were actual stamps, not overprints on USSR or Russian Federation definitives, but I thought that the torrent had dried up. Not so.

This book — Volume 1 — list the products that bear the names of thirty-seven (mainly Russian) areas over the period 1995–98. The list, in no apparent order (not even Cyrillic alphabetical) runs from Buriatia to Spitsbergen (and I foolishly thought that was part of Norway!), via Gagauzia, Crimea, Naxicevan, Trans Dnestr, and Azharia.

The earlier overprinted issues are not included. These are ALL thematic/topical designs, and there is a useful index of topics at the front, running (again in no particular order) from minerals and dogs, via Diana, and starts of cinema, through Thailand and swans to ducks. Both indexes are in Russian, English, German, and French, although some of the translation is “quaint.” The “stamps” are illustrated in reduced black and white, and listed with date of issue, subject, face value, and price (mint, used, and cover) presumably FDC. I suppose the prices are in US dollars, but this is not indicated.

Perhaps the most useful part, for those who are interested, is the geographical and historical background to the areas, again in English, German, and French. So if you want to know about

Koriarkia (one WWF issue), it’s between the Sea of Okhotsk and the Bering Sea in the north of the Kamchatka region.

Probably the worst part is that — not even in the introduction — does the editor indicate that these are not official postal issues. He says: “It is for several years already that we have been coming across different postage stamps belonging to territories that depend on Russia and other countries of the CIS. . . . So as to help you to orientate yourself in a great number of above mentioned stamps we begin to publish a catalogue.”

Volume 2 will cover Abkhazia, Batumi, and Tuva, and should be available in November 1998. It is also priced at \$9.99 or 60 new rubles.

— *first reviewed by Ian Billings in a posting to the Rossica email network*

Philip E. Robinson, **The Trans-Siberian Railway on Early Postcards.** Available direct from the author Philip Robinson, 2 Rydallhurst Avenue, Sheffield S6 4BG, England. Email: PRobin391@aol.com. 50 pages of A4 size. US \$20 or equivalent sent by airmail worldwide.

This book will appeal to anyone with an interest in the early years of the Trans-Siberian Railway. The construction of the line, around the turn of the century, coincided with the “Golden Age” of the picture postcard. Many different views of the Trans-Siberian Railway were published between about 1900 and 1918. Publishers in Russia and abroad produced cards to satisfy the demand from travelers on the railway (many of them going to and from the Far East) and also for time.

The purpose of the book is to show a selection of fine cards, mostly from the author’s collection, that were published in the early years of the line’s operation. The views reproduced (sta-

tions, bridges, tunnels, locomotives, etc.) give a fascinating insight into the operation of the world's longest railway in the early years of the twentieth century.

Most pages have two full-sized illustrations of early postcards; with supporting text. Altogether, there are ninety-two postcards illustrated, of which eighteen are reproduced in color. There is also an introduction with some details of the railway and a short appendix listing publishers of railway-related views.

Contents: map cards; railway construction; the West-Siberian Railway; the Mid-Siberian Railway; Lake Baikal steamers; the Circubaikal Railway; the Trans-Baikal Railway; the Bodaibo Railway; the Amur Railway; the Chinese Eastern Railway; the Ussuri Railway; and a list of publishers.

— submitted by Gary Combs

B. H. Bekhtir, **Kataloh poshtovykh marok Ukrainy 96–97 (Catalogue of Ukrainian Postage Stamps 96–97)**. Kiev: Ukrposhta. 184 pages.

This is the long-awaited part two of the Bekhtir catalogue. This catalogue (A5 size) is of excellent production, well bound, illustrated in color on fine quality paper. In Ukrainian with summary information in English, French, German, and Russian. Sections include postage stamps; pre-printed postage stamps on envelopes and postcards; pre-stamped envelopes with original stamps; postcards; pre-stamped envelopes; first day of issue cancellations; official first day covers; commemorative cancels that were used as first day of issue postmarks; envelopes that were used as first day covers; philatelic souvenirs and booklets; and a thematic index.

Of great interest is the catalogue's listing of non-first day postmarks and envelopes that were used as first day covers. Could this be an admission that maybe Ukraine Post should issue official first day envelopes and postmarks for all new stamp issues? The only thing that this catalogue does not tackle is a comprehensive listing of all

official commemorative postmarks. We hope that this will be addressed in the future.

All in all this catalogue is an indispensable tool for all Ukrainian collectors.

— first reviewed by George Fedyk in *The Southern Collector* 5, no. 1 (16) January–March 1999

B. H. Bekhtir, **Kataloh poshtovykh marok Ukrainy 98 (Catalogue of Ukrainian Postage Stamps 98)**. Kiev: Ukrposhta, 1999. 160 pages.

The Bekhtir catalog for 1998 is out. In addition to a complete listing of 1998 issues of stamps and postal stationery, there is a completely illustrated retrospective listing of pre-stamped postal cards. Excellent color illustrations. In Ukrainian with English summaries of stamp information.

— first reviewed by John-Paul Himka in the *June price list from Lemberg Stamps and Covers*

## SOCIETY JOURNALS

**Yamshchik—The Post Rider**, No. 43, November 1998. The Journal of the Canadian Society of Russian Philately. Editor: Andrew Cronin, P.O. Box 5722, Station "A," Toronto, Ontario, M5W 1P2, Canada.

This issue includes an editorial, and Correspondence with Canada by William Pawluk, featuring a 1917 cover from the Volga German town of Shadrinsk to Canada with a Canadian war tax stamp affixed upon receipt. William H. P. Maresch of Toronto suggests that the war tax stamp was applied by a Canadian postal clerk who thought the sender was a Canadian serviceman in Russia. George Werbizky offers a third installment on zemstvo varieties this time featuring varieties from the zemstvo districts of Belozersk and Borovichi. Editor Andy Cronin shows examples of mail from Russia to the monastic colony at Mount Athos, which were franked at the domestic rate, although the Holy

Mount was located on foreign territory, and so received a special postage due cachet. Cronin also illustrated the trilingual essays prepared for Mount Athos by the British, who were contemplating an occupation of Mount Athos during the First World War.

Erling Berger discusses mail addressed to Finland via Prussia and Russia in the period 1819 to 1844 and discusses some of the problems of determining the postal rates applied during this period. Alex Artuchov continues his series on postage stamps issued by the zemstvos, here showing the issues of Sapozhok. Charles Leonard presents a fascinating study of mail carried under the 1865 postal treaty between Russia and Prussia, showing a variety of rare and unusual usages from this little-studied field. Aleksander Epstein follows up on Misha Ercolini's query in the previous issue about the rates for money letters in imperial Russia, focusing here on the period after 1 July 1904 when the payment came to be made in the form of postage stamp. Rabbi L. L. Tann writes on one of his favorite topics, the oval railway cancels of imperial Russia. He illustrates, among other items, a rare example of the TPO route 229 from Tiflis southward to Dzhul'fa on the Persian border, but in this case the cancel is marked only Tiflis-Aleksandropol', and used on a postcard traveling northward to Taranovka in the Khar'kov District.

Aleksander Epstein provides another of his thorough treatments of the World War I field post, discussing Russian field posts in East Prussia this time. As always, Epstein provides important new information, based on rigorous original research. The journal then reprints Zbigniew Mikulski's lecture, given at MOSCOW '97, on postal fraud in imperial Russia.

Andy Cronin and Bob Taylor provide further information on the German colony of Khoritsa/Khorytsya and the rare bisects of the 10-kopek 25th anniversary of the 1905 Revolution stamp used there in 1931 to meet the new postal rates of 1 June 1931. Dr. Arkadii M. Sargsyan discusses aspects of the postal history of

the Armenian Republic in the period 1918–1920, illustrating some remarkable usages including a number of newspaper wrappers, which only rarely survive. Professor A. S. Ilyushin explains the role of the postal-telegraphic state savings offices in imperial Russia, showing numerous examples of savings books with postal savings stamps affixed.

Alexandros Galinos illustrates mail from the Russian occupation of Rize and Trebizond in 1916 and 1917. Bob Taylor follows up on Alexander Epstein's treatment in the previous issue of foreign mail from Ukraine in 1918. Finally, there is a translation of F. Vanius's article on the cancels of Belotsarsk (now Kyzyl) in Tannu Tuva before the introduction of Tuvan stamps.

This engaging issue closes with short notes from collectors, and maintains the high standards we have come to expect from the CSRP.

— submitted by Peter Michalove

**Yamshchik—The Post Rider**, No. 44, June 1999. The Journal of the Canadian Society of Russian Philately. Editor: Andrew Cronin, P.O. Box 5722, Station "A," Toronto, Ontario, M5W 1P2, Canada.

This very full issue begins with an editorial, Correspondence with Canada by Jean Walton (illustrating a 1948 cover from Belorussia to Portage la Prairie, Manitoba), and a fourth installment of zemstvo varieties by George Werbizky. Erling Berger writes an outstanding and a well-researched piece on the 1822 Memel Taksa, which governed the rates from the Russian-Prussian border to various European countries in the period 1922–1943. Alex Artuchov contributes another chapter in his series on postage stamps issued by the zemstvos, this one covering Shadrinsk in the Perm' Guberniya. Alexander Epstein illustrates a rare postcard from one of the Russian volunteer troops in Skopje during the First Balkan War, followed by further examples and discussion by editor Andrew Cronin on this ground-breaking topic.

Alex Artuchov writes a tribute to Georgii

Andreevich Woda, a long-time Russian collector. G. Kul'chitskii, V. Ustinovskii, and O. Forafontov describe a mysterious tête-bêche variety of Blagoveshchensk/Amur, and conclude that the variety was most likely prepared for commercial purposes. Patrick Campbell describes his search for information about a poorly cataloged stamp of the Bogorodsk zemstvo, and demonstrates the value of keeping older catalogs, which are often indispensable for research purposes. Prof. A. S. Ilyushin illustrates a number of usages of the Russian postal savings stamp. This article includes four pages of beautifully produced color illustrations. Rabbi L. L. Tann continues his long-standing interest in imperial railway mail, illustrating rare examples of registration and the assessment of postage due on postal vans.

G. V. Andrieshin provides an excellent study of early postal markings of the Odessa border post in the nineteenth century, and discusses the Russian post office of Makaronia in what is now Asiatic Turkey. Derek Palmer illustrates a number of outstanding items to and from the Russian monastic colony at Mount Athos. Editor Cronin contributes a very interesting piece on the "Latvijas PSR 10-santimu" card. The transition from local to Soviet rates and franking after the 1940 Soviet occupation of the Baltic states is a fascinating topic (and one of my own favorites), but the postal stationery aspect of the period has long been overlooked; this article should lead to further investigation, involving the situation in Lithuania and Estonia as well.

Dr. Arkadii M. Sargsyan writes a well illustrated and researched study of the sixty-kopek overprint applied on one-kopek imperial arms stamps in Armenia in July 1919. F. Vanius writes about the unissued three-kopek carmine stamp of the Russian Levant. Alexander Epstein illustrates mail from the Caucasian theater of World War I, following upon Alexandros Galinos' study in the previous issue of the *Post Rider*.

Finally, Pat Campbell discusses paper, printing, and perforation varieties of the 1937 Pushkin commemorative stamps and souvenir sheet,

showing that there are many more varieties of this stamp to collect than most catalogs would indicate. A fitting close for an issue in this two-hundredth anniversary of the poet's birth. The issue closes with notes from collectors and reviews of recent philatelic literature. A very meaty issue this time!

— submitted by Peter Michalove

**The British Journal of Russian Philately**, No. 82, 1998. The Journal of the British Society of Russian Philately. Editorial board chaired by George Henderson, c/o, CBD Research Ltd., 15 Wickham Road, Beckenham, Kent RB3 7NL, United Kingdom.

This journal begins with a description by J. V. Wollam of an 1866 telegraph form from St. Petersburg. Aleksander Epstein contributes a valuable listing of the domestic banderole rates for different types of printed matter in imperial Russia and the RSFSR. Some of this data, particularly for the imperial period, had been published before but much of it is the result of Epstein's own research using documents of the Soviet postal administration. George S. Miskin writes about the registered mail of the Lodz Fabrichnaya station in the early years of this century and concludes that they are station cancels rather than TPO cancels. Dave Skipton writes about an imperial postal marking, "PROVER-YAL," used in Lodz. The marking literally means "verified," which initially suggested postal censorship, but Dave concludes that this marking was rather an indication of address searches by the post office.

Leonard Tann examines the one- and two-kopek Romanov postal stationery used for wrappers or banderoles. This is a sorely neglected area, and a good partner for Aleksander Epstein's article above. Fortunately, Leonard promises to continue with more material on the postal stationery. Philip Robinson writes about a postcard used by the British armored car division in Russia during the First World War. This particular card, however, mailed from Aleksan-

drovsk in 1916, was posted through the regular Russian post rather than through a British FPO. George Werbizky adds to Peter Walker's comments in the previous *BJRP* on the subject of Russian perfin, including here a four-kopek stamp of the Far Eastern Republic with the perfin XK.

Inkert Kuzych illustrates a rare 1918 postcard from the "Greycoat" division, a unit of Ukrainian POWs released from Austria in 1918 to oppose the Russian communist forces. Terry Page discusses three 1921 pieces using imperial postal savings bank and control stamps. My own contribution illustrates a 1939 cover from Tbilisi to the then chief of the NKVD, Lavrenti Beria, and bearing a (so far) unique cachet in Georgian and Russian indicating governmental mail. Terry Page comments on the success of Hamburg '98, which took place 1 November 1998, organized by the new German Society for Classical Russian Philately and the local philatelic society in Hamburg. It sounds like there was a display of some fabulous Russian material, and a chance to meet a number of Russian collectors from many different countries. The description arouses envy in those of us who were not able to attend.

The issue closes with obituaries of Terry Archer (whom many collectors knew for years by mail) and John Homersham, as well as library notes and reviews of new literature. Another good issue from the BSRP.

— *submitted by Peter Michalove*

**Pochta**, No. 25, January 1999. The Journal of the Australia & New Zealand Society of Russian Philately. Editor: Dr. Ross Marshall, P. O. Box 7, Otorohanga, New Zealand, 2564; email: Marshall.R@xtra.co.nz.

With this issue, the ANZAC Society of Russian Philately celebrates its twenty-fifth issue. After an editorial and an interesting 1961 cover from Moscow to Wellington, NZ, Norman Banfield writes a thorough treatment on collecting, researching, and exhibiting postal history. Banfield discusses what postal history is and is

not, and discusses the tools and satisfactions of researching an area and exhibiting it. While this topic is good for any area of philately, Banfield tailors his treatment to the special problems of Russian collecting, and specifically two of his favorite topics, postal censorship of World War I and early Russian aviation. Philip Robinson, a well-known philatelic author, then discusses philatelic literature. These two articles can be of benefit to all collectors.

Ross Marshall and Robert Bazika discuss the tripod-type datestamps used at Soviet Antarctic stations in the late 1950s and early 1960s. George Werbizky offers a summary of the zemstvo system and its role in imperial Russian mail, illustrating his points with some beautiful examples from his own collection. Alexander Epstein writes another of his typically well-researched pieces, this time on military postal censorship during the Russian Civil War. While censored mail from the First World War is not uncommon (although many of the individual markings are quite rare), material from the civil war period is much difficult to find, and an area needing much more research such as this.

Ludger Hovest then discusses a strip of Soviet stamps with a glued paperweb, and Robert A. M. Gregson shows what can be accomplished with an in-depth study of a recent issue, in this case the first issue of independent Azerbaijan in 1992. Continuing with recent developments, Sergey Chudakov and Pavel Floinsky discuss recent local issues of Pskov and their forgeries; Chudakov illustrates postal stationery issued for the sixtieth anniversary of the city of Korolev; and Ross Marshall illustrates postal stationery honoring the eighteenth-century Russian navigator Yu. F. Lisjansky. Ian Billings reports on a delay in railway mail for over a month in 1998 because the railway, which was owed 210 million rubles by the postal service, refused to carry mail until the debt was settled. Sergey Chudakov shows a number of interesting recent usages from various areas in the former Soviet Union.

The issue closes with reviews of recent

literature and a sample of Russian new year's cards. Congratulations to Ross Marshall on his election as a member of the Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand, and for twenty-five excellent issues of this journal.

— submitted by *Peter Michalove*

**Pochta**, No. 26, July 1999. The Journal of the Australia & New Zealand Society of Russian Philately. Editor: Dr. Ross Marshall, P. O. Box 7, Otorohanga, New Zealand, 2564; email: Marshall.R@xtra.co.nz.

With this issue, the ANZAC publication ventured into the wonderful world of color! At the center of the journal are ten pages of color illustrations to complement Pat Eppel's introductory article on non-postal souvenir sheets and an inflationary cover discussed by Asdrubal Prado.

Other topics covered are:

POW Letter: Japan to New Zealand via Russia, by Robin Startup

Do I Have Any Mail?, by Gary Combs

Russian Exchange Rates October 1, 1923 to March 31, 1924, by A. R. Marshall

Postal Censorship or Military Censorship?, by Aleksander Epstein

Personal Marks of Moscow Postmen, by Ross Marshall and Alexander Ilyushin

A Russian Sailor "Absent Without Leave," by George Henderson

Final Local Provisionals of the Soviet Union 1991, by P. & V. Florensky and K. Protopopov

Far Eastern Republic, by Ed Laveroni

Mail of the Gold Kolyma, by Vladimir Boyko

Express Delivery, by Norman Banfield

Some Interesting Uses of the 1916-17 Surcharges of Russia, by Leonard Tann

Polar Circle Philatelic Exhibition May 13-20, 1999, by Sergey A. Chudakov

Local Issues of USSR: 1961 Monetary Reform, by P. & V. Florensky and K. Protopopov

The journal closes with reviews of new and recent philatelic publications.  
— submitted by *Karen Lemiski*

**Journal of Classical Russian Philately**, 2 (1998). The publication of the Gesellschaft für Klassische Rußland-Philatelie/Society for Classical Russian Philately. Editor, Prof. Dr. Ortwin Greis, Bevenser Weg 2, D-21079 Hamburg, Germany. Phone: (49) 40-768 90 77; email: greis@tu-harburg.de

This is the second issue from the recently formed Society for Classical Russian Philately. All articles are now presented in both German and English.

The table of contents for this issue includes the following articles:

First Cover with Russia No. 1, by Paolo Bianchi

Zemstvo Stamps of Arkarsk 1871-1876, by Ortwin Greis and Paolo Bianchi

P3 Postcard: 4th Example, by Timo Bergholm and Ortwin Greis

Postal Use of the Town Post Stamp of 1863, by Martin Siegler and Hans Dietrich

An Oriental Journey, by Philip E. Robinson

The Postal Rates of the RSFSR for Foreign Mail during the Inflation Period of 1918-1923, by Alexander Epstein, as well as comments on the article by Martin Siegler

The journal also includes the standard society news and reviews of recent literature.

— *table of contents was posted on the broadcast to Rossica members on the Internet*

**Orbit**, no. 40, January 1999. The Journal of the Astro Space Stamp Society. Editor: Jeff Dugdale, c/o Elgin High School, High School Drive, Elgin, Moray, IV30 3YU, Scotland.

Because of the emphasis placed by the Soviet government on developing its space program, there is much of interest in this journal for collectors of Soviet material.

One article discusses the career of Vladimir Georgievich Titov and relevant postal history items. John Blaha also concludes an account of his mission to the Mir space station in the com-

pany of Alexander Kaleri and Valery Korzun (as the Mir EO 22 mission) in 1996, again showing related pieces of postal history.

Yuri Kvasnikov contributes two articles. The first piece tells the fascinating story of the failed Soviet Man on the Moon program (1960). His other contribution highlights the second career of cosmonaut Alexei Leonov as an artist and space stamp designer.

Other topics discussed include: rocket mail, polar-orbiting weather satellites (including Russian ones), the Bell X-1 aircraft, space shuttle items, a third installment on Apollo XI, as well as the careers of astronauts Jeffery Hoffman and Robert Esnault-Pelterie.

— submitted by *Karen Lemiski*

**The Southern Collector**, Volume 5, Number 1 (16), January–March 1999. The Quarterly Journal of The Ukrainian Collectibles Society, PO Box 466, Woodville, SA 5011, Australia.

Here is another interesting issue. Probably the most important item for collectors of Ukraine is the latest listing of new releases. The twelve-page “Catalogue of Ukraine’s 1998 Postage Stamp Issues,” by editor George Fedyk, gives a detailed description of the topic of each stamp, its date of issue, relevant production details as well as a clear illustration of the stamp itself.

Several other photo essay are included. Inger Kuzych contributes “Lviv in Philately,” images of twelve commemorative covers of the Ukrainian Philatelic Society of Austria, 1967–1997. In his ongoing coverage of stamps from other countries with subjects directly related to Ukraine, Fedyk looks at several new releases from Moldova and Poland. This piece is well complemented by the second part of Andrij Solchanyk’s “Postal Issues of Czechoslovakia and Slovakia with Ukrainian Connections.” Then, as a philatelic short, Fedyk looks at an odd practice in Mykolaiv, where imperforate stamps were glued onto covers and then stamped with a postmark commemorating the 150th anniversary of the birth of Admiral S. O. Makarov. The last

article, by Omelan Slobodian, gives an overview of the First Division of the Ukrainian National Army and the religious postcards that were its members prepared during their internment at the prisoner-of-war camp in Rimini, Italy.

— submitted by *Karen Lemiski*

**The Southern Collector**, Volume 5, Number 2 (17), April–June 1999. The Quarterly Journal of The Ukrainian Collectibles Society, Inc, PO Box 466, Woodville, SA 5011, Australia.

In its five years of publication, this is the longest issue, with the usual mix of Ukrainica. The first section is devoted to topics surrounding the city of Lviv. One article, by John-Paul Himka, offers an insight into how contemporary philatelic meetings are conducted in Lviv. Inger Kuzych and Andrij Solchanyk have contributed a listing titled “Lviv in Philately: Landmarks on Soviet-Era Pre-Stamped Envelopes.” Another illustrated article by Solchanyk follows, on “Flights From and To Lviv in 1922–1939.”

To cover aspects of modern Ukrainian collecting, George Fedyk provides a detailed catalogue listing of Ukraine’s 1997 pre-stamped envelopes, which is an invaluable resource for collectors. Fedyk also includes four short articles. The first describes a commemorative cover produced by the Ukrainian Collectibles Society to mark the fiftieth anniversary of Plast in South Australia, which is complemented by two pieces by Omelan Slobodian on other issues prepared for the eightieth anniversary of Plast in Australia and North America. Fedyk’s second article concerns Ukrainian themes on banknotes of the Transdnister Moldavian Republic (PMR). In the third article, Fedyk discusses Ukraine’s 1999 issue dedicated to the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Council of Europe. And finally, as part of his ongoing series devoted to Ukrainica on foreign issues, Fedyk details several recent items from Poland and the PMR.

Another solid issue, with reviews of recent literature, society news, and announcements.

— Submitted by *Karen Lemiski*

# News from the Former Soviet Union

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During the last year, Ian Billings has posted several items to the Rossica email list concerning articles which cannot be imported into the countries of the former Soviet Union, or for which there are restrictions. For those readers who have not seen these messages, here are a few extracts:

## **Azerbaijan**

The administration of Azerbaijan asks me to communicate to you the following information (extracts from UPU Circular 511):

1. Articles that cannot be imported into Azerbaijan: propaganda or advertising promoting immorality, violence or terrorism.
2. Articles that can be imported conditionally: weapons, animals, medicines, Radio-electronic devices, etc.
3. Special provisions regarding importation into Azerbaijan:
  - Goods with a value not exceeding \$200 US may be imported without the collection of customs duty.
  - Cumbersome and fragile parcels are admitted.
  - The maximum weight limit for parcels is 31.5 kg.
  - Two CN 23 customs declarations must be prepared for small packets and postal parcels.
  - The maximum insured value for letter-post items and postal parcels is 1000 SDR.
  - Registered postal items and insured letters marked "Deliver to the addressee in person," as well as letters, items in wrapper and small packets marked "Express" may be admitted for Azerbaijan.
  - Articles subject to customs duty may not be sent in ordinary or registered letters.\* [If items subject to Azeri customs duty cannot

be sent in ordinary or registered letters, then what? Presumably, only by small packet or parcel?]

## **Georgia**

The administration of Georgia asks me to communicate to you the following list (based on UPU Circular 509):

Articles that cannot be imported into Georgia

1. Live animals.
2. Bees, leeches, silkworms, parasites and destroyers of harmful insects.
3. Perishable biological substances.
4. Toxic substances and medical preparations without the authorization of the Ministry of Health.
5. Narcotics, psychotropic substances, hormonal and blood preparations.
6. Radioactive substances.
7. Explosives and combustible and other dangerous substances.
8. Immoral articles or materials.
9. Local and foreign currency, bank notes, travellers' cheques and other valuable documents.
10. Precious stones, articles of jewellery and other valuable articles.
11. Platinum, gold and silver, and articles thereof.
12. Military weapons and firearms, ammunition, cartridges.
13. Tear gas and nerve gas, and the weapons adapted for their use.

Readers will be pleased to note that in neither case is the sending or exchange of stamps prohibited to these countries. I understand that the same applies to Lithuania but I have not seen this in writing.

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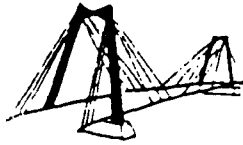
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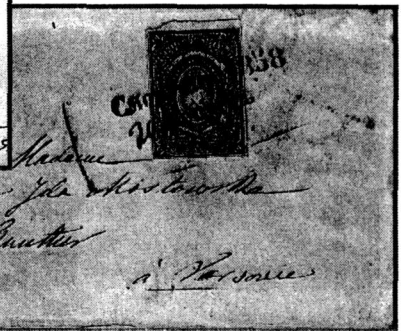
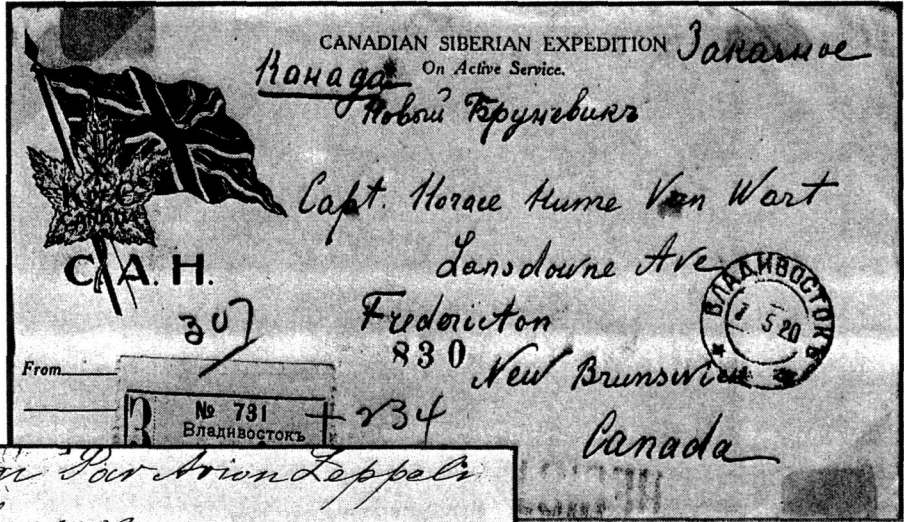
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Illustrated catalogue: CHF 60/US\$ 40 for European clients / CHF 80/US\$ 60 for Overseas clients (by Airmail).

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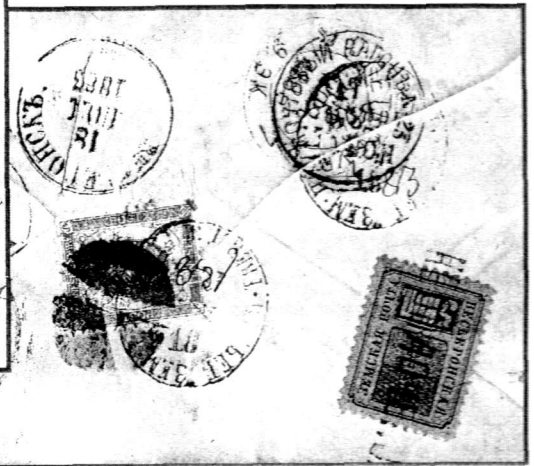
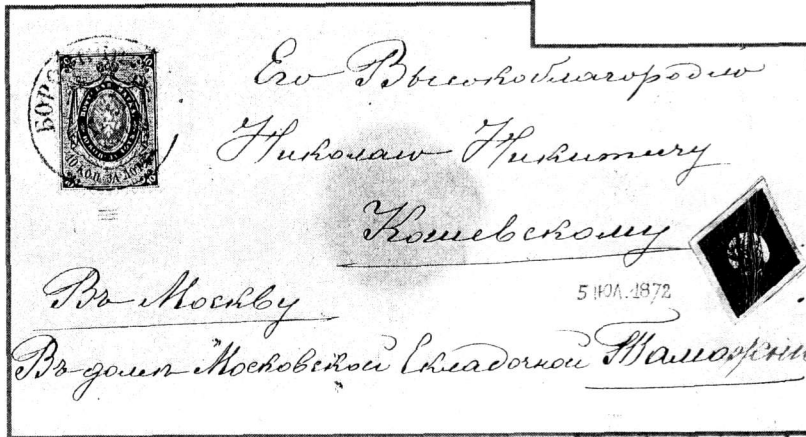
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