



THE SOCIETY OF RUSSIAN PHILATELY

Bulletin 69, Summer 2022

In this issue

- **President's Message**
- **New Member Applications**
- **Board of Directors Report**
- **Zoom Meetings**
- **Exhibit Awards**
- **A Ukrainian Package Saga**

President's Message

Greetings from the deep south of Alabama. It's been hot or raining here, either way the humidity has been terrible.

Lots has been going on in Rossica.

The Rossica Elections will be over by the time you read this. Based on early returns it appears that you, the membership, have decided to retain the current board of officers-Thank you! However, there is one open position on the board of directors that must be filled. If no one was selected, the Constitution permits me to select a replacement with the approved of the officers. So, if anyone is interested on being on the board,

please let me or any other officer know.

We had our first Zoom membership meeting in May based in the Denver Stamp Show. I think it went very well with over twenty members on-line and two great presentations. Vesma and Randy did a great job setting it up. Then in June we had another one that continued the trend. I hope we can continue them.

Our next membership meeting will be 1 PM on Saturday, November 19, during CHICAGOPEX. Please plan to attend. We will have a general membership meeting, an official announcement of the new officers and a program. Vesma has arranged for us to have a Society room on Friday night, November 18. The meeting is open to all members – times that it will be opened will be posted at the Society Table. I should have a few copies of H. Grigoleit and E. Klempka's book "Georgia the years 1917-1923 - Postal History" for sale. This is a 2021 publication from the British Society of Russian Philately. The greater Russian Collector Community lost Ed Klempka in 2019 shortly after he completed work on this book.

We need exhibits for CHICAGOPEX! I'll be Judging and would like to see a few Russian Area exhibits to balance out the Polish ones. The time is now to enter an exhibit. Show off your studies and treasures to your fellow collectors.

I hope everyone is finding the bulletin useful. Randy works very hard to get it out. So, if you see him at a show say thank you. As always, he needs short articles to help make the bulletin interesting, a half page/page is all you need do. Photographs make it easier.

On a sadder note, I was informed by Joseph Geyfman that about 82 copies of his second edition catalog on Local Russian Stamps and Provisionals were destroyed in a fire at the printing plant (see article in this issue). This means that if you had not prepaid for a copy, odds are you will not be able to buy one.

We are now entering the “busy” season for stamp shows. It’s time to get out, socialize with your fellow collectors, see what is being offered by the dealers, look at the exhibits, and enjoy our hobby to the fullest. Philately is a lot more than just putting stamps in an album. So, get out but stay healthy, keep safe and have a great Year.

Raymond J. Pietruszka
Rossica President
pietrj@mindspring.com

Minutes from Rossica Board of Directors Meeting

Unfortunately, a technical issue resulted in a loss of the minutes for the 2022 Directors Meeting

New Rossica Members

We welcome the following new applicants with Tentative Membership into the Rossica Society. If there are no objections from the membership, they will become full members in the Society:

2222 - Roger Santala	MT, USA
2223 - Igor Pugachev	Russia

Rossica Zoom Meetings

The 4 most recent zoom meetings are:

Zoom 1: Semyon Brayman presented “Postal History of Russian Airmail”

Zoom 2: Ray Pietruszka presented “Uses of St. Petersburg Locals – 1992”

Zoom 3: Greg Mirsky presented “Imperial Russian Savings Stamps as Postal and Vice Versa: Sorting It all Out”

Zoom 4: Semyon Brayman presented “Maritime Postal History of the Russian Empire 1668-1878” Approximately 25 people have attended each meeting and there has been some very lively conversation. Everyone is welcome to attend.

The next zoom meeting will be on September 25th at 10 AM, Pacific Time. All are welcome to attend. Semyon Melamed will present “Anniversary Stamps of the USSR 1925-1928”.

There is always a need for new presentations. Show us what you collect. Presentations should last about 20 minutes or 25 minutes.

Exhibit Awards

World Stamp Exhibition - Jakarta, Indonesia, 2022

Vesma Grinfelds:

Cancellations of the Provisional Era in Latvia:
1919 – 1921

Large Gold

Excellent Exhibitor, awarded by the
American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors
Great American Stamp Show

Dmitry Frenkel:

International Airmail in Russian Empire, and
RSFSR and USSR 1870-1941- **Gold**
USSR Postage Due Stamps 1924-1926 - **Gold**
Postal History of Ukraine 1918-1923 - **Gold**

Joseph Geyfman

Local Stamps Provisionals – Russia, RSFSR,
Ukraine, Belorussia, USSR
Literature class - **Gold**
CAPEX22 – Toronto, Canada, 2022
Literature class - **Gold**

To Award Winners

Won an exhibit award? Please send exhibit title, award level, and name of show to randyw1909@gmail.com
Randy Woodward,
5109 Mocha Ct,
Oceanside, CA 92056

A Ukrainian Package Saga

By Raymond J. Pietruszka

In July 2021, I reserved a copy of the second edition of Joseph Geyfman's new 2 volume catalog of *Local Stamps 1917-1963*. In November I received an update that the books would be shipped in late January 2022. In January 2022, I got another update that the books would be shipped by the end of February 2022. Then it got interesting...

In March 2022, I was informed that the first of the catalogs had been shipped from Kharkov, Ukraine on the 23rd of February. The Russians invaded Ukraine one day later, on February 24th and the siege of the city had begun. The catalogs were trapped in Kharkov!

The printing house had shut down, most of the employees were evacuated. However, the owner paid at least two employees to stay behind and look after the facility. This continued until the Ukrainian Army lifted the siege around the 14th of May. The printing house was not bombed, and the catalogs had survived the siege.

On the 26th of May 2022, my catalogs were mailed from Kharkov, (Figure 1), a survivor of the Russian Invasion.

But now for the rest of the story.

On 14 July 2022, I received an email from Mr. Geyfman asking me what was going on with my shipment, and to check the tracking information as the package had been sent registered. On looking up the tracking, I found that my catalogs had been sent to the post office in Chillicothe, MO, and had been there since the 9th of July even though that I live in Madison, AL. On the 15th, I contacted this post office and after talking to a very helpful employee found out that it was not there and in fact had never got there, the tracking information was wrong! So I went to my

local Madison, AL PO office and asked for help. They recommended that I institute an inquiry on the package, which I did. On Monday the 18th the 4 lb. package was on my doorstep safe and sound. I was lucky!

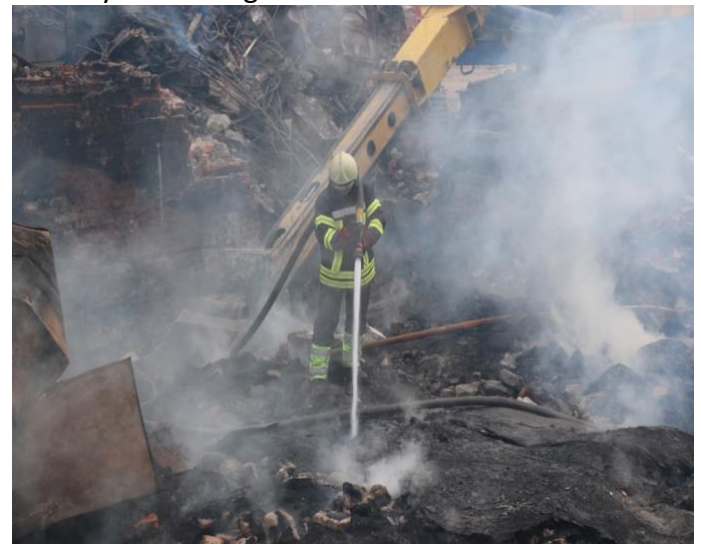
Based on the tracking information (Figure 2), the package appeared at the Huntsville, AL distribution center on the 17th and shipped to Madison (less than five miles) that night. According to the tracking information, the package had traveled from Chillicothe to Huntsville direct – The Post Office had perfected the teleporter!

I was later informed by my local post office that this was not the case. The package had been sitting in Birmingham AL since 7 July and they had finally found it and sent it to Huntsville. So much for the USPS tracking system. I'm just glad I got my catalogs and a piece of postal history of the war in the Ukraine.

PostScript:

On the night of 30-31 July 2022, the printing plant in Kharkov was hit by two missiles and destroyed. Latest reports imply that 82 of the remaining catalogs were destroyed in the fire. The majority of the catalogs, 162 to be exact, had already been mailed beforehand with 6 left to mail.

Destroyed building is shown below.



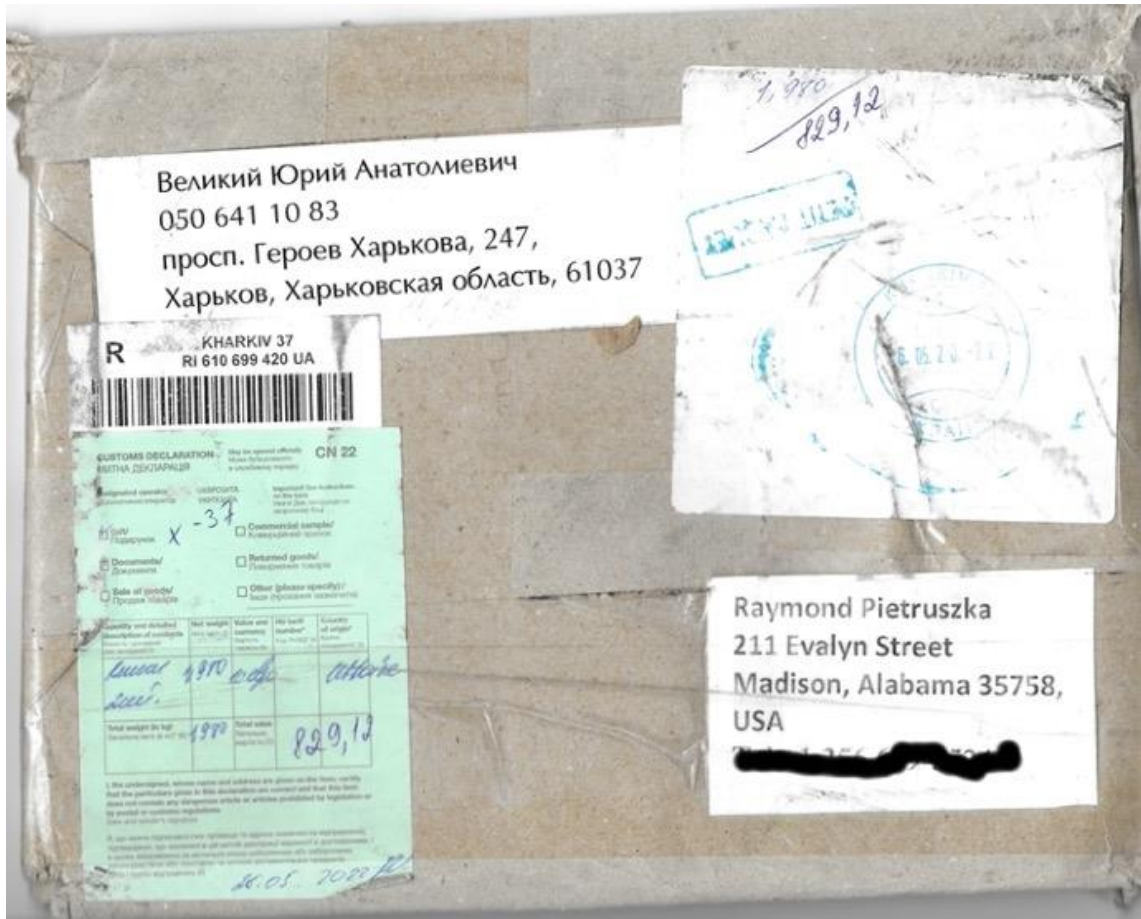


Figure 1. Front of the Package.

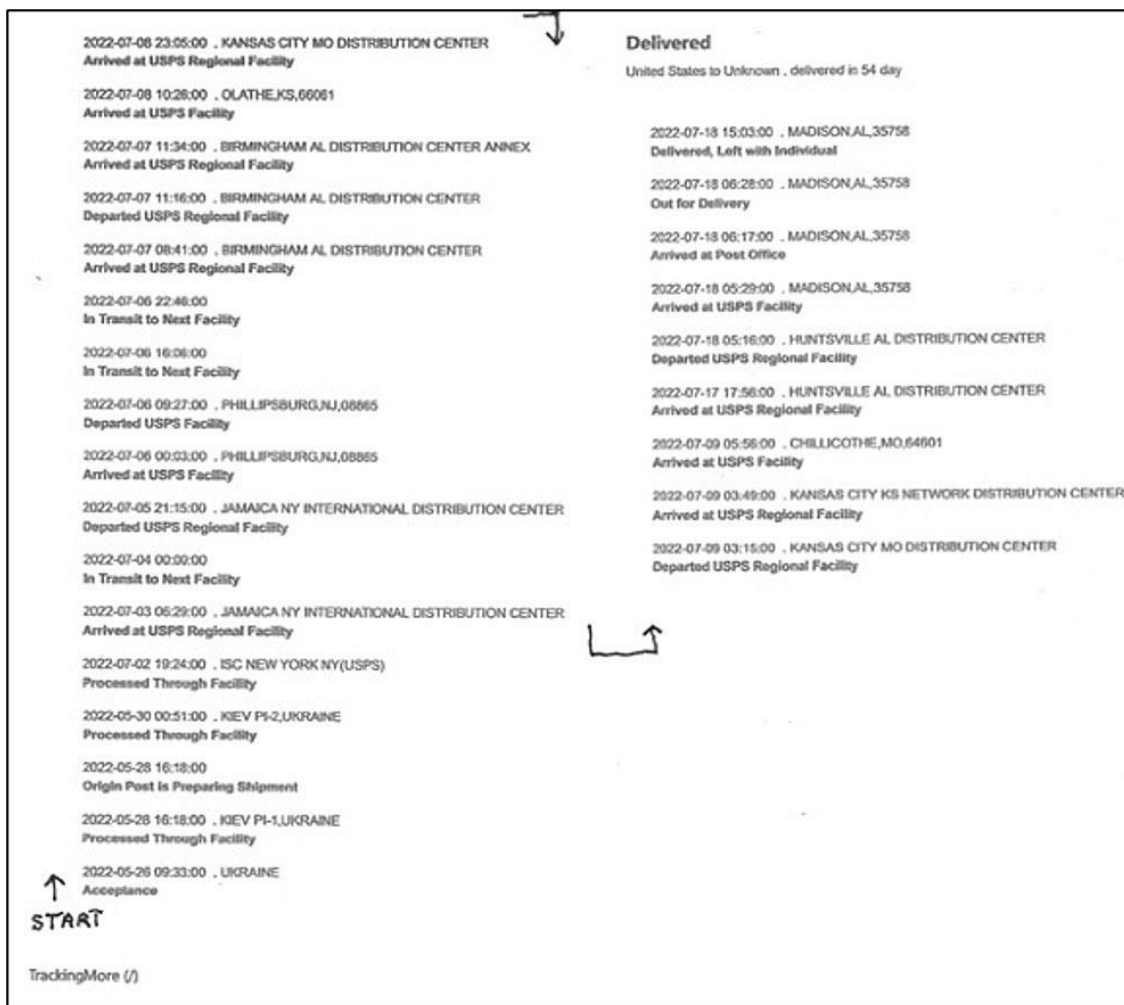


Figure 2. USPS Tracking Information

Short Bulletin Articles Requested

If you have short (3pages of less) article you would like to submit to the Bulletin, please contact me at randyw1909@gmail.com.

Respectively Submitted
Randy Woodward
Bulletin Editor