



THE SOCIETY OF RUSSIAN PHILATELY

Bulletin 65, Summer 2020

In this issue

- **President's Message**
- **Board of Directors Report**
- **New Tentative Members**
- **Exhibit Awards**
- **Mount Athos Money Receipts**

President's Message

Greetings from Alabama. One of the hot spots in the country both for temperature and the Virus. The pandemic still dominates our lives but does own us.

As was announced earlier this year's annual meeting scheduled for October at SESCAL has been canceled. There will not be an annual meeting this year-there is no place to have it. Most national shows have been canceled for the year including the APS Great American Stamp Show in Hartford. We are now looking for a show in 2021 and from what has been happening it will have to be late in the year. We may try for the Great American Stamp Show in Chicago in August 2021. We will keep you posted.

The Society is moving along at a slower pace. Membership numbers are holding, and publications are coming out regularly. I hope everyone enjoyed the latest Journal; I know I did. Congratulations to Bill and Nik for an outstanding job. But remember they need

your articles to fill the Journal.

In my earlier letter I noted that international mail has slowed to a crawl. I can now report that my "Airmail" package paid with 1605 Rubles arrived from Moscow on the 21st of July. It was mailed on the 24th of June-just shy of a month. It either traveled by ship or zeppelin. My postman says a boat – I agree, a zeppelin would have been faster. Another item arrived a little faster – only 3 weeks. So, this is part of the new normal.

Have you found something interesting hiding in your collection? Write an article about for the Journal or bulletin. The editors will help you with it.

Now on a sad note I must report the passing of G. Adolph Ackerman at the age of 87. He was a former Rossica's President. He is best known for his work with Soviet Airmail and his book "Under Red Skies: The development of Soviet Air Mail 1922-1945". He will be missed. If you have any comments to pass along, send them to William Moskoﬀ the Journal editor

Remember what a hobby is for-to fill your free time and escape from the chaos of the real world. So, enjoy your philately.

Let me close with my hope that this issue of the Bulletin finds you and your family well and secure both financially and physically. Use this time to be with your families. Spend a few hours regularly with your albums to recharge and help you continue to enjoy being with your families.

Raymond J. Pietruszka, Rossica President

New Applications to the Rossica Society

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:

2220 – Dr. Vitaly Greyfman	PA
2201 – Dr. James Deline	WI
2202 – Thomas Malicki	ON, Canada

Minutes from Rossica Board of Directors Meeting

March 28, 2020

In attendance: Ray Pietruszka, Steve Volis, Nik Sorokin, Greg Mirsky, David Skipton, Semyon Brayman, Bill Moskoff and Vesma Grinfelds

The meeting was called to order at 11:15PM (PDT) by President Ray Pietruszka

Membership Report: Steve Volis reported that there are about 255 paid members; 25 have not paid.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer, Steve Volis, noted that there is about \$30,000 in the bank even after the printing of the Journal was paid.

There is a Russian company "MARKA" which would like to advertise in our Journal. They have asked for a 1/4 page ad but want a contract acknowledging that we accept their ad. They need to do this according to Russian law. It was agreed that Steve will sign such a contract.

Library Report: Greg Mirsky, Librarian, noted that he is receiving one or two requests per week. He is scanning as much material as he can and putting it all up on the Cloud. Two hundred gigabytes of publications have already been scanned and uploaded. It is a huge project but he is doing much work on it at present. Upon request, he is able to send material electronically. This saves time in fulfilling requests. Storage of 2 terabytes of data on the Google Cloud cost us \$99 per year. This is being done instead of an insurance policy on the library.

Publications Report: Bill Moskoff stated that Journal #174 is ready to be published with all material in hand. It should be out May 15-20. Articles for the Fall Issue #175 are being gathered. Currently, he has 4-5. Greg Mirsky will submit a library report next week for the Spring Journal.

Secretary's Report: Vesma Grinfelds, Secretary, advised that the Annual Meeting held at CHICAGOPEX last November seemed to be a success. She asked how many members usually attend. Ray Pietruska stated that there are usually about 12 in attendance and we need to stimulate the membership to attend the meeting. In preparation for the 2020 Annual Meeting to be held at SESCAL, she asked if we have a list of members with exhibits. It is on our "to-do" list

to create such a list for the purpose of knowing who to contact when exhibits are needed.

Webmaster: We have a volunteer, his name is Max Antonov. He is in communication with Jeff Radcliffe on the upgrade of our website.

New Business:

- 1) Greg Mirsky noted that our FaceBook page is doing much better than the Samovar. Plenty of traffic is being generated with interesting exchange of information. Ray Pietruska stated that he would join!
- 2) Our Annual Meeting this year will be held at SESCAL. Vesma Grinfelds will confirm with their Chairman that we will be a convening society there. In 2021, perhaps we should meet at the Great American Stamp Show (GASS) to be held in Chicago.
Note: As mentioned in the President's Message above, the Rossica meeting at SESCAL has been cancelled because of COVID19.
- 3) Semyon Brayman noted that there were will be a Show in Tartu, Estonia July 10-12. There has been \$2000 pledged to Rossica to set up a table there. We should decide in a month whether to do this (pending the virus situation). A volunteer would be needed to travel there. This proposal shall be revisited in a month.
- 4) Ray Pietruska expressed some thoughts after CHICAGOPEX 2019.
 - a. we need to advertise this event more to the membership
 - b. the hospitality suite was good but need be organized better
 - c. out table needs more volunteers at the event
 - d. we should aim to have 2 presentations at the Show: one during the meeting, perhaps another being a walk-through the exhibits.
 - e. a Rossica luncheon would likely be better for attendance than a dinner
 - f. concerning the presentation, he asked if anyone has a book coming out
 - g. Ray noted that he would be putting out more e-mails in the future starting next month to encourage attendance at the Shows and meeting at SESCAL in October.

Meeting adjourned at Noon (PDT).

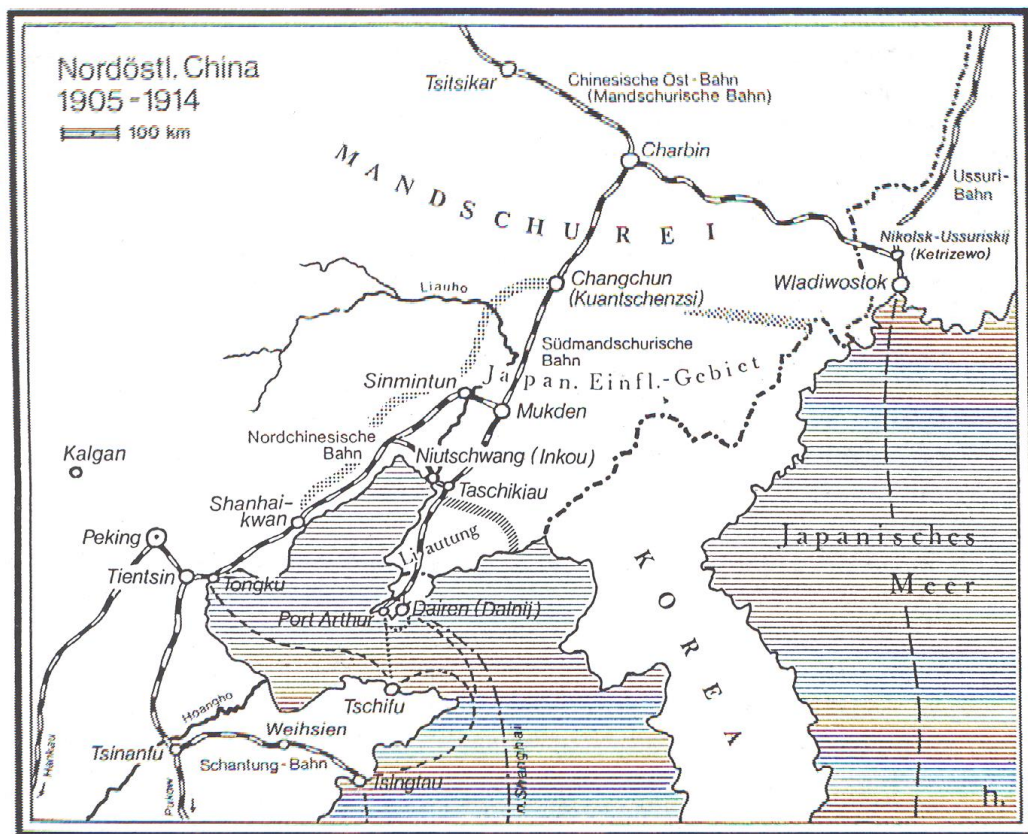
Respectfully submitted,
Vesma Grinfelds, Secretary

German Kiautschou-Russian Double-Franking Mail 1902

By Jerry H. Miller

Between 1900-1903 the trans-Siberian rail network connecting Western Europe & Europe with China was nearing completion with trial and early mail sent through the Russian Post Office between 1896-1903. The so-called “Via Siberia” Route, once completed, would shorten the transit time of mail by 50% or more when compared to sea transport.

The ‘Via Siberia’ Network consisted of a rail Route between Moscow & Manchuria City connecting there with the Manchurian & Eastern Chinese Railways ending at Port Arthur on the Yellow Sea. From the latter, mail was initially transported by coastal vessel to Chefoo in China or Tsingtao in the German Kiautschou Leasehold Territory.



Prior to 1 October 1903, Russian Post Offices in China (Chefoo, Hankow, Liaoning-Peninsula towns of Port Arthur & Dalny, Peking, Shanghai & Tientsin) accepted international mail, including such destined for Germany, when endorsed “Via Siberia”. Russian Franking was applied:

Postcards: 5 Kopeck (Early Russian ‘Via Siberia’ Rate, otherwise 4 kopecks)

Letters/Covers: 10 Kopeck (up to 15 grams)

Registration: 10 Kopeck.

Parcel post and value-letters were not accepted until 1910. Printed matter was to be sent by the sea-route.

EXAMPLE OF EARLY 'VIA SIBERIA' GERMAN-DESTINATION MAIL THROUGH THE RUSSIAN POST OFFICE

Details:

Posted 29 January 1902 (Julian Calendar) = 11 February 1902 Gregorian Calendar).

View-Card postmarked at Tientsin, Russian Post Office, sent to Kolberg, Germany, via the Caravan Route ... Tientsin-Peking-Kalgan-Urga-Kiachta-Myssowaja Station and (by train) across frozen Lake Baikal-Moscow-Berlin-Köln-Stuttgart-Kolberg, arriving on 16 March 1902. 33-Day Transit Time

Franking: 5 Kopecks: Demonstrating Early 'via Siberia' Russian International Postcard Rate



On 1 October 1903 an agreement concerning rates and mail types took effect between the Russian and German Post Offices, whereby mail endorsed "Via Siberia" could now be accepted and sent through the German Post Offices in China, at the UPU International Rates and franked by German-China or German Kiautschou Postage.

However, preempting this agreement between September-December 1902 in expectation that the 'Via Siberia' Route would soon open to German Post Office Mail, the Tsingtao German-Kiautschou Post Office arranged that international mail sent through its facility would be franked according to the valid German Colonial Rate, then expedited to the German Post Office at Chefoo, which then transferred such mail to the Chefoo Russian Post Office where valid Russian Postage would be affixed, resulting in double-franking of German-Kiautschou and Russian Postage.

The German-Kiautschou (German Domestic) Rates for mail sent to Germany were:

- Postcards: 5 Pfennig
- Letters/Covers: 10 Pfennig (up to 15 grams)
- Registration: 20 Pfennig

EXAMPLE OF 1902 GERMAN KIAUTSCHOU – RUSSIAN DOUBLE FRANKING REGISTERED MAIL TO GERMANY

Details:

Posted: 27 November 1902 (Tsingtao), 29 November 1902 (Chefoo)

Registered sealed cover, postmarked at Tsingtao (German Kiautschou Leasehold Territory), sent to Chefoo Russian Post Office routed 'Via Siberia' ... Tsingtao-Chefoo- (by sea to) Port Arthur- (by train to) Harbin-Manchuria-Irkutsk-Samara-Moscow-Berlin-Köln-Stuttgart-Neuffen, arriving on 25 December 1901 at Neuffen. 26-Day Transit Time from Chefoo (Russian Post Office) to Neuffen.

German Franking:



- 30 Pfennig: 10 Pfg. Single-weight Domestic German Letter-Rate + 20 Pfg. Registration Fee Russian Franking:
- 20 Kopeck: 10 Kopeck UPU Single-Weight International Letter-Rate + 10 Kopeck Registration Fee
- The author knows of only one double-franked registered-mail example during the period involved (illustrated here) and two postcards.

German-Kiautschou & Russian Double Franking contradicted the regulations of the UPU Member Agreement, which indicated that only one paid franking was valid and specifically that of the country of origin, i.e. in this instance Kiautschou under the German UPU Agreement. Earlier double-franking mail with German & China franking did not come under the UPU Membership Agreement, since China first became a member of the UPU in September 1914.

Upon learning of the aforementioned situation by the German Postal Authorities at Shanghai, administrative headquarters for German Post Offices in China, they immediately instructed the Kiautschou Post Office at Tsingtao to cease such procedure and mail forwarding.

Thus, only during the period of September-December 1902 did double-franking of German Kiautschou-Russian Postage on mail to Germany take place.

Bibliography:

Examples 1 and 2: Miller Collection

1. *Kiautschou*, Deutsche Briefmarken Revue, Issue 2/2009, Page 27.
2. Dehnert, Willi and Dr. Kiepe, *Deutsche Post in China – Kiautschou, Berichte für Kolonialbriefmarken-Sammler*, Issue 86, September 1988, Pages 1638-1680.
3. Schmidt, W. & Werner, Hans, *Geschichte der Deutschen Post in den Kolonien und im Ausland*, Leipzig, Konkordia Verlag, Leipzig 1939, Pages 345-388.

Bulletin, Summer 2020

Respectfully Submitted by Randy Woodward

Rossica Bulletin Editor