



THE SOCIETY OF RUSSIAN PHILATELY

Bulletin 70, Winter 2023

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President's Message

Bon Jour Y'all! Your President has survived a December and January trip to France, to attend the birth of my first grandson and spend the holidays with our daughter and her husband. In addition to spending time with my grandson and doing tourist things, I had time to visit Rue Drouot – the Stamp Street in Paris! Not as grand as it was in the 70s but there are still half a dozen stamp shops and auction houses. I was able to visit three shops but was surprised to not find any Russian Area stamps! I hope I just visited the wrong shops for Russian stamps. However, all the shops I visited were just packed with stamps and I was able to fill a few holes in my Indochina collection.

I am now back in the US, busily getting ready for this

year's stamp season: exhibiting, judging, and writing articles. But as you will see below, your officers have been busy without me.

Zoom meetings are continuing, one every month with 20 to 30 attendees. Please watch your emails for announcements or check with Randy Woodward (randw1909@gmail.com) or Vesma Grinfelds (vesmag@gmail.com) for meeting information.

Officers are making schedules for national membership meetings for the next few years. The demand to get into the big shows is getting greater and greater every year, which means we need to sign up earlier and earlier. We've scheduled NOJEX in New Jersey for October 2023 and WESTPEX for April 2025. We are still working on a show for 2024 and hopefully we can get into the Boston International Show in 2026.

Our 2023 membership meeting will be at NOJEX in October 2023. Start planning to attend and/or exhibit. October will get here quickly.

Through the continued hard work of our editorial staff and writers, the Society continues to put out an award-winning Journal. The sharing of information about Russian Philately is one of the most important functions of our Society so read the journal and if you have something to contribute to it, please write it up and submit it. We have editors who will help you polish it up and prepare it for publication if necessary.

Dues are past due for 2023. If you haven't paid your 2023 dues yet, please do so. The rates are still the same as 2022, however in 2024 they are going up! The costs of printing the Journal and mailing it have continued to increase and in 2023 these costs will pass the breakeven point. The Society officers will decide how much dues need to increase at their next meeting. Expect an increase of at least \$5.00 a year for a hard copy issue in the US, more for overseas. As many of you know overseas postage rates have gone crazy.

Well, that's about it for now. Stay healthy, count your blessings, and enjoy the coming spring and the stamp show season.

Raymond J. Pietruszka
Rossica President
pietrj@mindspring.com

Minutes from Rossica Board of Directors Meeting

Attendees - In Person: Ray Pietruszka, Vitaly Geyfman, Jenny Banfield, Norman Banfield, Jerry Miller, John Siko and Andrew Siko, Vesma Grinfelds
Attendees - In Person Guests: Raimundas Lapas
Attendees - via Zoom: Nik Sorokin, Steve Volis, Alex Kolchinsky, Bjorn Sorne, Per-Christian Wallen, Joe Taylor, Edie and Dale Eggen, Robin and Sally (British Society of Russian Philately), Neil Richie.

The Annual Meeting was called to order at 1:00PM by President Ray Pietruszka at CHICAGOPEX 2022. President Pietruszka gave the following reports:
Reports and Updates: Currently, there are @270 paid members. This is down a little from 300 in 2018. In early 2016, our membership was down to @200!

The Treasury is "holding its own". There has been a general increase in membership, book sales. The Journal is outstanding. It is an internationally recognized and award-winning publication. Rossica also has a "Bulletin" sent via email to members. Members are needed to create articles and to do research. Bill Moskoff was thanked for his work on this.

Currently literature of interest in the area is being published concerning local stamps. Our election took place this year. All current officers were re-elected. Bill Moskoff replaced David Skipton as a Board Member. George Shaw was thanked for his service in tabulating the votes. In the past year, Rossica held Society meetings at the Rocky Mountain Stamp Show in Colorado and at SESCAL in the greater Los Angeles area.

Announcements:

- 1) Thoughts concerning future plans: Rossica will continue publishing the Journal. We need to have a larger presence at National Shows via both physical presence (a table) and exhibits.
- 2) We need to increase our Internet presence in regard to the Web. We need a Journal index and a digital library portal, and we need a link to our website to other philatelic sites so that we can be found easily. The Journal requires translators and proofreaders, more are needed. Please volunteer to proofread and write articles.
- 3) Rossica needs to continue our support of books

and publications. This should continue on an annual or bi-annual basis.

Leadership officers are needed. Ray Pietruszka noted that "This is your Society, please help run it".

4) Ray then stated that no Society Awards were given this year.

Questions and Answers:

1) Edie Eggen asked if Rossica would consider being a featured society at WESTPEX in the future. Secretary Vesma Grinfelds will explore this thought.

2) Nik Sorokin brought up the subject of the journal's printing and mailing costs which rise with every new issue. Because of that we would either need to raise our membership dues or increase the number of paid advertisements in the journal. To that end we would need a volunteer who would be our Marketing Specialist to bring in new advertisers for our publication. Additionally, any Rossica member could help by speaking to stamp dealers and auctioneers whom they encounter about advertising in Rossica.

Presentation: Following the General Meeting (via Zoom and In-Person), Ray provided us with a Power-Point presentation on the subject of: " St. Petersburg Local of 1992 and Their Uses - The Good, Bad and Ugly". This was enjoyed by all with examples of the issues, overprints, and a variety of usages, as well as forgeries.

Exhibiting Awards

Norman Banfield

Russian Revenues: Stamped Paper and Stamps from the Imperial to the Soviet Periods,
National Large Golds with 91 points
New Zealand National NZ 2021 (held February 2022 b/c COVID)

Russia – Airmail Services 1922-1945

Large Gold
American Airmail Society Gold Medal
CHICAGOPEX 2022, Multi-Frame

Vesma Grinfelds

Cancellations of the Provisional Era in Latvia: 1919-1921
Large Gold
Rossica Society Rossica Award
Postal History Society Medal
CHICAGOPEX 2022, Multi-Frame

Jenny Banfield

Taxed from the Cradle to the Grave

Large Gold

ATA-2-nd Award

Anthropomorphic Cats

Large Vermeil

AAPE Creativity Award

CHICAGOPEX 2022, Multi-Frame

Vitaly Geyfman

First and Second Non-Stop Transatlantic Flights from NYC to Lithuania

Gold

CHICAGOPEX 2022, Multi-Frame

John D. Ciko

Russia and Germany's Arctic Rendezvous

Silver

CHICAGOPEX 2022, Multi-Frame

David Geyfman

Judo Techniques Featured Throughout the Olympics

American Topical Association-Best Youth

AAPE Best Youth Award

CHICAGOPEX 2022, Youth Single Frame Exhibits

To Future Award Winners

Please send exhibit title, award level, and name of show to

randyw1909@gmail.com

Randy Woodward,

5109 Mocha Ct,

Oceanside, CA 92056

Rossica Zoom Meetings

The most recent zoom meeting was

- Zoom 8 January 2023: Semyon Brayman presented *Balloons correspondence from besieged Paris to Russian Empire, 1870*. Link: https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/zT1gXY8PYdVPWBuVSjl_K-K9uVCxWLKkz1Ptry0V1cBkLx8luxf7M63S4xOSvLUY.vhj4XpKkCb1Wx66H

The February zoom will be presented by Michael Levy with title Be a Hero.

For information on Rossica zoom meetings contact Randy at randyw1909@gmail.com.

New Rossica Members

We welcome the following new applicants into the Rossica Society.

2226 - Jake Bykhovsky	MA, USA
2227 - Dr. Leonid Katz	CA, USA
2228 - Dr. Wolfgang Leopold	Germany
2229 - Dmitriy Litvak	NY, USA
Reinstated:	
2059 - Lowell Roop	AL, USA

An Introduction to Factory Postmarks in Imperial Russia

By Gilbert M. Rios

The most frequently seen factory postmark from Imperial Russia is identified by the term *Завод* (factory) on a circular date-stamp (cds).

I became interested in factory postmarks 5 or 6 years ago when I found a small batch of them in a collection I bought from Vadim Ustinovsky, a well-known expert of the Moscow Society of Philatelist (MOF). Since then, I have made additional purchases from Europe, the United States, and, just prior to the war in Ukraine, I purchased a large lot of factory postmarks from Russia.

As I began studying the material, I soon realized the scarcity of material on the subject. I checked reference books by Prigara and Bazilevich, and I recently checked with Tyukov, another recognized Russian expert from MOF. I reviewed BJRP and Rossica Journals. The only mention of factory postmarks I was able to find was on Leon Finik's website (www.russianstamps.com) where it is a subcategory of Russian Postmarks.

It is my hope that this short introductory article and the two short presentations on factory postmarks I gave at recent zoom meetings held by both BSRP and Rossica will generate additional documented information.

First, factory cancellations are specific to the Russian postal system and there doesn't appear to be an equivalent in other European countries.

The rationale for factory postmarks is that in a country as large as Russia, it was necessary to identify all the relay points available for the circulation of mail. Because most factories served as the embryo of new towns by attracting people looking for work (for example, those coming

in the Urals to find a job in newly created metallurgy factories), they represented "natural relay" points.

Factory post offices provided many of the same functions as city post offices: ordinary mail, registered letters, money letters, etc.

There are at least 3 different circular date stamps identifying factory mail:

- *Завод* (Zavod - Factory),
- *Рудники* (Rudniki - Mines),
- *Мануфактура* (Manufactura -Textiles)

The *Завод* postmark is the most frequently seen. Figures 1 and 2 show *Завод* postmarks; in this case, both factories are metallurgical plants. *Завод* postmarks have also been used by plants that produce stationery or candy and by stud farms.

Figure 1 (on the next column) is a money letter posted in 1876 from the Lugansky Zavod (ironworks) in the governorate of Ekaterinoslav (today Dnipro). This factory was the first metallurgical plant created in Ukraine (1795). Postal activities seem to have been started as soon as 1830. On the back of the cover are three beautiful postmarks:

- LUGANSKY ZAV. 16 SEPT. 1876, the date the factory accepted the letter,
- LUGANSKY ZAV. 17 SEPT. 1876, the date the factory sent the letter, and

- A September 21 receiving postmark from Odessa.

The cover is sealed with 5 wax seals, the central one referencing the Lugansky Zavod

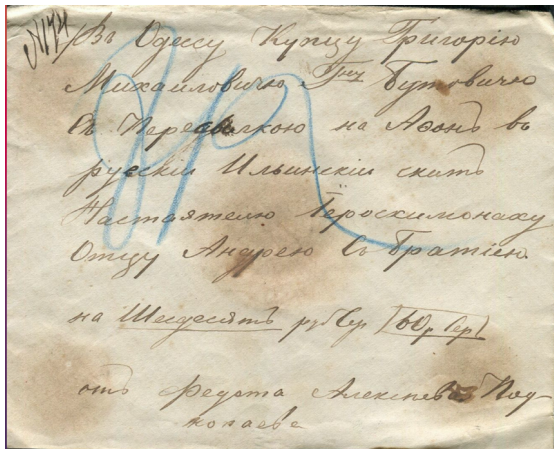


Figure 1. Front and back of money letter with “Луганскій Зав.” circular date-stamp.

post office. The amount of money sent - 60 rubles - is indicated on the front side of the envelope. The letter is addressed to the merchant Grigory Mikhailovich Butovich in Odessa, for subsequent redirection to a monastery on Mount Athos for the attention of the Abbot Archimandrite (Superior) Andrew and other brothers.

The second cover, Figure 2, is a registered letter from the Kama Company sent from Perm to Lyon, France on July 14, 1914 (Julian) by the management of the Pachia factory. The head office of the company was in

Lyon at Gasparin Street 27. Registration is clearly indicated on the front of the envelope – in French on the left and in Russian on the right - as well as by the label with the red “R” and the registration number 168. The inscription “Архангело-Пашійский Заводъ Пермской” (abbreviated “Архангело-Пашійск Зав. Перм” or, in English “Arkhangel-Pashiysk Factory in Perm”, is visible on cds on both the front and back of the cover. The letter is franked on the back with 4 stamps totaling 40 kopecks (14*2+10+2), which was the postage rate



Figure 2. Front and back of Registered letter with with “Архангело-Пашійск. Зав.” cds.

prevailing in 1914 for a letter of 3 lots with registration.

The letter arrived in Lyon on August 30, 1914, as indicated by the arrival cds on the back of the cover. The unusually long time between departure and arrival of the mail – more than one month when 6 or 7 days were usually sufficient at the beginning of

the 20th century – is probably due to the fact that the First World War had started at the end of July 1914, prohibiting the routing of mail by rail via Prussia (which was in use before this date) for a new longer journey via the Duchy of Finland, Sweden, Denmark... with possibly a part of the trip involving shipment by mail!

The goal of this short note is simply to draw the reader's attention to an area that is still almost virgin and for which a lot of work remains to be done.

Should anyone have more information on this subject, please contact the author at:

gilbertm.rios@orange.fr.

Thank you in advance.

*Respectively Submitted
Randy Woodward
Bulletin Editor.*