



THE SOCIETY OF RUSSIAN PHILATELY

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Steve Volis, Nik Sorokin - Bulletin Editors

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President's Message



Greetings from Siberia -- I mean Alabama where it is 19° F with snow on the ground! According to the weather channel, most of northeastern America is under snow as well. But by the time you read this note, Alabama should be seeing 60°+ F weather.

Since my last report, your Society has been moving along. CHICAGOPEX was a great show with 12 Russia related exhibits, a good membership meeting with 12 present including visitors, and a lot of material to look at. Randy Woodward gave a presentation based on his research regarding the Soviet government's transition to the Gold Ruble in the 1920s entitled "Paper to Gold".

The Society is in good shape. We have close to 300 paid members with 2/3 of them in the USA. We are the last English-speaking, Russia-related philatelic society, so keeping our membership

engaged is very important. The treasury has over \$20,000 after paying for 2024 journals printing, cloud storage, web hosting, and other bills. Randy is still having Zoom meetings regularly, and our Facebook group has over 350 members. Greg Mirsky is busy taking care of the library and helping members with their research requests. He even found time to write a new catalog on Russian revenues. Vesma is keeping us all straight and, in addition, is working hard as an APS international commissioner for the United States.

Steve, Nik, and the editorial board continue to put out a first-class journal and bulletin. Not only are the articles first rate, but the production quality is outstanding. If you think you can contribute to the production of the publications, be that writing articles, translating, editing, or proofreading, let Steve know.

WESTPEX is almost here! It is scheduled for 25-27 April in San Francisco, CA. I hope you have made your plans to attend. We will have a booth there and will hold a membership meeting that will include a presentation. There will also be a walkthrough of our exhibits on Sunday conducted by one of the judges. There are currently 19 frames of exhibits, but we could use more.

So why are people not exhibiting? Anything we can do to help? You may not know it, but the Society can help by reviewing your exhibit and providing suggestions for making it more competitive. You don't even have to have it completed for us to provide some help. For example, we can review your concept, title page, or your rough draft. Another area where the Society can help is through the library. Greg is glad to provide information and sources to help you research your topic. Drop him an email and see what he can do. Just remember - he is a volunteer and not a paid research assistant.

BOSTON 2026, is only a year away. We will need your help to man the booth, give a presentation, or show an exhibit. Please plan not only to attend but to be involved with your Society's efforts.

Elections are approaching. Please think about supporting the Society as an officer and commit

yourself to run for a position. Your Society needs you; we don't want to end up like the British Society (BSRP)!

What are you all doing to promote Russia-related philately? Please let us know. It could be something we can export to other members and clubs. For my part, I am preparing a presentation for our local club on Imperial Russian philately, an introduction. If it goes well, I'll make the slides available to anyone who wants them. We must grow our membership; we are not getting any younger.

I had a long talk with Greg Mirsky at CHICAGOPEX. He is doing wonderful things to make the library more accessible and secure for the future. Do you realize that he is digitizing everything that he sends out, then keeps the digitized copies available for future use? He is also preserving all hard copies in the library and told me that he will gladly take any donations of philatelic literature/material. Drop him an email and see what he has been up to.

This month Rossica officers will have their meeting by Zoom. At the meeting, we will be talking about several subjects including two new ones. The first one is changes in the way we hold meetings. CHICAGOPEX taught me that having membership ZOOM meetings at philatelic shows is way too difficult. By the time one gets everything working, the meeting is over. So, I'm proposing that in the future we continue to have membership meetings at shows, but only with the members attending the show. Then, once a year we will hold a planned ZOOM meeting that will be our general membership meeting. We are already doing this with the officers' meetings, and they work fine. The other issue is long term finances. Right now, we are in good shape but what I worry about is the continued growth of printing and mailing costs. We can't really depend on increasing dues every time the cost of publishing our journal exceeds our annual dues collections. We need to find either another source of income or another way to get the journal out (and I don't like digital-only journals). We will keep you posted.

Well, that's it for this letter. I hope everyone enjoyed their holidays and are staying warm and

healthy. As always remember that this is a hobby, taking care of you and your families comes first.

Raymond J. Pietruszka
Rossica President

New Rossica Members

We welcome the following new applicants into the Rossica Society:

2256 - Michael Bass, OH. USA
2257- Thomas Berger, Switzerland
2258 - Stav Jakobi, Monaco
2259 - Esa Karkas, Finland



Using Stereo Vision to Detect Printing Varieties by Ged Seiflow

I think we are all somewhat familiar with the stereograph cards of yesteryear. Stereographs consist of two nearly identical images paired to produce a single three-dimensional image. These are viewed either through a stereoscope or through the naked eye by focusing on infinity, relaxing the eye until you see three images. The center image is the three-dimensional image. I don't have a viewer but have trained myself to use just my eyes. By placing two stamps an inch or so apart and viewing this as if it were a stereograph, any differences in the design will flash indicating a difference in the design. Once you have mastered this, you may very well find errors you were not aware of before.

Air Mail Letters Sent to a Cruise Ship

by Mikhail Dymshits

Translated by S. Volis and N. Sorokin

Waterside postal departments that had more than 4 mail exchanges with ships was the subject of my article in the 24th issue of the Russian-language Postal History Almanac. [1] Recently, on a related topic, we found three covers that were mailed from Moscow in July 1955 by a husband to his wife who was sailing aboard the cruise ship Nekrasov. One of the letters was addressed to Kazan. It was sent on July 17 and arrived in Kazan on July 19. The other two were mailed to Ufa. The first one was sent on July 19 and received on July 21, and the second one was mailed on July 20 and received two days later. All three covers have the word "Avia" (by air mail) handwritten on them and, in addition, two of the covers have the same word AVIA handstamped as well. The letter that was mailed from the 17th PO in Moscow has a frame line around the word AVIA, while the letter sent from a mailbox in the Bauman district of Moscow has a plain AVIA strike without the frame.

Figure 1 shows the earliest cover addressed to Kazan with the handwritten "Air Mail" (Avio) on top. It has two arrival postmarks: "Kazan-10" (postal "expedition" mail office) and Kazan-15, a P.O. branch located at the city's Volga River wharf.

Figures 2 and 3 show two covers that were, as indicated above, mailed in different ways. Both have the handwritten

notation "Avia" and both bear "Avia" handstamps. The cover with the framed handstamp was handed in at Moscow's 17th P.O. branch, and the unframed one was stamped on the letter dropped into a mailbox in Moscow's Baumanskiy P.O. dispatch hub. The two slightly different "Ufa-10" arrival date stamps are typical for mail arriving in Ufa during this period. Just as the "Kazan-10" postmark, they were used at Ufa's city's "expedition" office.

These three covers are interesting examples of crossover postal classification: on the one hand they are obviously air mail, but on the other hand they are also related to ship mail!

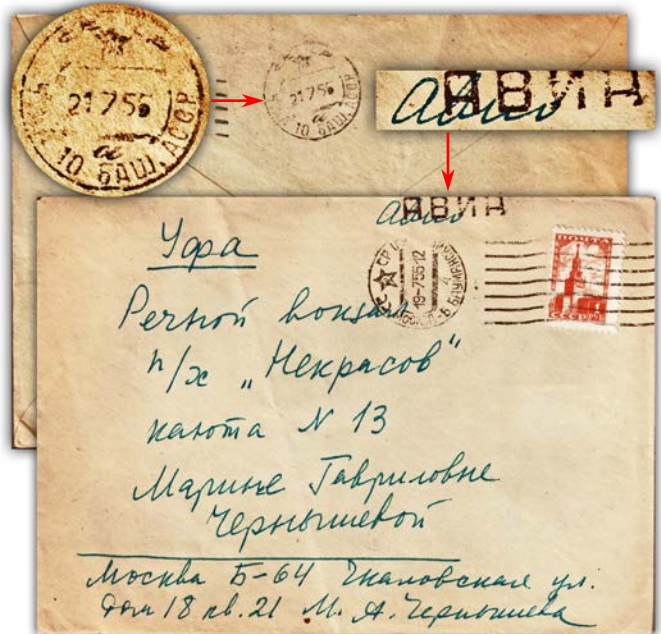


Figure 2.

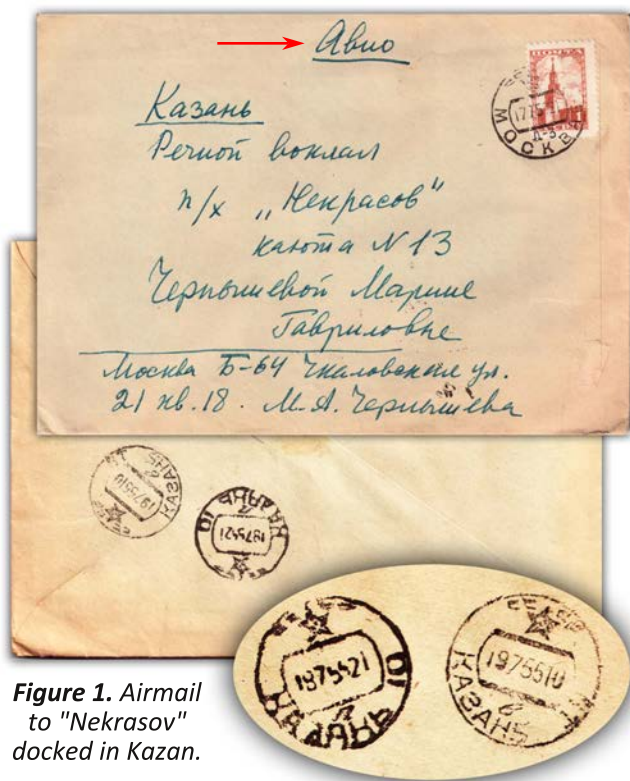


Figure 1. Airmail to "Nekrasov" docked in Kazan.



Figure 3.

Reference

1. M. Dymshits. "Водные Почтовые Отделения и Отправления на Борт Судна" [Waterside Post Offices and Mail Correspondence Addressed to Ships.] Almanach No. 24, Moscow, 2017: 76-82.

S. Brayman

V. Tyukov

DISINFECTION OF CORRESPONDENCE IN THE RUSSIAN EMPIRE



This amazing book has just about everything that you may have wanted to know about cholera, plague, and the disinfection of mail in the Russian Empire -- but were afraid to ask!

As explained in the Introduction, "the goal of this book is to sum up the materials on disinfection of correspondence previously published and collected by the authors, and present the general history of plague and cholera epidemics as well as measures to control them in the Russian Empire."

Between the covers of this beautifully printed and bound 231-page tome, you will discover the history of those epidemics, a handbook on how the Russian Empire tried to protect itself from them, and a detailed catalog of mail correspondence disinfected in the quarantines of Odessa, Kherson, Revel, Slonim, Tiflis, Troitskosavsk, and numerous other locations.

To purchase, or for additional information please contact Steve.Volis@Rossica.org

For those members who have NOT PAID their Rossica dues,
we are sad to inform you, that this may be your
FINAL ROSSICA PUBLICATION.



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