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The British Society of Russian Philately

*A Society founded in 1936 to study Philatelic and Postal Matters
connected with Russia, past and present*

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EDITORIAL *Edward Klempka*

After a final review of this year's journal I feel an overwhelming sense of pride that so many members, UK and abroad, have submitted articles to share their knowledge.

I was hopeful that this year would see two journals produced; the spirit was willing but the flesh is weak - perhaps next year.

Real progress has been made in involving our wider membership, who have contributed articles of superb quality. This is the first time in many years that I have not had to contribute articles to fill the space. Long may it continue!

Please give us your feedback. Have we pressed the right buttons? What type of article would you like to see? If you want to submit an article but are unsure about anything, submit what you can and we will do the rest.

A special thanks and a big hug to Caroline Ferreira who makes it all possible and a special thanks to Philip Robinson FRPSL for his invaluable contribution and proof-reading.

Edward Klempka

Edward Klempka
EDITOR November 2014



BSRP WEEKEND MEETING HELD 20-21 OCTOBER 2013

	Exhibitor	Displayed
Saturday 19	Hans Grigoliet	Dagestan, the History of Sochi – 1918 Provisional Issues
	Charles Leonard	Imperial Russia – the 1st Low Value Arms Issue
	Terry Page	Solikamsk (zemstvo issuing district)
	Edward Klempka and Terry Page	The Cherdyn Zemstvo Post
	Roger Castle	WWII Field Post – Cards and Drop Leaflets
	Robin Joseph	MASKAROVKA “Appearances and Deception”
	Trevor Pateman	Mail Abroad from Bolshevik Russia 1917-1921
		The Mother of the Gulag (Solzhenitsyn)
Sunday 20	Lenard Tiller	Odessa – Some of the Postmarks
		WWI Censor Marks
	Thomas Berger	Ukraine
	Alexander Ivanov	Mixed Frankings of Russia – 1918 to 1922
	Ray Ceresa	Transcaucasian Federation of Soviet Republics – 1918 to 1922 (22 types of the Star overprint)

SOME MONEY FOR THE ABBOT

Philip Robinson, FRPSL

It is often the case that “money letters”, that is, insured letters containing a declared amount of money (this being checked by the postal clerk who notes this and applies official seals) are interesting items, as they tend to have a variety of different markings. This certainly applies to the one shown here, dating from 1901. It does not have any adhesive stamps, and so the postal and insurance fees were evidently paid in cash.

The letter was sent from the small town of P'yanskii Perevoz, or “P'yana Ferry”, in the Knyagin in uезд of Nizhnii-Novgorod guberniya. The “P'yana” or “drunken” river rises in the hills to the south-east of Nizhnii-Novgorod and winds its way towards the Volga. Looking at its meandering course on the map, it might be thought that the name “drunken” is a reference to its “swaying” from left to right, but in fact the name is thought to derive from a battle fought here in 1377, when a small “Blue Horde” force under Khan Arapsha routed a larger number of drunken Russian troops under Prince Ivan Dmitriyevich.

This money letter evidently contained three roubles in silver (third line from the bottom - “три руб серебром”) and so this explains the large, handwritten “3” in red. There is also a boxed marking “П'ян.-Перевозъ / № ...” (P'yan.-Perevoz / No. ...) as was used for insured letters, with the figure “7” inserted by hand. The low number suggests that



Money Letter - front



Money Letter - back

this office did not handle many letters of this kind. This letter was sent by a certain Andrey Yakovlevich Lekorev, resident in “the village of Revezen, in Knyagininsky district”. At the time, Revezen did not have its own post office (an office of the “volostnoe pravlenie” type was opened there in September 1909) and so Andrey Yakovlevich took his letter the short distance to P'yanskii Perevoz to post it. The envelope is addressed to a representative of the “Russian Il'in skit” (a “skit” being a type

of monastery) in Pushkinskaya Street, Odessa, to be passed on to “Archimandrite Gavril”. In the Eastern Orthodox church, an Archimandrite is a senior abbot in a supervisory role, often in charge of several monasteries, or of a particularly important monastery. This archimandrite was at “Afon”, a reference to the “Holy Mountain” monastery at Mount Athos in Greece.

The letter was posted on 3 March 1901, as indicated by

the P'yanskii Perevoz / Postal (Sub-) Office c.d.s. on the front "ПЪЯНСКИЙ ПЕРЕВОЗЪ НИЖЕГ. Г. / ПОЧТ. ОТД.". There is an apparent mistake in the lettering of this postmark, as the initial letter "П" is followed by a hard sign "Ъ" instead of the soft sign "Ь" which is found in other sources.

The letter evidently left P'yanskii Perevoz two days later, to judge from the c.d.s. dated 5 March on the back. Also on the back is a postmark of Knyagin (the "parent" kontora of the P'yanskii Perevoz otel) dated 6 March, and one of Nizhnii-Novgorod dated 7 (March). There is also an Odessa receiving mark of 12 March 1901.

The envelope was sealed according to the rules prescribed for money letters, which stated that a large seal was to be applied in the centre, as well as four smaller seals. Much of the large seal impression has been lost but a word beginning "СТР..." = "STR..." indicates that the seal was used for insured, that is "strakhovaya" correspondence. The four smaller seals are inscribed "ПЪЯНСКИЙ ПЕРЕВ. Н.Г.П.О. / ЧАСТН. КОР." signifying usage for "chastnaya" or private correspondence.

In regard to the postage and insurance paid, it seems that this might have been noted by hand on the back. At the right-hand side are the figures "1" and "727" underlined, and then below this are figures resembling a sum; 16+5=21. If the insurance fee was 5 kopeks, and 16 kopeks was the postage rate, then this might

explain the figures written. However, 16 kopeks was not a standard letter rate at the time, unless there was a special "money letter" postage rate, or (being quite heavy, with 3 roubles in silver) the letter was charged as a parcel, and 16 kopeks was this rate. The other figures noted might perhaps relate to the weight (in the case of parcels the weight was normally noted).

On the front of the envelope is a boxed "О. А. П. П. 190.. r. / №. ...". This is the cachet of the "Одесское Афонское Пантелеймоновское Подворье" or "Odessa Afon Panteleimon Podvor'e". This establishment was a "podvor'e" (a resting-place or inn, but in effect a kind of monastery) named after Saint Panteleimon, which provided accommodation and assistance in Odessa for pilgrims going to and from Mount Athos and the Holy Land. The cachet has had the date "14/3" and "1" added by hand, and the number "N 2018." also appears at the right-hand side. Together with the large handwritten "3", this notation evidently records the date of 14 March 1901, a reference number 2018 and the amount of 3 roubles.

As there were no direct mail services between Russia and the Ottoman Empire, the letter would have been carried from Odessa to Mount Athos privately, perhaps by a representative of the monastery at Odessa, and by way of the monastery's branch in Constantinople. The addressee noted on the back "Received 2 April" and "Answered on 12 May".

This envelope remains as a relic of a bygone era, when the word "money" more usually meant hard cash, and coins struck from precious metals were still the medium by which wealth normally passed from one person to another.

I am very grateful to my Russian friends Anatoly Kiryushkin and Mikhail Alshibaya for their help in interpreting this interesting cover.

REGIONAL POSTAL HISTORY OF UKRAINE 1917-1921:
KHARKOV AND YEKATERINOSLAV GUBERNIYAS - PART II
Thomas Berger (Bern) and Alexander Epstein (Tallinn)

This second part covers the years 1919 to 1921 and concludes part I in BJRP 103 (2013). The peculiarities of Kharkov and Yekaterinoslav guberniya postal history are summarised at the end of this article.

**VI. January 1919:
Occupation of Ukraine by
the Red Army following
the Central Powers’
armistice and defeat of
Directorate troops.
Kharkov is occupied on 3
January, Yekaterinoslav
on 29 January.**

Following the Armistice of the Central Powers on 11 November 1918, the Bolsheviks immediately cancelled the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk, also including the approval of Ukraine as an independent state. Red Army units easily defeated the troops of the Directorate of the UNR and conquered the entire Ukraine between January and May 1919. (*Fig. H6*)

Soviet rule was not too stable; it was interrupted by many uprisings of anarchist or national elements supported by the peasantry who were not content with the policy of Soviet authorities; that headed by Nikolai Grigor’ev in May 1919 was the strongest and most dangerous. This second Ukrainian Socialist Soviet Republic (UkrSSR) lasted until the autumn of 1919, when Ukraine was occupied by white troops of the Voluntary Army (see below in part VII). As an exception, a part of the



Fig. H6: Bolshevik army in Yekaterinoslav on 29 January 1919 (Taken from [4]).

Mariupol and Donbas regions was only partially and for short periods occupied by Red Army units (which at that time also included troops of Nestor Makhno, a prominent anarcho-communist revolutionary), but primarily by troops of General Krasnov, Head of the Autonomous Republic of Don Cossacks and the white General May-Mayevski [11]. This area used its own stamps and postal stationery cards (the so-called Mariupol issue) as well as others [11].

The UkrSSR Government was first established in Kharkov but in March it relocated to Kiev. It also included also the People’s Commissariat of Posts and Telegraphs that managed the postal service in the USSR.

The rapid military attacks and counterattacks in the first half of 1919 resulted in an

interesting chapter in postal history. The new Soviet rulers brought their own Russian stamps with them, i.e. non-overprinted tsarist Arms definitives, postal saving stamps and the newly issued “chainbreaker” stamps. (*Fig. PH49*)

However, due to the shortages, the franking validity of Ukrainian Trident-overprinted stamps and Shahiv definitives was continued. There were no changes in postmarks, but the Russian postage-free rates of 1st January 1919 were introduced on 8 February 1919 ([12]; *Fig. PH43 - 51*) after a transitional period during which the UD rates of 15 November 1918, and even the Soviet Russia inland rates of 28 February and foreign rates of 10 March 1918 were still used. (*Fig. PH39 - 42*).

(Fig. PH44,50,51)

blacked out. (Fig. PH45)

1920.



Fig. PH39: Registered letter 15.1.19 Kharkov to Moscow. 35 + 50 = 85 kop. 15 Nov 1918 UD rate.



35 + 70 = 105 kop. 28 Feb 1918 Soviet rate.

Fig. PH41: Registered letter 28.1.19
Kharkov to Moscow. (2 x 30) + 30 =
90 kop. 10 Mar 1918 Soviet foreign
rate (2nd weight step).



Fig. PH42: Registered letter 3.2.19
Slavyansk, Kharkov Gub. to Riga. 35
+ 50 = 85 kop. 15 Nov 1918 UD rate.



Fig. PH43: Postcard 2.3.1919
Yekaterinoslav to Moscow. Postage-
free 8 Feb 1919 Soviet rate, postal
stationery card as blank.



Fig. PH44: Registered letter 3.3.19
Kharkov to Klimov Zavod. 50 kop.
registration 8 Feb 1919 Soviet rate.
Combination of Trident overprints,
Shahiv & non-overprinted Imperial
Arms.



Fig. PH45: Postcard 13.3.19 Kharkov to Tambov, post-free 8 Feb 1919 Soviet rate. Postal stationery card as blank.



Fig. PH46: Registered cover 23.4.1919 Lugansk Yekaterinoslav Gub. to Nerekhta, 25 + 50 = 75 kop. 8 Feb 1919 Soviet rate (2nd weight step).



Fig PH47 : Letter 2.5.19 Kharkov to Klimov Zavod, post-free 8 Feb 1919 Soviet rate. 7-kop. PS letter-card as blank.

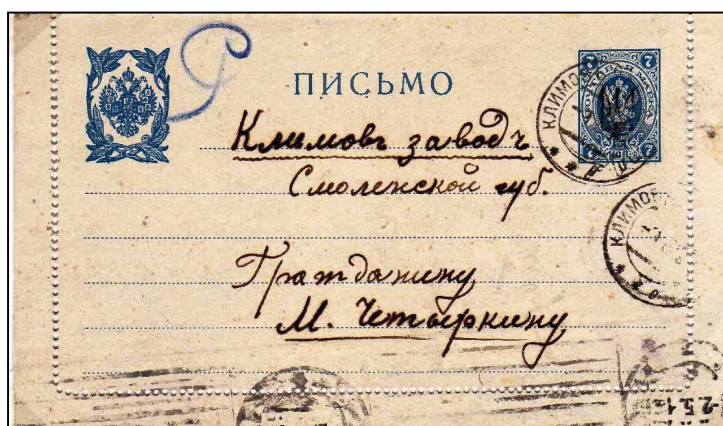


Fig. PH48: Registered postcard
7.5.1919 Yekaterinoslav to Nizhnii-
Novgorod, 35 kop. 8 Feb 1919 Soviet
rate.



Fig. PH49: Registered cover 13.5.1919
Kharkov to Moscow, 50 kop. 8 Feb
1919 Soviet rate, Shahiv &
Chainbreaker combination.



Both Ukrainian stamps and postal stationery cards as well as two stamps of the so-called Mariupol issue [11] were used in the south-eastern part of Yekaterinoslav guberniya occupied by Don and Volunteer Army troops, at least until July 1919. (Fig. PH52)

VII. Occupation of Ukraine in June/August 1919 by the White Volunteer Army. Kharkov is occupied on 24 June, Yekaterinoslav at the beginning of August.

The White Volunteer Army was a Russian nationalist army which fought not only the Red Army but also all Ukrainian nationalist or socialist governments. In the summer of 1919, these troops led by General Denikin (*Fig. H7*) occupied Ukraine from their base in the Kuban. At the same time UNR directorate troops tried to take advantage of this situation to reach Kiev but they were blocked by the Volunteer Army. UNR troops never reached the region under study.

In the first months, the Volunteer Army was very successful against the Red Army and reached Kursk in central Russia in October 1919, thereby threatening the Soviet system in a meaningful way. However, finally this Volunteer Army was defeated and had to withdraw from Ukraine (see below in chapter VIII). This final White defeat was partially due to an anarchist uprising to the rear of the White troops, the Makhnovshchina, which also took place in large parts of Yekaterinoslav guberniya [14].



Fig. PH50: Registered letter 23.5.19 Kharkov-Vokzal to Moscow. 25 + 50 = 75 kop. 8 Feb 1919 Soviet rate (2nd weight step).



Fig. PH51: Registered wrapper May 1919 Kharkov to Petrograd, 5 + 25 = 30 kop. 15 September 1918 Soviet rate (not postage-free).

The philately and postal history of the second half of 1919 are again very interesting and varied. The new White rulers introduced a new stamp issue, the Edinaya Rossiya ("United Russia") issue. (Fig. PH54, 55, 57-64). However, due to the logistic problems they had to allow the use of Ukrainian stamps, especially those with a denomination of 1 rouble and higher. (Fig. PH53, 55, 62)

As the regulations with regard to the validity of postal stationery were confusing, Ukrainian stationery cards were sometimes accepted and sometimes not. (Fig. PH 54-56, 59, 65)

As one can expect from an anarchistic movement, there is no postal history material which can be attributed clearly to the area under control of the Makhno Army. (*Fig. H8*)

Fig. PH52: Registered letter 28.2.19
Sartana, Yekaterinoslav Gub. to
Yekaterinodar, Kuban obl.,
(4 x 35) + 35 = 175 kop. 1 Jan. 1919
Volunteer Army rate (4th weight step)
(coll. J. W. Roberts).



Fig. H7: General Denikin in the
Nikolaevsk quarter of Kharkov in
June 1919 (taken from [13]).



Fig. H8: Nestor Makhno (1888-1934) was a Ukrainian anarcho-communist revolutionary and the commander of an independent anarchist army [14].

In spite of the fact that this army ruled large areas of Yekaterinoslav and southern Kharkov gubernias for long times, an impact on the postal history is not visible.



Fig. PH53: Registered letter 5.7.1919 Zmiev, Kharkov Gub. to Taganrog, 70 + 70 = 140 kop. 1 July 1919 Volunteer Army rate (Collection Ron Zelonka).



Fig. PH54: Postcard 24.7.1919
Mariupol to Yeisk, 35 kop. 1 July 1919
Volunteer Army rate.



Fig. PH55: Postcard 12.8.1919 within
Yekaterinoslav, 35 kop. 1 July 1919
Volunteer Army rate.

Presumably the Ukrainian stationery card was no more accepted for franking and the card was therefore taxed by 20 kop.



Fig. PH56: Postcard 15.8.1919
Yekaterinoslav to Verkhne
Dnepropetrovsk, doplatit 70 kop., 35
Kop. 1 July 1919 Volunteer Army rate.

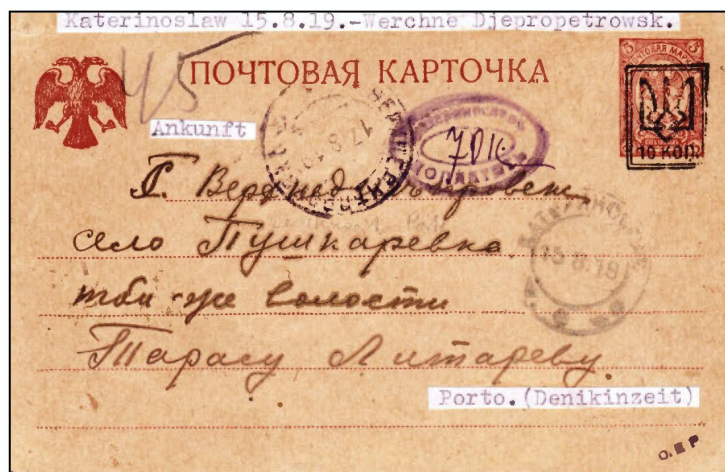


Fig. PH57: Printed matter 16.8.1919
Yuzovka to Odessa, 20 kop. 1 July
1919 Volunteer Army rate.

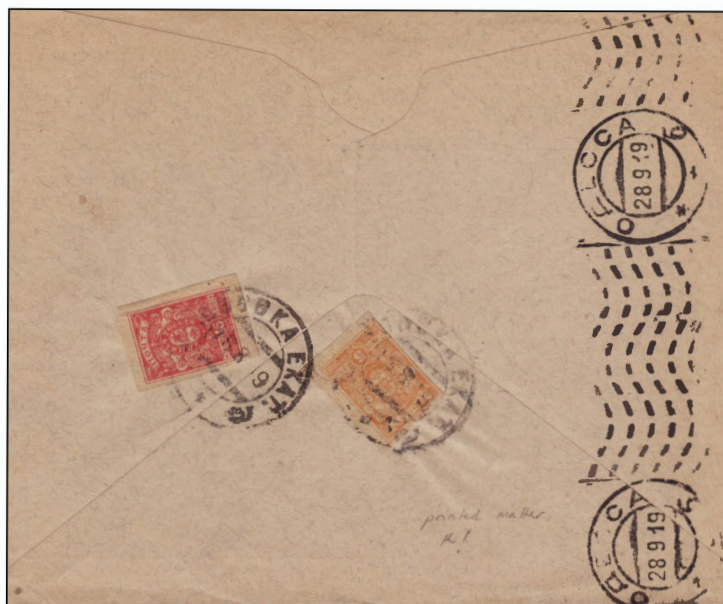


Fig. PH58: Postcard 26.8.19 Kharkov
to Simferopol. 35 kop. 1 July 1919
Volunteer Army rate.

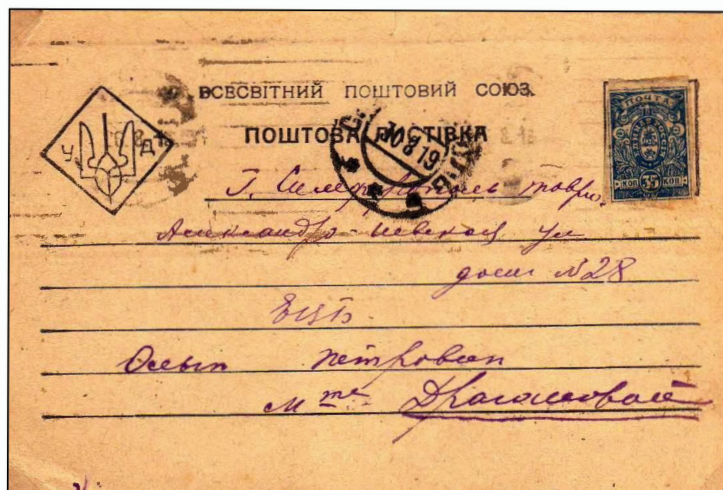


Fig. PH59: Registered postcard 5.9.19
Svyatiye Gory to Livadiya Crimea. 35
+ 70 = 105 kop. 1 July 1919 Volunteer
Army rate (Collection Robert Taylor).



Fig. PH60: Letter 13.9.1919
Aleksandrovsk Yekaterinoslav Gub. to
Berdyansk, 70 kop. 1 July 1919
Volunteer Army rate.

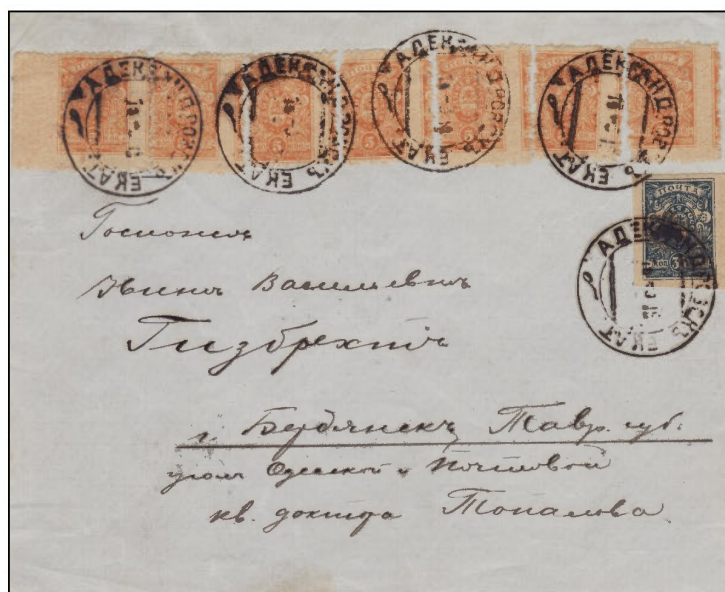


Fig. PH61: Registered letter 20.9.19
Kharkov to Rostov/Don. 140 kop. 1
July 1919 Volunteer Army rate.



Fig. PH62: Registered letter 8.10.1919
Yuzovka to Rostov/Don, 140 kop. 1
July 1919 Volunteer Army rate. Use of
1 rub. Trident stamp.



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[illegible]

Fig. PH66: Registered letter
8.10.1919 Yuzovka to Rostov/Don,
(2 x 70) + 70 = 210 kop. 1 July 1919
Volunteer Army rate (2nd weight
step). Late use of the Denikin rate.

VIII. Occupation of Ukraine in November 1919 / January 1920 by the Red Army. Kharkov is occupied on 12 December, Yekaterinoslav at the end of December 1919.

Following the defeat of the Volunteer Army under General Denikin, these troops had to retreat back to their old base, the Kuban. Even there they were fought by the Red Army and they had to leave Russia via the Black Sea in March 1920 for the Crimea where also some "White" troops had retreated from Ukraine. The ally of the Red Army, the anarchist Makhno army was now no more a "necessary partner" for the Bolsheviks; the old allies became the new enemies once more and were targeted for elimination. This fighting happened in Yekaterinoslav and the southern part of the Kharkov area under study. These fights continued until the Bolsheviks needed the Makhno troops for the last time to defeat the Wrangel army in the Crimea, the last stronghold of "Whites" in South Russia. This struggle also partly touched on the area under consideration. However, after the victory over Wrangel, Makhno finally became quite unnecessary for the Bolsheviks, and he was, at last, defeated in 1921.

Another military conflict of the year 1920, the Polish-Soviet war against Poles and UNR



units in the west of Ukraine never reached the area under study.

The situations at the beginning of the third Ukrainian Socialist Soviet Republic in January 1920 and at the beginning of the second UkrSSR in January 1919 were comparable, but in 1920 there was no longer a Ukrainian Postal Administration and the postal service in the UkrSSR was almost fully (with a few exceptions) subordinated to Moscow. Kharkov became the UkrSSR capital for many years. Some administrative changes happened in 1921. In particular, Donetsk and Alexandrovsk guberniyas were detached from Yekaterinoslav

guberniya, Alexandrovsk guberniya including also the mainland part of the former Taurida guberniya.

In philately again all the stamp material in place could be used: of course, non-overprinted Imperial Arms stamps and stationery but also Ukrainian and even Ednaya Rossiya stamps and stationery for some time. This Soviet "tolerance" was simply due to the logistic problems under the conditions of ongoing civil war in 1920.

This constant fighting of the Red Army against different enemies in different parts of Ukraine and the Crimea impaired, of course, the

economic situation. One can find postal history material sent from Red Army units but in the area under study, there was no recovery of the situation prior to 1921 reflected in the few 1920 covers shown below. The Soviet postal rates had been changed in Russia on 1/5 November 1919 and were changed again on 10/20 March 1920 under the conditions of ongoing inflation. While the postage-free system was not touched (Fig. PH70 - 72), registration surcharges were dramatically increased. (Fig. PH67, 68)

This resulted in a strong demand for rouble denomination stamps which were not available and in March 1920 low kopeck denomination stamps were re-valued 1 : 100 and became rouble denomination stamps. (Fig. PH73 - 77)

Local provisional stamp revaluations exist (for example from Kharkov, (Fig. PH78 - 81) but the majority of the kopeck values do not show any handstamp or handwritten modifications. In the 1st half of 1921, the postal rates for mail abroad were determined often by the local (guberniya) postal administrations, so local rates were in force in some guberniyas instead of those officially proclaimed by the Central Postal Administration in Moscow.[15] (Fig. PH75)

On 15 August 1921, finally the postage-free system was abolished as part of the New Economic Policy [16], which is the end point of this article.



Fig. PH67: Registered letter 8.3.20 Kharkov to Kiev. 4 rub in cash 1/5 Nov. 1919 Soviet rate.

Fig. PH68: Registered letter 10.8.20
Kharkov to Odessa. 10 rub 50 kop.,
10/20 Mar 1920 Soviet rate overpaid
by 50 kop.



Fig. PH69: Postcard 1.11.20 used as
blank Kharkov to Tartu, Estonia. Sent
free breaking the 30 Sep 1920 Soviet
foreign rate (2 rub). Postage due
collected in Estonia.



Fig. PH70: Postcard 14.12.20
Aleksandrovsk, Yekat. Gub to
Kharkov. Post-free 10/20 Mar. 1920
Soviet rate.

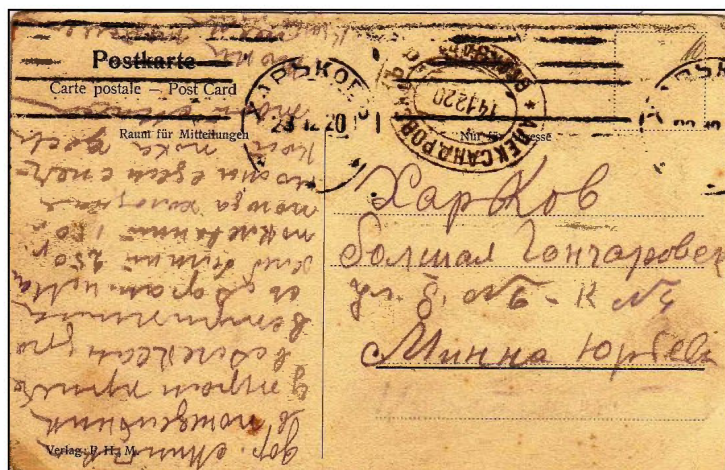


Fig. PH71: Postcard 19.12.20
Zaporozh'e-Kamenskoe, Yekat. Gub
to Odessa. Post-free 10/20 Mar. 1920
Soviet rate. PS card used as blank.

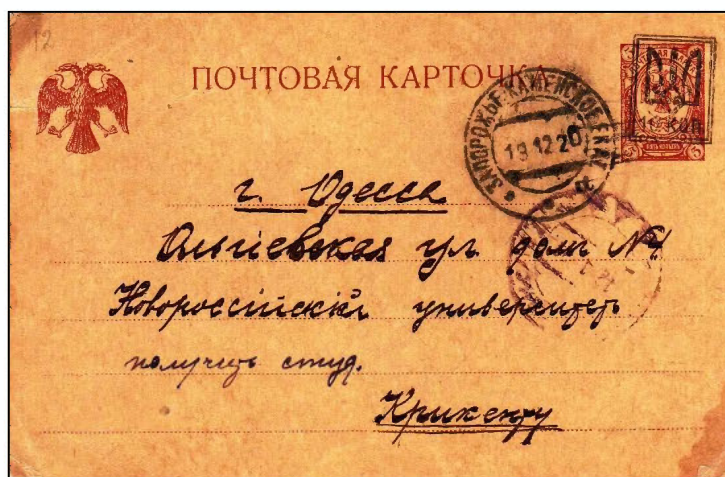


Fig. PH72: Postcard 25.12.1920
Kharkov Vokzal to SPB, postage-free
10/20 Mar. 1920 Soviet rate, postal
stationery card used as blank.

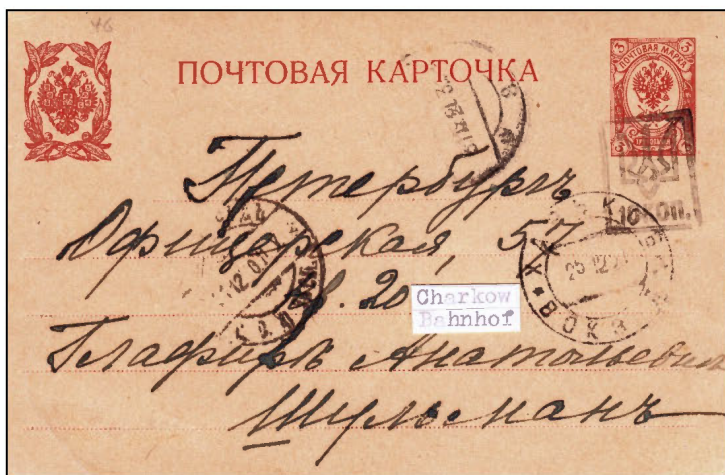


Fig. PH73: Registered letter 10.2.21
Berdyansk to Kharkov. 10 rub. 10/20
Mar. 1920 Soviet rate.



Fig. PH74: Registered postcard
14.5.1921 Yekaterinoslav to
Arkhangelsk, 10 rub. 10/20 Mar.
1920 Soviet rate.



Fig. PH75: Registered letter 21.5.21
Alexandrovsk, Yekat. Gub. to
Nürnberg, Germany. 20 rub. 30 Sep.
1920 Soviet foreign rate locally
revised.



Fig. PH76: Registered postcard
16.6.21 Lisichansk, Yekat. Gub. to
Novaya Vodolaga, Kharkov province.
10 rub. 10/20 Mar. 1920 Soviet rate.



Fig. PH77: Registered letter 16.6.21
Kharkov to Boston, USA. 10 rub. 30
Sep. 1920 Soviet foreign rate.



Fig. PH78: Registered letter June
1921 Kharkov to Libau, 10 rub. 30
Sep. 1920 Soviet foreign rate.



Fig. PH79: Registered letter 1.7.20
Kharkov to New York. 10 rub. 30 Sep.
1920 Soviet foreign rate.

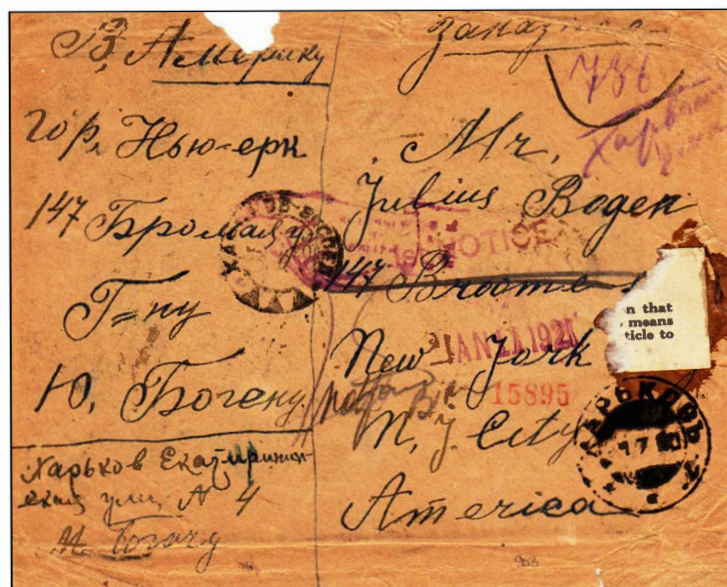


Fig. PH80: Registered letter 12.7.20
Kharkov locally. 20 Rub. 10/20 Mar.
Soviet rate (3rd weight step).



Fig. PH81: Registered letter ?7.20
Field Post Station "D" (in Kharkov) to
Tallinn, Estonia. 10 rub. 30 Sep. 1920
Soviet foreign rate.



Summary:

Kharkov and Yekaterinoslav guberniya postal history shows the following peculiarities which distinguish it at least in part from the postal history of central, southern, or western parts of Ukraine at that time:

1. This eastern part of Ukraine shows a strong influence of socialist and communist ideas and a strong impact of RSFSR politics due to the large Russian population in the area under study.
2. This, in turn, led to the establishment of local Soviet republics. The UNR did not have any influence in the area under study until April 1918, when the Central Powers troops abolished the Soviet administration and backed the Ukrainian one.
3. The area under study was the first part of Ukraine where the local Soviet troops and Red Army units forced out the Directorate troops during the first months of 1919.
4. The area under study was the first part of Ukraine which was fully occupied by the Volunteer Army units in the summer of 1919 but occupied by the Red Army troops by the end of 1919.
5. Taken together, the area under study shows the longest use of Soviet rates in Ukraine during the period under study.

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Ron Tufft

Marco Fontano was a stamp dealer based in Venice operating just after the First World War through into the mid-twenties. No photograph of Fontano exists, nor do we know the exact location of his shop or printing works – but what is known is the lasting impression Marco made upon our field of stamp collecting.

Marco Fontano was the dealer responsible for many of the bogus issues that feature regularly on eBay and elsewhere, which serve no authentic role in the history of Russian or Soviet philately. However, Marco Fontano is a rather interesting study subject. One can only wonder what drove Fontano to produce such colourful and artistic stamps, but that said, it's not difficult to presume that pure financial gain was uppermost in his mind.

A major problem for fantasy collectors is to decipher which stamps (or issues) belong purely to Marco's imagination; this amidst the numerous bogus issues in which the blame must lie elsewhere. Not only was the general Russian situation in the early twenties confusing, but the ownership and accurate dating of the resulting fantasy printings is equally as mind-boggling.

From a psychological standpoint, I feel Marco was a creator. I sense a frustrated designer manipulating the chaos of the Russian Civil War to push forth a number of highly personal designs upon a stamp collecting public eager

for, but ignorant of, the new Soviet issues of the time. Fontano would have had scant information about the prevailing conditions within the new empire, but he would have known the names Trotsky, Lenin and Zinoviev from period newsreels. Marco would also have been aware of the strife and anguish engulfing the new Russia in the ensuing civil war. The starvation, the death toll guesstimates – possibly even the terror being enacted upon the populace by both Red and White factions. Marco may even have studied Inessa Armand as she championed 'free love,' unilaterally decried at the time by 'civilised' nations as immoral.

As propaganda against the new government of Lenin was hugely negative in the West, and any news extremely censored – it's unlikely that Fontano was any more knowledgeable regarding the situation inside the new Russia than the next man, but nevertheless any incoming news received from this increasingly desperate land would only help feed his fertile imagination. Most importantly, Marco was seemingly well aware of the soaring inflation rates occurring at this time within Russia.

The candidates for being Fontano speculative issues are as follows:

- **General Miller set**
- **White Army set**

- **Turkmenistan Pictorial set**
- **Azerbaijan Pictorial set**
- **Freedom From Captivity stamp**
- **Starvation set**
- **Allegory set**
- **Soviet Leaders set**

To ascertain which are Fontano speculative stamps, and just as importantly, which are not, requires a starting point. For this we can use the postage rate per stamp at the time (or slightly before issue), ink colour, design, size, perforation uniformity, subjectivity, overprinting and a knowledge of the Russian situation pertaining to the early 1920's.



White Army set

I immediately rule out the **White Army set** as Marco's as two issues have the original values blanked out. This is done very professionally with almost 100% accuracy and smacks of an issue prepared for release following a White victory. Marco was a designer and not an overprinter. If he had been an overprinter, the entire validity of *all* the Civil War issues would be in question, so let's be grateful for small mercies...

I also doubt the **Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan sets** can be laid at Marco's door although the inks, perforation sizes and general artwork are not too dissimilar from Marco. These issues are debatable as Fontano productions, but instinct tells me they are not. The subject matter is wrong by being far too scenic and nationalistic in context, lacking the abstractness and eroticism of 'genuine' Fontano issues. Basically, the designs are too boring, shepherds and sleeping bears seem alien to the Venetian's vivid imagination. I'm convinced that the same culprit produced both sets, but equally I'm as sure that the culprit was not Marco in this instance. It does appear (from sources I cannot confirm) that these two issues originated in Paris, possibly by the same printing company commissioned for the unissued Armenian pictorial set.

I'm less convinced the **General Miller set** isn't one of Marco's; maybe early Marco (note value rates) but before the brashness and creativity took hold. For this issue to be a Fontano production would mean a break from the norm, in that all these stamps are uniform in design, although some of the ink colouring and the paper used cast a slight doubt. However, on the debit side, Marco never used grey in any later productions and the font, word selection and numerals appear totally wrong.



Turkmenistan Pictorial set



Azerbaijan Pictorial set



General Miller set

- **Starvation set**
- **Allegory set**
- **Freedom From Captivity stamp**
- **Soviet Leaders set**

This is a bit like ‘pin the tail on the philatelic donkey’ but I believe the above-listed issues are Fontano inspired issues designed for the new Soviet empire (whether Marco produced fictional issues for other countries, I know not...) therefore I intend purely to make a case for the above bogus issues being his.

I believe, as do many other collectors before me, that the **Starvation set** (also known as ‘*Help the Hungry*’) is a genuine Marco Fontano creation (seven stamps, both perf. 11.5 and imperf., size 32.5 x 26.5 mm). These stamps have alleged origins in Italy before entering Europe generally. I have only seen ‘cancellations’ on the 1,000 roubles, applied in an extremely faint dark grey ink and totally unintelligible. The stamp designs are allegorical featuring orgies, male nudity, starvation and the fires of hell; an odd mix - but one which would possibly tally with the information seeping out of Soviet Russia at the time.

Here we sense Marco’s personal emotions encapsulated within this issue. On one side he’s supportive of the free love agenda, but on the other disgusted at the raging hunger decimating the nation. That the whole ideal ‘*would end up in flames*’ seems a little prophetic. Here, in a single issue, one enters the rationale of Marco’s mind-set. That the ‘orgy’ scenes seem very masculine in context, maybe again, throws new light



Starvation set



Allegory set



on helping to identify other Fontano productions. At this point, if we accept the *Starvation set* as being Marco, we need to transfer any similarities over to the other suspects.

The **Allegory set** of three seems to be Fontano at his peak, even to the point of vastly reducing the printing of the higher value (20,000 green), hence inducing a scarcity (I know only of three copies - mine, Dr. Ray Ceresa, and one I was surprised to see for sale on eBay). The red and blue inks appear very similar (although the *Starvation set* has a rather more matt finish). If I were a betting man, I would place my house on this set being a Fontano creation. These stamps only appear imperf. on white or slightly yellow paper with the spelling

of rouble and post featuring non-Russian type lettering (* note the elaborate curling of the letter y in **pyb** in both issues).

The **Freedom from Captivity (or fetters)** issue is unusual as it is a single stamp. In addition, it is more widely available than the other issues but it supposedly originally surfaced in Italy. When one looks deeply into the masculinity design and general construction (paper etc.) it’s difficult not to include this stamp in the Fontano catalogue. Given the value of 50 коп, if *this is* Marco, and I believe it to be so, it may well have been the forerunner of the later high inflation issues.



Freedom from Captivity stamp



Soviet Leaders set

Less so the **Soviet Leader** issue which seems at odds with the **Starvation, Allegory** and **Freedom from Chains** issues. This set of seven stamps (imperf. and perf. 11.5 size 22.5 x 42.5 mm) depicts the worker, soldier, peasant and Soviet regalia followed by the three leaders of the new Soviet regime – but incorrectly valued in terms of seniority. Supposing the most important Bolshevik would aspire to the highest value, the values in ascending order should read

Zinoviev, Trotsky, Lenin. In reality, the highest value is attributed to Zinoviev, then Trotsky – thus, again, suggesting a lack of knowledge of events occurring in the new Russia. The inflation rates depicted show this to be a rather late issue (1922 – 1924). Of particular interest is the PCFPC cross motif which also appears on the *allegory* set. This set is listed as Marco Fontano (by Rossica and others) originating in Venice, 1923. I accept this issue as Fontano, but with some reservations. I have no explanation for the sketch-like designs whereas the other Marco productions are quite skilfully rendered. In the end it must fall down to instinct and a certain passion for these little pieces of paper, and the designs depicting the worker, peasant, soldier and Soviet regalia do appear to be very ‘Marco like’ in design. Given

the inflation rates illustrated, this set of seven was almost certainly Marco’s swansong in respect of Russian Civil War fantasy issues.

In the unfurling mists of future time, a previously undiscovered gem of philatelic interest may well resurrect itself after languishing for decades within a dark Venetian vault, thereby casting my hypotheses to the bottom of the dustbin of stamp collecting hypotheses. But until such an eventuality arises, I’d like to think my many years of pondering over the Civil War fantasy issues has edged me closer to correctly identifying the issues of Marco Fontano - and maybe, I’m bang on the money. But equally of course, I could be wrong. Such a wonderful pastime, stamp collecting...

Trevor Pateman's Philately Blog

Wednesday, 15 October 2014

Darling, I think someone is opening our mail...

I am a collector and dealer, specialising in Russian Area and East European Philately.

<http://www.armeniazemstvo.com>

"It doesn't get more clumsy than this. In World War One, Imperial Russian mail censorship was extensive and acknowledged - when letters were opened they were re-sealed with official wax seals or paper strips. In Bolshevik Russia, the censorship of mail was never acknowledged but usually indicated in some way, notably in the 1918-23 period, by what are called 'Three Triangle' cancellations. There are a large number of these in use in the early Soviet period."



SHIP MAIL FROM AND TO JAPAN

Hiromasa Iitsuka

In the 1870s and 1880s, Vladivostok was a small town and some letters from Vladivostok to foreign countries were carried to Nagasaki by private couriers and then posted by the forwarding agent “Holme, Ringer & Co.” in Nagasaki, from where they went to their destinations via the Japanese postal system.

On 28 February 1881, the Japanese Government ordered the Japanese shipping company “Mitsubishi Kaisha” to open a regular monthly line from Kobe to Vladivostok via the Korean ports. The president of Mitsubishi Kaisha complained that the port of Vladivostok was located in an undeveloped area and would produce little freight, but nonetheless he opened the Nagasaki-Vladivostok line in the same year.

In 1885, Mitsubishi Kaisha and the shipping company “Kyodo Unyu Kaisha” merged to form “Nippon Yusen”, which is today one of the largest shipping companies in the world.

In April 1889, Nippon Yusen reorganised its Nagasaki-Vladivostok line into a Shanghai-Vladivostok route with calls at Chefoo and Chemulpo, changed the Nagasaki-Vladivostok line to the Kobe-Vladivostok line, and opened the Shanghai - Vladivostok line.

According to “A 100 Years’ History of the Ships of Nippon Yusen Kaisha”, the Russian

Post used Nippon Yusen's Nagasaki-Vladivostok line for transporting mail.

In November 1891, “Russian Steam Navigation in the East” began to operate the Shanghai-Vladivostok line via Nagasaki and intensified the competition with Nippon Yusen.

According to the “North China Daily News” of 21 and 22 November 1891 the SS “Baikal”, the first ship of Russian Steam Navigation in the East arrived at Shanghai from Chefoo on 20 November 1891 and left for Fusan, Gensan and Vladivostok via Nagasaki on 21 November 1891.

Russian Steam Navigation in the East discounted its charges for freight with the Russian government’s assistance and Nippon Yusen had to conclude an alliance with Russian Steam Navigation in the East.

Mail from Japan to Siberia was sent via the Kobe-Vladivostok line in the 1880s and 1890s, but it took many days. Therefore the Japanese Post opened the new Niigata-Vladivostok ship mail line and the Hakodate-Otaru-Korsakov, Sakhalin ship mail line in 1896 and began to exchange closed mail with the Vladivostok post office and the Korsakov post office.

These lines were maintained by Oiye Shichihei's steamers and the steamers ran regularly once a month.

Fig.1 is a shipping list of Oiye Shichihei's steamers from 1896 to 1901. Yearly schedules, according to advertisements in local newspapers are shown in italics. Departure announcements, according to advertisements in local newspapers, are in plain text.

Paquebot mail with Russian postage stamps carried by those steamers was cancelled at Niigata or Nanao, but those covers with Niigata or Nanao Romanised c.d.s.’s are very rare, especially the Nanao c.d.s.

In 1902, the Japanese Post opened two new ship mail lines in the Sea of Japan for increasing the exchange of closed mail with Vladivostok post office. The lines were maintained by the Oiye Shichihei's steamers.

Fig.2 is a shipping list of Line A from 1902 to 1903 and Fig.3 is shipping list of Line B from 1902 to 1903.

There were two lines, Line A and Line B.

Line A steamers left Moji, called at Hamada, Sakai, Miyadsu, Tsuruga, Vladivostok, Tsuruga, Nanao, Fushiki, Ebisu, Niigata, Hakodare, Otaru, Korsakov, Otaru, Vladivostok, Gensan and Fusan and arrived at Moji.

Line B steamers left Otaru, called at Hakodate, Ebisu, Niigata, Fushiki, Nanao, Vladivostok, Nanao, Tsuruga, Miyadsu, Sakai, Hamada,

Moji, Fusan, Gensan, Vladivostok, Otaru and Korsakov and arrived at Otaru.

Fig.4 is a letter from the Director General of the Japanese Post to the Director General of the Russian Post, from diplomatic archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, announcing the two lines in the Sea of Japan.

Soon after, the Japanese Post opened sea post offices on the Oiye Shichihei steamers "Kotsu-maru" and "Gaisen-maru" for exchanging mail directly.

Fig.5 is a letter from the Director General of the Japanese Post to the Director General of the Russian Post, from the same archives, which is an announcement of postal agents on board the two ships, effectively two sea post offices.

The SS Gaisen-maru ran aground near Cape Povorotny during an Otaru-Vladivostok voyage on 28April 1903 and the Gaisen-maru post office was closed. A new sea post office was opened on "Aikoku-maru" on 12May 1903.

Because of the reorganisation of Oiye Shichihei's steamers as Oiye Shosen Ltd, the Aikoku-maru post office was closed on 10 November 1903 and a new sea post office was opened on "Miyajima-maru" on 10 November 1903.

The post offices of "Kotsu-maru" and "Miyajima-maru" were closed on 9 January 1904, but the Russo-Japanese War began on 8 February 1904. The ship mail lines of the Sea of Japan were closed and sea post offices were not

re-opened.

These ship post offices used Romanised c.d.s.'s and these are reproduced in Fig.6.

These cancellations were mainly used for cancelling Russian stamps and postal stationery cards, but they are very rare and some dangerous fake cancellations are known.

Fig.7 is a postcard with Kotsu-maru c.d.s. from Vladivostok to the U.S.A. (author's collection).

Fig.8 is a postcard with a fake c.d.s. of the Gaisen-maru post office.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

My thanks to Mr. Norio Ito, who specialises in Japanese sea post and made the shipping lists of Oiye Shichihei's steamers (Fig. 1, Fig. 2 and Fig. 3).

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Sea of Japan Line: Shipping List

ship	year	port											
		Hakodate departure	Niigata	Fushiki	Nanao	Vladivostok	Niigata	Hakodate	Otaru	Korsakov	Otaru	Hakodate arrival	
Aikoku-maru	1896	10.05	10.01				10.17	10.19	10.22		10.29		Kobe9.05/Niigata9.22
Aikoku-maru	1896	11.07				11.12	11.14		11.22		11.28		
Aikoku-maru	1896												
Aikoku-maru	1897	4.01	4.02/4.04			4.06/4.09	4.11	4.16	4.17/4.19	4.20/4.25	4.26/4.28	4.29	
Aikoku-maru	1897												
Aikoku-maru	1897								6.18		6.24		
Aikoku-maru	1897								7.19		7.28		
Aikoku-maru	1897		8.05			arrival 8.07			8.19		8.29		
Aikoku-maru	1897								9.19		9.24		
Aikoku-maru	1897								10.19		10.28		
Aikoku-maru	1897								11.19		11.28		
Aikoku-maru	1897												
Aikoku-maru	1898	4.01	4.04			4.10		4.17	4.19	4.26	4.28		
Aikoku-maru	1898	5.01	5.04			5.10		5.17	5.19	5.26	5.25		
Aikoku-maru	1898	6.01	6.04			6.10		6.17	6.19	6.22	6.25		
Aikoku-maru	1898	7.01	7.04			7.10		7.16	7.18	7.25	7.26		
Aikoku-maru	1898	8.01	8.04			8.10		8.16	8.18	8.25	8.28		
Aikoku-maru	1898	9.01	9.04			9.10		9.16	9.19	9.24	9.25		
Aikoku-maru	1898	10.01	10.04			10.10		10.17	10.19	10.23	10.25		
Aikoku-maru	1898	11.01	11.04			11.11		11.17	11.19	11.23	11.28	11.29	
Aikoku-maru	1899	4.01	4.02/4.05			4.07/4.10	4.12/4.13	4.14/4.17	4.18/4.18	4.20/4.25	4.27/4.28	4.29	Otaru3.26
Aikoku-maru	1899	5.01	5.02/5.04			5.06/5.09	5.11/5.13	5.14/5.17	5.18/5.19	5.20/5.24	5.25/5.25	5.26	
Aikoku-maru	1899	6.01	6.02/6.04			6.06/6.09	6.11/6.13	6.14/6.17	6.18/6.19	6.20/6.26	6.27/6.27	6.28	
Aikoku-maru	1899	7.01	7.02/7.04			7.06/7.09	7.11/7.13	7.14/7.17	7.18/7.19	7.20/7.26	7.27/7.27	7.28	
Aikoku-maru	1899	8.01	8.02/8.04			8.06/8.09	8.11/8.13	8.14/8.19	8.20/8.21	8.22/8.27	8.28/8.28	8.29	
Aikoku-maru	1899	9.01	9.02/9.04			9.06/9.09	9.11/9.13	9.14/9.17	9.18/9.19	9.20/9.25	9.26	9.28	
Aikoku-maru	1899	10.01	10.02/10.04			10.06/10.09	10.11/10.13	10.14/10.17	10.18/10.19	10.20/10.23	10.24/10.25	10.26	
Aikoku-maru	1899	11.01	11.02/11.04			11.06/11.12	11.11/11.14	11.15/11.19	11.19/11.21	11.21/11.25	11.28	11.29	
Gaisen-maru	1900							4.15	4.16/4.16	4.17/4.24	4.25/4.26	4.27	Hakodate3.31
Gaisen-maru	1900	5.01	5.02/5.04	5.05/5.06	5.06/5.07	5.09/5.12	5.14	5.18	5.20/5.19	5.22/5.25	5.26/5.27	5.27	
Gaisen-maru	1900	6.01	6.02/6.04			6.06/6.09	6.11	6.17	6.18/6.20	6.20/6.26	6.27/6.27	6.28	
Gaisen-maru	1900	7.01	7.02/7.04	7.05/7.05	7.06/7.07	7.08/7.11	7.13	7.18	7.19/7.20	7.21/7.27	7.28/7.28	7.29	
Gaisen-maru	1900	8.01	8.02/8.04			8.06/8.09	8.11	8.17	8.18/8.19	8.20/8.26	8.27/8.27	8.28	
Gaisen-maru	1900	9.02	9.03/9.05	9.06/9.07	9.07/9.08	9.10/9.13	9.15	9.20	9.21/9.22	9.23/9.27	9.28/9.28	9.29	
Gaisen-maru	1900	10.02	10.03/10.05			10.07/10.10	10.12	10.17	10.18/10.19	10.20/10.24	10.25/10.26	10.27	
Gaisen-maru	1900	11.01	11.02/11.05	11.06/11.07	11.07/11.08	11.10/11.13	11.15	11.20	11.21/11.22	11.23/11.26	11.27/11.28	11.29	
Gaisen-maru	1900	12.01	12.02/12.05			12.07/12.10	12.12						
Gaisen-maru	1901		4.05										
Gaisen-maru	1901							6.17					
Gaisen-maru	1901	7.01						7.18					
Gaisen-maru	1901	8.01											
Gaisen-maru	1901	9.02						9.20	9.22		9.29		
Gaisen-maru	1901	10.02						10.18					
Gaisen-maru	1901	11.01						11.20					

Fig. 1

Sea of Japan Line: Shipping List

Line A		port																						
ship	year	Moji departure	Hamada	Sakai	Miyadsu	Tsuruga	Nanao	Vladivostok	Tsuruga	Nanao	Fushiki	Ebisu	Niigata	Hakodate	Otaru	Korsakov	Otaru	Hakodate	Vladivostok	Songjin	Gensan	Fusan	Moji arrival	
Kotsu-maru	1902	2.15	2.16	2.17	2.18	2.19	/	2.25	2.28	3.02	3.02	3.04	3.05	3.07	3.09	/	/	/	3.14	/	3.17	3.20	3.21	Kobe2.12
Kotsu-maru	1902	3.28	3.29	3.30	3.31	3.31 /4.01	/	4.03 /4.06	4.08 /4.09	4.10 /4.11	4.11	4.12 /4.13	4.13 /4.14	4.15 /4.18	4.19	4.20 /4.24	4.25 /4.26	/	4.28 /5.01	/	5.03	5.05	5.06	Kobe3.26
Kotsu-maru	1902	5.08	5.09	5.10	5.11	5.11 /5.12	/	5.14 /5.18	5.20 /5.21	5.21 /5.23	5.23	/	5.24 /5.25	5.26 /5.27	5.28 /5.29	/	/	/	5.31 /6.04	/	6.06 /6.07	6.09 /6.10	6.11	
Kotsu-maru	1902	6.12	6.13	6.14	6.15	6.15 /6.16	/	6.18 /6.22	6.24 /6.25	6.26 /6.27	6.27	/	6.28 /6.29	6.30 /7.03	7.04 /7.05	7.06 /7.08	7.09 /7.10	/	7.12 /7.16	/	7.18	7.20	7.21	
Kotsu-maru	1902	7.22	7.23	7.24	7.25	7.25 /7.26	/	7.28 /8.01	8.03 /8.04	8.05 /8.06	8.06	/	8.07 /8.08	8.09 /8.10	8.11 /8.12	/	/	/	8.14 /8.18	/	8.20 /8.21	8.23 /8.24	8.25	
Kotsu-maru	1902	8.26	8.27	8.28	8.29	8.29 /8.30	/	9.01 /9.05	9.07 /9.08	9.09 /9.10	9.10	/	9.11 /9.12	9.13 /9.16	9.17 /9.18	9.19 /9.21	9.22 /9.23	/	8.25 /9.29	/	10.01	10.03	10.04	
Kotsu-maru	1902	10.06	10.07	10.08	10.09	10.09 /10.10	/	10.12 /10.16	10.18 /10.19	10.20 /10.21	10.21	10.22 /10.23	10.23 /10.24	10.25 /10.26	10.27 /10.28	/	/	/	10.30 /11.02	/	11.04 /11.05	11.07 /11.08	11.09	
Kotsu-maru	1902	11.11	11.12	11.13	11.14	10.14 /11.15	/	11.17 /11.21	11.23 /11.24	11.25 /11.26	11.26	11.27 /11.28	11.28 /11.29	11.30 /12.01	12.02 /12.03	/	/	/	12.05 /12.08	/	12.10 /12.11	12.13 /12.14	12.15	
Gaisen-maru	1903	2.20	2.21	2.22	2.23	2.24 /2.25	2.26 /2.27	3.01 /3.04	/	3.06 /3.07	3.07	3.09	3.09	3.11	3.12 /3.13	/	/	/	3.15 /3.18	3.19	3.20	3.22	3.23	Kobe2.16
Gaisen-maru	1903	3.25	3.26	3.27	3.28	3.29 /3.30	/	4.01 /3.04	4.06 /4.07	4.08 /4.09	4.09	4.10	4.11 /4.12	4.16	4.17	4.18 /4.23	4.24 /4.25	4.26 /4.27	/	/	/	/	/	
Aikoku-maru	1903	5.17	5.18	5.19	5.20	5.23	5.25	5.25 /5.28	/	6.01	6.01	/	6.02	6.05	6.07	/	/	/	6.07 /6.09	6.10	6.11	6.13	6.14	
Aikoku-maru	1903	6.16	6.17	6.18	6.19	6.20	/	/	6.26	6.28	6.28	/	6.29	7.01	7.03	7.03 /7.07	7.08 /7.09	7.10 /7.11	7.13 /7.15	7.16	7.17	7.19	7.20	
Aikoku-maru	1903	7.21	7.22	7.23	7.24	7.25 /7.26	7.27 /7.28	7.30 /8.02	/	8.04 /8.05	8.05	/	8.06	8.12	8.13 /8.14	/	/	/	8.16 /8.19	8.20	8.21	8.21	8.24	
Aikoku-maru	1903	8.24	8.26	8.27	8.28	8.29 /8.30	/	9.01 /9.04	9.06 /9.07	9.08 /9.09	9.09	/	9.10	9.11	9.14	9.15 /9.19	9.20 /9.21	9.22 /9.24	9.26 /9.30	10.01	10.02	10.04	10.05	
Aikoku-maru	1903	10.06	10.07	10.08	10.09	10.10 /10.11	10/12 /10.13	10.15 /10.18	/	10.20 /10.21	10.21	10.22	10.23 /10.24	10.26	10.27 /10.28	/	/	/	10.30 /11.03	11.04	11.05 /11.06	11.08	11.09	
Miyajima-maru	1903	11.10	11.11	11.12	11.13	11.16	/	11.17 /11.20	11.23	11.25	11.25	11.26	11.29	12.01	12.03	12.03 /12.06	12.07 /12.08	12.11	12.12 /12.16	12.17	12.18 /12.19	12.21 /12.22	12.23	Kobe11.10

Fig. 2

Sea of Japan Line: Shipping List

Line B		port																						
ship	year	Otaru departure	Hakodate	Ebisu	Niigata	Fushiki	Nanao	Tsuruga	Vladivostok	Nanao	Tsuruga	Miyadsu	Sakai	Hamada	Moji	Fusan	Gensan	Songjin	Vladivostok	Hakodate	Otaru	Korsakov	Otaru arrival	
Gaisen-maru	1902	3.01	3.02 /3.03	3.04 /3.05	3.05 /3.06	3.07 /3.08	3.08 /3.09		3.11 /3.14	3.16 /3.17	3.18 /3.19	3.19	3.20	3.21	3.22 /3.23	3.24 /3.25	3.27 /3.28		3.30 /4.02				4.04	Kobe2.17?
Gaisen-maru	1902	4.06	4.07 /4.08	4.09 /4.10	4.10 /4.11	4.12 /4.13	4.13 /4.14		4.16 /4.20	4.22 /4.23	4.24 /4.25	4.25	4.26	4.27	4.28 /4.29	4.30	5.02		5.04 /5.06		5.10 /5.11	5.12 /5.14	5.15	
Gaisen-maru	1902	5.17	5.18 /5.21		5.22 /5.23	5.24 /5.25	5.25 /5.26		5.28 /6.01	6.03 /6.04	6.05 /6.06	6.06	6.07	6.08	6.09 /6.10	6.11	6.13		6.15 /6.18		6.20 /6.21	6.22 /6.24	6.25	
Gaisen-maru	1902	6.26	6.27 /6.28		6.29 /6.30	7.01 /7.02	7.02 /7.03		7.05 /7.09	7.11 /7.12	7.13 /7.14	7.14	7.15	7.16	7.17 /7.18	7.19 /7.20	7.22 /7.23		7.25 /7.28		7.30 /7.31	8.01 /8.03	8.04	
Gaisen-maru	1902	8.05	8.06 /8.09		8.10 /8.11	8.12 /8.13	8.13 /8.14		8.16 /8.20	8.22 /8.23	8.24/8.25	8.25	8.26	8.27	8.28 /8.29	8.30	9.01		9.03 /9.06		9.08 /9.09	9.10 /9.12	9.13	
Gaisen-maru	1902	9.14	9.15 /9.16		9.17 /9.18	9.19 /9.20	9.20 /9.21		9.23 /9.27	9.29 /9.30	10.01 /10.02	10.02	10.03	10.04	10.05 /10.06	10.07 /10.08	10.10 /10.11		10.13 /10.16		10.18 /10.19	10.20 /10.22	10.23	
Gaisen-maru	1902	10.25	10.26 /10.29	10.31	10.31 /11.01	11.02 /11.03	11.03 /11.04		11.06 /11.09	11.11 /11.12	11.13 /11.14	11.14	11.15	11.16	11.07 /11.18	11.19	11.21		11.23 /11.26		11.28 arrival			
Kotsu-maru	190	2.07	2.08 /2.09	2.10	2.11	2.12	2.12 /2.13	2.14 /2.15	2.17 /2.20		2.22 /2.23	2.24	2.25	2.26	2.27 /2.28	3.01	3.03	3.04	3.05 /3.08				3.10	
Kotsu-maru	1903	3.11	3.12 /3.13	3.16	3.16	3.17	3.17 /3.18	3.21	3.25		3.27 /3.28	3.29	3.30	3.31	4.01 /4.02	4.03	4.05 /4.06	4.07	4.08 /4.11				4.13	
Kotsu-maru	1903	4.14	4.15 /4.18		4.19 /4.20	4.21	4.21 /4.22	4.23 /4.24	4.26 /4.29		5.01 /5.02	5.03	5.04	5.05	5.06 /5.07	5.08	5.10 /5.11	5.12	5.13 /5.16	5.18 /5.20	5.21 /5.22	5.23 /5.27	5.28	
Kotsu-maru	1903	5.29	5.30 /5.31		6.01 /6.02	6.03	6.03 /6.04	6.05 /6.06	6.08 /6.11		6.13 /6.14	6.15	6.16	6.17	6.18 /6.19	6.20	6.22	6.23	6.24 /6.27	6.29 /7.01	7.02 /7.04	7.05 /7.08	7.09	
Kotsu-maru	1903	7.10	7.11 /7.12		7.13 /7.14	7.15	7.15 /7.16	7.17 /7.18	7.20 /7.23		7.25 /7.26	7.27	7.28	7.29	7.30 /8.03	8.04	8.06	8.07	8.08 /8.11	8.13 /8.14	8.15 /8.16	8.17 /8.21	8.21	
Kotsu-maru	1903	8.23	8.24 /8.26		8.27 /8.28	8.29	8.29 /8.30	8.31 /9.01	9.03 /9.06		9.08 /9.09	9.10	9.11	9.12	9.13 /9.14	9.15	9.17 /9.18	9.19	9.20 /9.23				9.25	
Kotsu-maru	1903	9.26	9.27 /9.28	9.29	9.30 /10.01	10.02	10.02 /10.03	10.04 /10.05	10.07 /10.10		10.12 /10.13	10.14	10.15	10.16	10.17 /10.18	10.19	10.21	10.22	10.22 /10.26	10.28 /10.29	10.30 /10.31	11.01 /11.03	11.04	
Kotsu-maru	1903	11.06	11.07 /11.10	11.11	11.12 /11.13	11.14	11.14 /11.15	11.16 /11.17	11.19 /11.22		11.24 /11.25	11.26	11.27	11.28	12.01	12.01	12.03 /12.04	12.05	12.06 /12.10				12.12	
Kotsu-maru	1903	12.14	12.15 arrival																					

Fig. 3

I now beg to request that you will be good enough to give necessary instructions to the Vladivostock Office to forward hereafter closed mails for the Office of Tsuruga in case of the line A and for the Office of Nanao in case of the line B and also to forward closed mails for the Office of Otaru in case the steamer leaves Vladivostock for Otaru on the line B.

I may add that the exchange of closed mails by the Oiye's steamer between our Office of Niigata and the Vladivostock Office will be discontinued from this date.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

K. Komatsu

Director General.

No. W/319.

Tokyo 20th January 1902.

Sir,

I Have the honour to inform you that on and after the 1st February next, the existing subsidized lines of Oiye's steamer in the Sea of Japan will be substituted by the following lines A and B :

Line A :- a steamer leaves Moji; calls at Hamada, Sakai, Miyadsu, Tsuruga, Vladivostock, Tsuruga, Nanao, Fushiki, Ebisu, Niigata, Hakodate, Otaru, Korsakov, Otaru, Vladivostock, Genzan and Fusan; and arrives at Moji.

Line B :- a steamer leaves Otaru; calls at Hakodate, Ebisu, Niigata, Fushiki, Nanao, Vladivostock, Nanao, Tsuruga, Miyadsu, Sakai, Hamada, Moji, Fusan, Genzan, Vladivostock, Otaru and Korsakov; and arrives at Otaru.

In consequence thereof, closed mails will hereafter be despatched for the Vladivostock Office from our Offices of Tsuruga and Nanao respectively in case of the line A and the line B and also closed mails will be despatched from our Otaru Office for the Vladivostock Office in case the steamer leaves Otaru for Vladivostock on the line A.

The Director General of Posts and Telegraphs,

St. Petersburg.

Fig. 4b

Fig. 4a

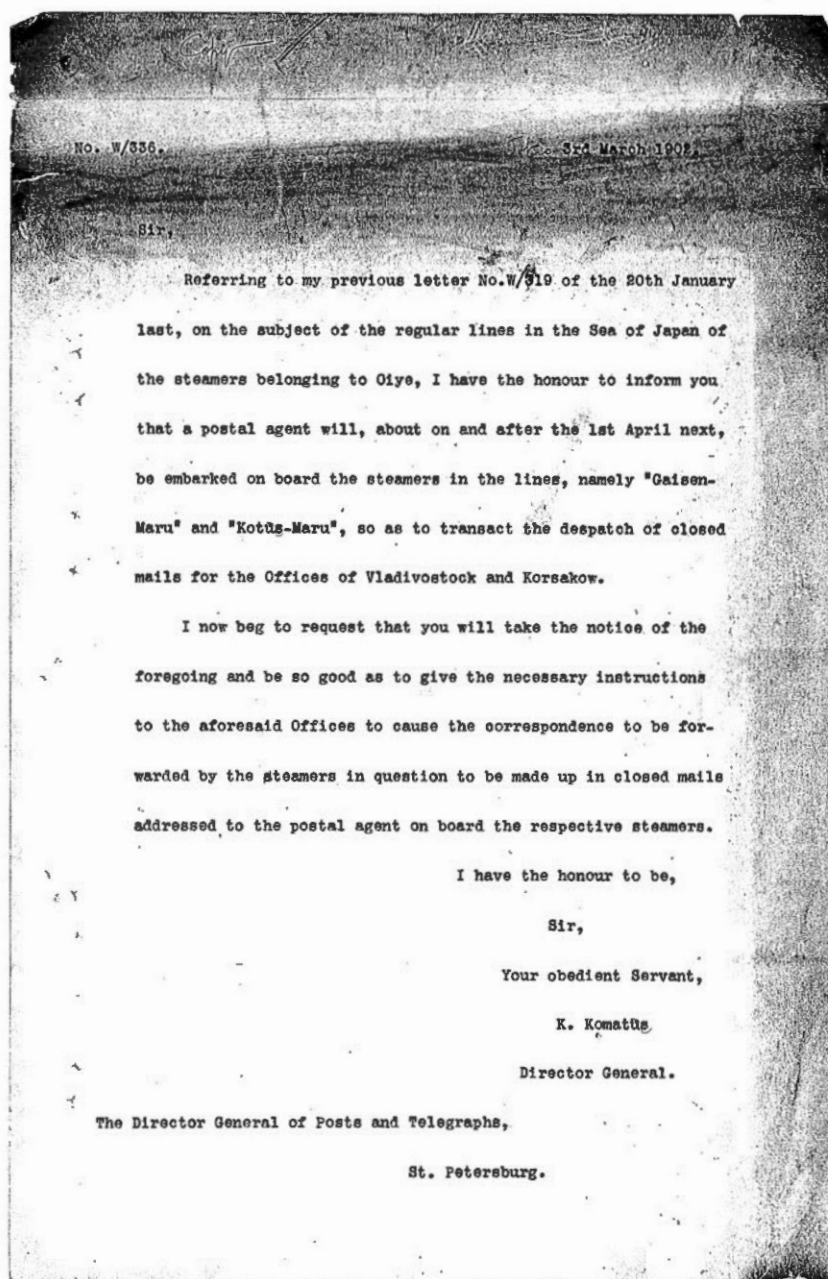


Fig. 5

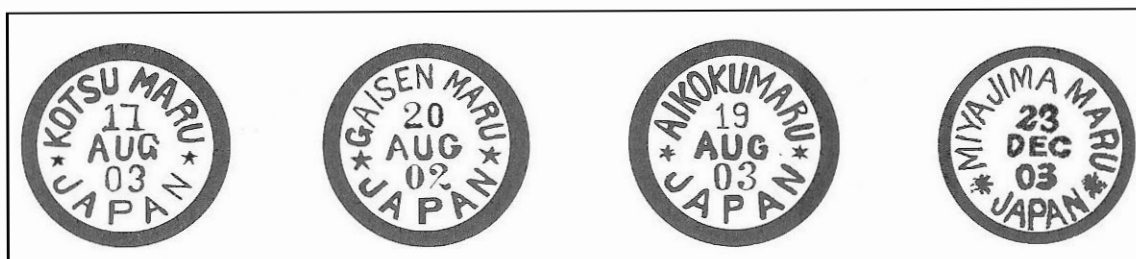


Fig. 6



Fig. 7a



Fig. 7b

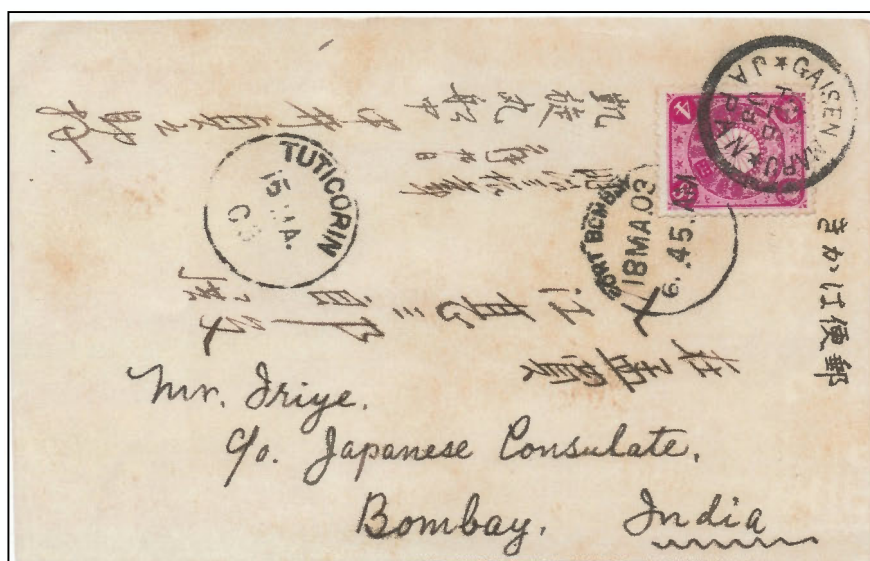


Fig. 8a

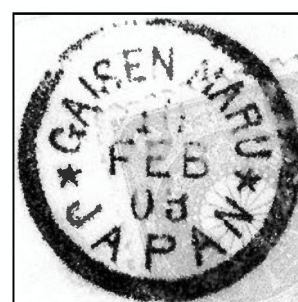


Fig. 8b

RUSSIAN CENSORSHIP OF FOREIGN NEWSPAPERS, MAGAZINES AND PRINTED MATTER

Charles Leonard

The Rossica Journal for Spring 2006 (No.146) contained a splendid monograph by David Skipton entitled "Watchmen at the Gates: Censorship of Foreign Printed Matter in Imperial Russia" which was so much more informative than anything previously published that it is the essential reference source, in the English language, for anyone with an interest in this subject.

David devoted a chapter to the earliest recorded usage of the "D.Ts." marks (14 September 1876 from St. Petersburg was then the front runner), but the wrapper illustrated (Fig. 1) is a serious contender for this honour, despite having no confirmatory datestamps.

However, there are a number of clues which may help. First, the stamps, 3d. and 1d.(2) values, were printed in February 1875. Second, the blue "2", at top left, suggests that this is a double 2½d. letter rate, which was the G.P.U. rate introduced on 1 July 1875. Third, the Russian cachet, in red, which translates as "Free of charge", is associated with the local delivery charge, introduced in 1859. Russian sources indicate that this charge was abolished on the introduction of G.P.U. rates and the cachet withdrawn. If one accepts that the Russian cachet has been used after its official withdrawal, then the date of this wrapper was probably in the "end of 1875/early 1876" period. But suppose the blue "2" was nothing to do with the rate, but was, instead, some



Fig. 1

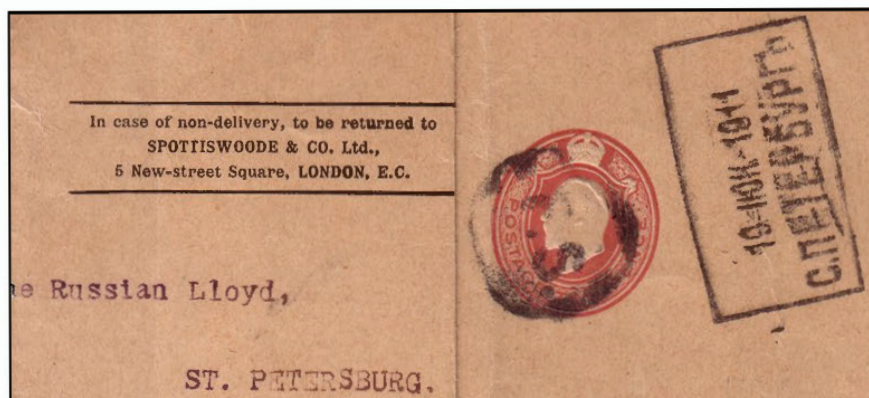


Fig. 2

form of serial number. Then, 5d. was the letter rate to Russia from 13 July 1872 until 30 June 1875, and the Russian cachet would have been applied correctly. This could also explain why the new 2½d. stamps were not used – because they had not then been issued. We will probably never solve this puzzle but, whatever the date, it does bear

a fine strike of the first "D.Ts." mark of St. Petersburg.

We now have a couple of additions to the Skipton catalogue. The wrapper from London to St. Petersburg (Fig. 2) bears a reasonable, though slightly blurred, strike of the St. Petersburg datestamp for "19 June 1911". This measures 42 x 23 mm.

and is very similar to Type S7a, except that there is clearly no hyphen after the “C”. The other point of interest with this wrapper is that it bears a KE VII 2d. “stamped to order” die which, as far as I am aware, has been recorded used on envelopes only.

Finally, I illustrate a slightly over-inked Moscow datestamp (Fig. 3), in violet, which

appears on the reverse of a 1d. wrapper from London to Astrakhan. This is dated “? August 1915” and measures 47 x 26 mm. approx. This appears to be a new record (M6?) as “MOCKBA” is in serified letters, whereas Skipton’s M5 is sans-serif.

It would seem that there is still much to be discovered about this fascinating subject.



Fig. 3

<http://www.bsrp.org>

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Finally after some 95 years I may have uncovered the secret of the red Kherson overprints. This is due to a 7-page article, published in the British Journal of Russian Philately No. 4 1949 pages 57-63, by A. W. Greaves and C.W. Roberts.

They stated, some 30 years after the Kherson red Tridents, "We do not think it likely that any more information will come to light about the origin of this issue at this late date".

It has taken a further 65 years for an explanation of this issue to be put forward.

The story begins with the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk in February 1918. This was a peace treaty between Ukraine, Austria-Hungary, Germany, Turkey and Bulgaria.

It allowed an independent unit of the Ukrainian Legion to continue to be formed in Kyiv; initially just one battalion but it soon grew to almost regimental strength. This unit was made up of former Ukrainian prisoners of war; mostly Ukrainian Legionnaires. They considered themselves to be patriotic Ukrainians and strongly supported the socialist view of "no ruling class".

When Hetman Pavlo Skoropadskiy came to power in April 1918 the unit was offered three choices:

1. Come under the command of the Hetman
2. Form a regiment in the German army
3. Disband

They refused to come under the Hetman's command and chose to disband, and the German forces disarmed them.

Before they were disarmed, supporters of the "Rada" of the Ukrainian National Republic paid this unit several months' pay (9 months' pay to commanders) so that they could spread Ukrainian socialism throughout Ukraine and so bring the downfall of the Hetman and the Ukrainian State.

Some remained with the Hetman's forces, others joined the Ukrainian socialist army units whilst the commanders wandered Ukraine trying to explain their brand of Ukrainian socialism to the peasants.

In September 1918 the Hetman agreed to allow the formation of a new Ukrainian Legion, as part of the Ukrainian Hetman Army in Bila-Tserkva. These Ukrainians from Halychyna (Galicia) were good patriotic soldiers. He knew that if Western Ukraine was to be established they would need a fighting force to establish a Western Ukraine state.

This new Corps of the Ukrainian Legion had other plans. Ukrainian socialism, no ruling class, no Hetman. Socialist leaders of the Dyrektoria urged the Corps of the Ukrainian Legion to rise up in rebellion against the Hetman. At the end of October 1918 it totalled 1187 men plus 59 officers. On 14

November 1918 it rose up (with the Dyrektoria) in rebellion against the Hetman. Its ranks quickly swelled to 24,000 men as it lay siege to Kyiv. On 14 December 1918 to prevent further bloodshed the Hetman left his beloved Ukraine never to return. The enthusiasts soon abandoned the Corps leaving just some 4,500 men.

The "Dyrektoria" assumed power and re-proclaimed a Ukrainian National Republic.

The Hetman had decreed that unoverprinted Russian stamps were no longer postally valid from 1 October 1918. So it is my belief that these Kherson stamps were an issue of the Corps of the Ukrainian Legion, sometime in September-October 1918 in Bila-Tserkva. They then, with nothing to do, overprinted a small quantity of Russian stamps with Kherson red Tridents. If the Hetman could overprint stamps then, as good socialists, why couldn't they - all people should be equal! Unoverprinted Russian stamps were now useless. They chose socialist red and a "Dyrektoria" Trident!

With the overthrow of the Hetman in December 1918, these stamps were not placed into circulation as all the postal districts had their own overprinted stamps and these Kherson stamps had no postal validity.

Under the Dyrektoria all people were now equal, and so there was no longer free army postage! The army post had to

use only valid overprinted stamps. If it had become known that “private capitalists” from amongst the ranks of the Corps of the Ukrainian Legion had produced their own private stamps then their fate would have been sealed.

Stamps were valuable - the country was full of collectors. So the answer was then to sell the Kherson overprinted stamps (some 70-80 sheets) to someone with money; preferably someone far away from Kyiv.

They wrote to an employee of Mr. Routkowsky, the Director of a mine in Kherson. BJRP 1949 page 59, “The inference which led to the statement that the stamps with red overprint were an army issue was in a letter sent to an employee at this mine in 1918 with such a stamp bearing the cancellation in mauve, ‘First Army Post’”.

After over 40 years I have found two envelopes from the Corps of the Ukrainian Legion:

1. A MAUVE handstamp that states “ARMY POST No.1 - CORPS OF THE UKRAINIAN LEGION” dated 14.5.1919 (25k postage) (Fig. 3).
2. A MAUVE handstamp of the CORPS OF THE UKRAINIAN LEGION (25k postage) cancelled in black ink “FIELD POST No.1 2.5.” (1919).

The last few lines on page 58 of the 1949 BJRP article state “Routkowsky said that in 1918-1920 he was of the opinion that the red overprint was an army issue of the Ukrainian Legion”.

The proof that the Kherson Trident overprint was a “Dyrektoria” Trident is that it is printed on an envelope of the Dyrektoria of the Ukrainian National Republic sent 29 August 1922 from Vienna, Austria by Dyrektoria member Andriy Makrenko to Osyp Nazaruk “Diplomatic Representative of Galicia” in Washington, USA which arrived on 9 September 1922.

But of course Routkowsky had a problem. How do you sell the stamps when they had no postal validity? His answer was to add them to covers which already had enough valid stamps to pay for the postage!!

A cover from Elisavethrad Kherson 4.3.1919 to Nova-Praha (received 17.4.1919) where the 1R stamp of Odessa 6b pays the postage (25k Registration and 25k Town to Town postage). Note 2 x 10/7k Kherson orange overprint (Fig. 1).

A cover from Novo-Ukrainka 15.3.1919 to Evpatoria, Crimea (received 10.5.1919). The stamp that paid the postage (25k Registration and 25k Town to Town postage), probably a 50k stamp (where indicated) has been removed and just the cancelled-by-favour cancelled Kherson stamps remain. Note the 2k Kherson stamp is overprinted in orange (Fig. 2).

ALL covers we have seen to date have the Kherson stamps IN ADDITION to stamps that actually paid the postage!!

The Kherson stamps are 99% in red and 1% in orange!

Routkowsky offered two-thirds

of the overprinted stamps for sale to Bright and Son of London, England in November 1920; some 5000 stamps (BJRP 1949 page 61). So by then ALL THE BEST STAMPS HAD GONE or BEEN USED ON COVERS. So, items where just a few copies existed were not included. For example, I have seen a 1k perf. for sale, but the problem was it was the only item of value in a 1000-dollar collection in Germany - should I have bought it?!!

The rare orange stamps are usually found used on covers.

Routkowsky was remarkably unsuccessful, as in two years he had only sold or used 2500 Kherson stamps and so in November 1920 he still had 5000 left!

However he knew they were a genuine Ukrainian Legion Issue simply from who sold him the stamps and the obvious quality of the production of the overprints (BJRP 1949 page 62) “Not only are there no errors, but the overprint is always carefully centred, and the variation in its position is small. So far we have seen nothing larger than blocks of four and strips of three stamps, so it is difficult to give an opinion as to how the work was done, but we think a single metal handstamp was used”.

Routkowsky never revealed who had sold him the stamps, a small package of 70-80 sheets!! But he gave explanations, some of which were complete nonsense e.g. (BJRP 1949 page 59) “Only in March/April 1919, i.e. at the time of the Bolshevik domination, in the course of a

journey to Kharkiv, did he succeed in obtaining one or two sheets at a railway Post Office in either Kremenchuh or Kobyliaky, when he was buying Poltava issues”.

If Kherson stamps were on sale at post offices they would have been found on Money Transfer Orders, and now after 95 years no such MTO's have been found!! However we must be grateful to Routkowsky for buying the stamps, not revealing who he had bought them from - probably saving their lives! - and for coming up with the brilliant idea of adding them to covers on which properly overprinted stamps paid the postage. Occasionally the properly overprinted stamps were removed from the covers so that it appeared that the Kherson stamps themselves paid the postage.

A photograph of what I believe may be one such cover was sent to me some years ago by the Editor of the UPNS Journal, John Roberts. This was a cover from his father's collection (C.W. Roberts). It was a cover with a beautiful array of Kherson stamps on the back that had gone through the post from Yelysavethrad to Nova-Praha. I then sent him back my computer reconstruction of where a valid stamp on the front could have been, and then be removed.

Am I right? I do not know, collectors will decide!



Fig. 1: 4.3.1919 Yelysavethrad to Nova-Praha 17.4.1919. 1R Imp. Odessa 6b (pays registration 25k and 25k postage) additional 1 x 50k perf. Kherson red plus 2 x 3k Imp. Kherson red plus 1 x 70k perf. Kherson red plus 2 x10 on 7k perf. Kherson orange.

**A. W. Greaves and
C. W. Roberts
Abridged article
BJRP 1949**



genuine

F.1.

F.2.

Collectors of Ukraine stamps will know of the double-lined red trident which is the subject of this article. It is listed in the standard pre-war catalogue of Serif and Michel. It also appears in Bright's catalogue (13th edition 1925) and Romeko's Russian catalogue 1927 edition. Twenty four values are listed by Bright and Svenson; three other values appear in one or more of the other lists.

Svenson, in his "Ukraine Handbuch" considered this issue to be bogus, but he had some interesting comments to make about it. He wrote that this type was unknown until it was listed in Serif's 1924 catalogue which stated: "... according to information, this issue was printed in a Field Post Office to serve for postage with the Hetman Army pushed back from Kiev. Perhaps it was only prepared for issue. Recently it has been referred to as an emergency issue, presumably of the Government of Kherson". He expressed surprise that Serif should have made such a slip as to list this type, when there were so many experts in Germany who could have advised them better, and went on to explain that the Hetman Army, presumably the one referred to in Serif's note, was raised as a protection against the revolutionary movement of Petliura, but



Fig. 2: 15.3.1919 Novo-Ukrainka to Evpatoria (Crimea) 10.5.1919. The missing stamp (probably 50k) pays registration 25k and 25k postage additional 2 x 15k Imp. Kherson red plus 1 x 3k Imp. Kherson red plus 1 x 3k Imp. Kherson red plus 1 x 2k Imp. Kherson orange.

never left Kiev until its final surrender in December 1918. There was therefore no question of a field printing press, and he added that postal communications were dormant throughout the whole period of the revolutionary movement. Moreover, if this issue had been prepared for use by this army, some examples would have been found in one of the six authorised district post offices.

...
Russian stamps without the Ukrainian Trident become invalid in the Ukraine. All Russian stamps lying in the H.Q. of the Hetman were

overprinted with the double-lined trident in red. The work was done carefully on a field printing press; there were no misplaced or inverted tridents. The stamps are rarely found on letters which have been through the post as the greater part of the official correspondence went without being stamped.

...
Svenson continued his quest for information and finally succeeded in obtaining the address of a Mr. Routkowsky who was credited by the "Soviet Phil." as the chief dealer and forger of this issue.

Mr. Svenson was satisfied that his exchange of letters with this gentleman, who was a director of a mine in the province of Kherson, gave him a full explanation regarding this issue and at the same time convinced him that the calumny of the "Soviet Phil." was quite unfounded, and that the forger was to be sought among the Bolsheviks who at that time had gone over to the Hetman troops.

Routkowsky said that in 1918-20 he was of the opinion that the red overprint was an army issue of the Ukrainian Legion, which bore high-sounding names of Army Corps and H.Q.s but really consisted only of a hundred men at most.

...
In his own neighbourhood there was such a Ukrainian Corps, and with the exception of a few of the higher ranks, it was composed of extremely suspicious elements, chiefly those who had deserted from the Bolshevik bands which before the German-Austrian occupation had terrorised the country. Banks, savings banks and post offices had been looted by them. The inference which led to the statement that the stamps with the red overprints were an army issue was in a letter sent to an employee at his mine in 1918 with such a stamp bearing the cancellation in mauve, "First Army Post". Moreover the stocks of this issue, which were bought up for him by his employees on their business journeys, all came from districts where similar army corps existed.

With several different types of overprint appearing at the same time in a single postal

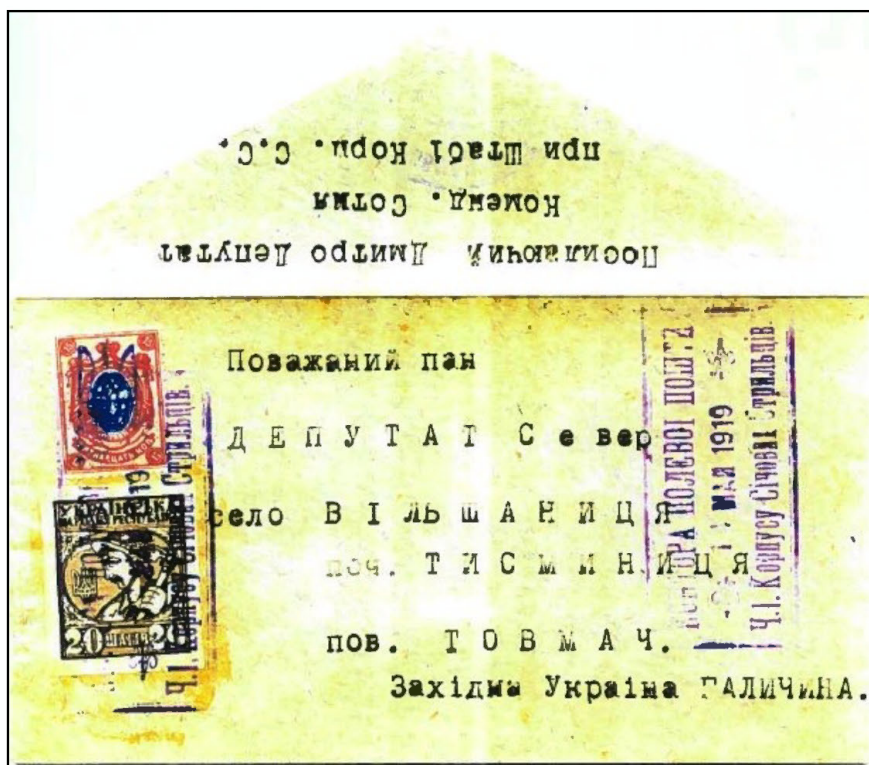


Fig. 3a: Sender: Dmytro Deputat, Headquarters Company at the Headquarters of the Corps of the Ukrainian Legion. To: Respected Sever Deputat, Vilshanytsia village, Tysmynytsia post office, Tovmach district, Western Ukraine - Halychyna. Violet boxed Field Post Office No.1, Corps of the Ukrainian Legion 14.5.1919.

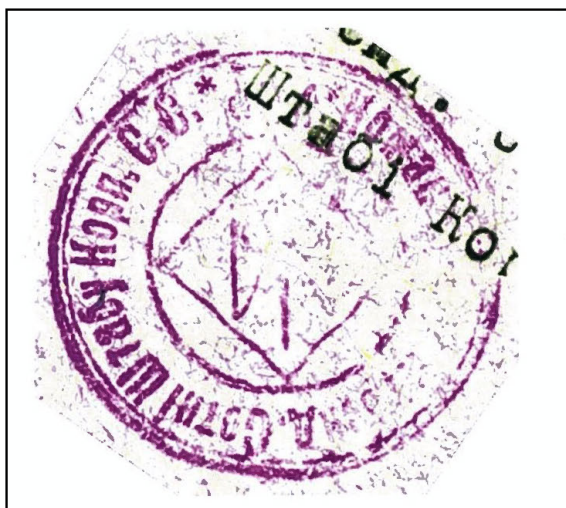


Fig. 3b: Reverse of the cover: Commander of the Headquarters Company of the Corps of the Ukrainian Legion.



Fig. 4

district, he thought it premature to investigate the genuineness of this particular issue and postponed it to a later date. Fresh disorders broke out in September and October and he had no time to spare. He remembered being offered a large parcel of Russian stamps in September or October at a quarter of face value, and among these were a number of the issue with the red overprint. He decided to buy these but could not find anything further about them. Subsequently he obtained another parcel, mostly of the rouble value. He was unable to obtain any more at that time, and only in March/April 1919, i.e. at the time of the Bolshevik domination, in the course of a journey to Kharkov, did he succeed in obtaining one or two sheets at a railway post office, either

Kremenchug or Kobelyaki when he was buying Poltava issues.

...

Svenson accepted Routkowsky's story which he regarded as further confirmation of his own theory. In any case he considered it disproved in essentials the explanation given by Schramtschenko, as he said that such names as "Special Issue" and "Hetman Issue" should be dropped, and the more correct description of "Bogus Issue" used.

Svenson had now to prove to his own satisfaction what he set out to prove, which is obvious from his own remarks; but, though he had evidently only a poor opinion of English philatelists, we are not at all inclined to accept his verdict.

...

Can we add anything to what Svenson says? First, we can say quite definitely that this overprint was known to us before we saw it in Serif's catalogue in 1924. We have referred before to the fact that some Ukraine types were commoner in Germany and on the Continent generally before war than they were over here. The converse also holds true. Particularly this is so with regard to the rarer types of overprint, the trial and correcting stamps and the local issues; but the trident we are considering does not, we think, fall into any of these categories, and we are sure we shall be right if we regard it as a special stamp issue, even though we cannot say exactly by whom it was authorised.

So far as we know, the first printed reference to this type

appeared in "Stamp Collecting" of 13 November 1920, when a number of additions, including two values of this type, were made to an earlier check list of Ukraine. Then in "Stamp Collecting" of 8 January 1921 the following information supplied by Messrs Bright & Sons appeared: "Reference has already been made in these pages to the red double-lined Trident which was made for use by the Military Field Post

attached to the H.Q. of the Ukrainian Army". A list with the approximate number of each overprinted was given, "vouched for by a Russian Colonel who was on the Hetman's Staff at the time the stamps were in use".

We have in our possession an original letter written (in French) by Mr. Nicolas Routkowsky to Messrs Bright & Son which translated (below) reads:

The prices asked for the stamps were very reasonable, but though Messrs Bright bought a number, they did not buy them all, and we are of the opinion that the remainder was bought by a French dealer. With one exception, the figures of quantities given in "Stamp Collecting" were approximately 50% higher than in the letter above.

...

What is rather surprising is that though in 1920 Mr. Routkowsky knew the approximate number of each value printed, yet some four years later he was doubtful of the legal status of the issue. Presumably the same person is referred to, and if we accept Mr. Svenson's opinion that he was an honest man, we think that the only explanation is that, influenced by Mr. Svenson, he may have attached undue importance to the irregular manner in which he obtained two lots of the same issue. We must not forget that Mr. Svenson was undoubtedly prejudiced, and he does not give us copies of Mr. Routkowsky's letters; he merely tells us what he says.

We do not think it likely that any more information will come to light about the origins of this issue at this late date, but we can add some information about the stamps themselves. The numbers given by Mr. Routkowsky are a very good indication of the relative rarity of the various values, and we see no reason to doubt their reliability. As he claimed to have about two-thirds of the number overprinted, we could not expect to find many used copies. It is probably due entirely to his action in buying

Warna. 27.11.1920

Dear Sirs,

I have just received your letter of 3rd. inst. I have only a few stamps of the Hetman Military Post about which Capt. Townsend informed you. The quantity I have is almost two thirds the quantity printed. Attached I send you a list giving the numbers of my stock and their price in your currency. If you meet Capt. Townsend please give him my regards and my address.

Yours faithfully,
(Sd.) Nicholas Routkowsky.

My address: Rue Odrinska n 1b. Warna. Bulgaria.

List of stamps of the Hetman Military Post

Perf.	Quantity	Price per stamp	Imperf.	Quantity	Price per stamp
2k	200	1/-	1k	500	?
7k	500	8d	2k	150	1/-
10k	700	8d	3k	600	5d
10/7k	100	7/-	5k	120	2/-
14k	300	1/-	15k	300	10d
20/14k	100	7/-	35k	200	2/-
25k	300	2/-	50k	60	5/-
50k	150	3/-	70k	70	5/-
70k	150	3/-	1 r	120	3/-
3½ r	50	10/-	3½ r	100	8/-
7 r	25	20/-	5 r	70	20/-
10 r	50	20/-	7 r	20	20/-

I will sell you the whole lot for £230, retaining only two sets for myself. I will sell half the lot for £140.

up this issue wherever possible that they are not much scarcer than they are. Used copies are rarities. We understand that Messrs Bright had some covers which we have every reason for believing were not those now in our possession, but we have no particulars of them.

The values given by Mr. Routkowsky as being overprinted are the same as those mentioned by Mr. Svenson, but three additional values are listed elsewhere:

1 r	Perf.	(Romeko)
7R	Black & Yellow	(Serif and Michel)
15k	Perf.	(Michel)

We have not seen a copy of any of these values.

Some values exist in more than one shade, and the colour of the ink used for overprinting varies, the extreme shades being vermilion and crimson, though we have only seen the former shade on the 7k. and the 10/7k. used and the latter on the 10/7k. and 5R. Imperf.

There are two dangerous forgeries of this type. F.1. is to be found on all values genuinely overprinted as well as on the 35k. perf. and inverted on the 3½ r. So far we have only seen F.2. on a few values and it is evidently not so common as the other. In both cases the colour of the ink used is similar to that found on the genuine. As is frequently the case with trident overprints, both the genuine and the forgeries are at times not too clear, but there are a number of differences by which they can be distinguished.

...
We have in our possession four covers franked with these stamps, which have every appearance of genuinely having passed through the post. They are all backstamped; three are addressed in different handwriting and one is a commercial envelope with a typewritten address. The first and last were addressed to Mr. Nicolas Peter Routkowsky.

They were used: -

Novaya Praga (Kherson)	to	Yelisavetgrad (Kherson)
20.1.19		20.1.19
Novo Ukrainka (Kherson)	to	Evpatoria (Crimea)
8.2.19		-
Novo Yelisavetgrad	to	Novaya Praga
25.2.19		8.3.19
Novo Yelisavetgrad	to	Yelisavetgrad
26.3.19		

It is to be noted that the dates are later than the that originally mentioned for their use (1918) but more in line with the with the period when Mr. Routkowsky bought copies at a P.O., either Kremenchug or Kobelyaki, which are not very far away from where the covers were used.

In conclusion we would repeat that in our opinion there is no doubt this was a genuine issue. We cannot say how it came to be made or who authorised the overprinting, but the whole country was in a state of chaos and doubtless many things were done which were not strictly regular. We would pay little attention to the point laboured by Mr. Svenson that the Military Authorities would

not have had the overprinting done because it was the job of the Ministry of Posts, who would have been offended. They may have only realised this after it was done. The evidence which we have been able to gather is that they were on sale at a post office, and they did postal service. It is certainly strange that he could tell Messrs Bright in 1920 that he had approximately two-thirds of the total and yet in his letter to Mr. Svenson a few years later knew practically nothing of their origin.

...
However, in spite of all, we are convinced that these stamps were genuinely used and sold, which is more than can be said of many Ukraine stamps which are regularly accepted, some of which were never on sale at a post office in the ordinary way at all.

A.W. GREAVES & C.W. ROBERTS

Ron Tufft

Some might argue that this stamp issue has no place inside a publication pertaining to cover the postal stamps of Russia, however, in my humble view that would be a misguided opinion. Lenin longed for Bolshevik expansion across Europe, fearing that a lone revolution within Russia would not be sustainable without a bushfire of insurgencies elsewhere, especially in Germany. The Bolshevik invasion of Poland was Lenin's attempt to reach the beleaguered peoples of a defeated Germany and to agitate revolution therein, but Tuchachevsky was inadequate to the task and the Red Army was eventually humiliated at the gates of Warsaw. However, the Bolshevik takeover of Russia did inspire other revolutionary factions into action, often reaping success. Bela Kun's communists took control of Hungary for a period of months before capitulating under the weight of ineptitude and eventual Romanian invasion. Another lesser known insurgency, encouraged by Bolshevik successes in Russia and subsequent assurances of assistance by the Russians in their own particular struggle, occurred in Iran, led by Kuchik Khan.

The insurgents initiated a revolutionary movement within Gilan, a part of Iran which saw the establishment of the first Bolshevik party in an Arab country, for the first time planting the red flag in the soil of the Middle East as part of an organised bid for

state power. A radical faction of the revolutionary movement led by Kuchik Khan, the son of a clerical official employed by a land-owning family in Gilan, called for an end to British and Tsarist Russian influence in Iran, and for the overthrow of the autocratic rule of the Shah. Whilst demanding reforms to benefit 'the poor', there was no doubt that the movement in Gilan would need to rely heavily on Bolshevik support and military intervention by Lenin and the Red Army.

THE HISTORY

During the First World War, Kuchik Khan and his followers, numbering around 5,000 men, were able to establish themselves in the wooded, mountainous terrain of Gilan. When, in 1917, the British (interventionist) White Russian army used northern Persia as a base for attacking the Bolsheviks, the campaign of Kuchik Khan intertwined with the Russian civil war and Lenin, fighting in support of the Bolsheviks. Kuchik Khan received a letter from the Russian Bolshevik commander in the Caucasus informing him that the Soviet forces would soon take over Baku and put an end to the Menshevik-ruled Azerbaijan Republic. And then, in May, a Soviet naval squadron led by Commander Raskolnikov landed in Anzeli with the declared intention of eliminating the threat of White Russian forces stationed in Gilan. The insurgents, emboldened, immediately appeared near Rasht armed with rifles and machine guns.

After initial successes, the rebels took over the administrative and governing functions in the Gilan region and penetrated deep into the neighbouring province of Mazandaran, buoyed by further promises of Bolshevik support. However, at this juncture, Lenin abruptly turned his back and reached accommodation with the Iranian government, thus leaving Kuchik Khan and his followers to fend for themselves. As a result of this Bolshevik change of heart, government forces quickly re-occupied the Gilan and by October that same year, Kuchik Khan, unable in the end to reach any accommodation with the central government and betrayed by promises of Bolshevik intervention, fled to and remained a fugitive in the mountains where ultimately he froze to death that winter, along with many of his supporters.

The succumb of the Gilan Republic forms part of the overall pattern involving failed revolutionary initiatives outside Russia in Germany, Hungary, Italy, Turkey and Iran. This cannot simply be blamed on Bolshevik 'betrayal' but moreover on the overwhelming disequilibrium of class forces at that time, as well as the limitations of the movement inside Gilan itself which was both regionally confined and internally divided. Lenin realised a lost cause when he saw one, and in his early days of power had a plethora of more pressing

problems to deal with. Kuchik Khan was to be abandoned and left to perish and the Leninist initiative to establish Marxism throughout the length and breadth of Iran came to naught. However, in an earlier expectation of victory, a set of stamps featuring an Iranian historical hero, Kaveh the blacksmith, had been produced in readiness for the 'new' Soviet republic.

THE STAMPS

The imperforate variety has only 4 stamps, the 9ch is missing (the 9ch was not issued as an imperforate stamp) and minus the 'Gilan 25 Soor 1299' overprint.

The complete Gilan set with Soor overprint consists of 5 values for the perforated variety (rough perf. 11) overprinted with the 'Gilan 25 Soor 1299' overprint. See 3ch illustration.

Variety 1: A 9ch perforated without the Soor overprint exists. In my opinion this is a rare stamp; this variety is not listed. I have only seen one such stamp.

Variety 2: Again, I have come across a 9ch imperf stamp without the Soor overprint. Also not listed. However, this could be a heavily shifted printing with trimmed perforations.

Variety 3: The red flag was offered to the stamp as a separate pressing. The 6ch perf. is known with an inverted flag.

Variety 4: Inverted Soor overprints (not seen by the author) have been noted on the 6ch and 9ch values.



Imperf variety



Translation:
POST DOWLAT JOMHOORI SHORAVI
IRAN 1299



3ch



Variety 1



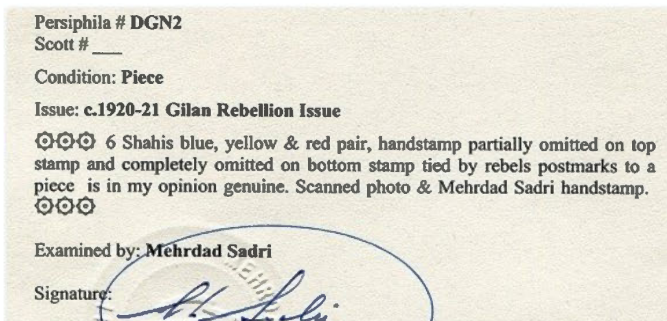
Variety 2



Variety 4



Cancelled pair (without Soor overprint) on piece as offered in auction



Censorship mark produced for this issue.

The stamps were to be cancelled by a special canceller. However, the CTO pair (proof cancellation?) seems also to be a stamp variety. They are 3ch but with the colours of the 9ch.

THE 1861 LIST OF POSTAGE RATES

Charles Leonard

The formation of the German - Austrian Postal Union in 1850 meant that a new postal treaty was needed between Prussia and Russia and this was duly concluded in December 1851. Prussia negotiated on behalf of the Union and Russia included the Kingdom of Poland, the Baltic States and the Grand Duchy of Finland. Under the terms of this treaty letters could be sent prepaid or unpaid, at the same rate, but part payments were not permitted and the highest transit charge to be paid by Russia for a single letter crossing the whole of the Union was 3 sgr. (silbergroschen), a considerable reduction on the previous rate. This treaty, together with the subsequent bi-lateral postal agreements concluded by Prussia with other countries such as Great Britain, Belgium, France etc., generated the rates shown in this 1861 listing (Fig. 1). This list has been reproduced before, both in our own Journal (No.63 – 1986) and in *Balticum Sammler* (1971), but it is worth repeating here as 1986 is now a long time ago and some of our newer members may not be aware of its existence. At first glance, this is an extensive and impressive listing but many of the entries are towns and cities of the same country, for example, 29 of the entries are all in the German Austrian Union area and are, therefore, all at the same rate.

1861 Source: *Balticum Sammler* 1/1971

Postage to be charged on letters of 1 lot (Prussian weight) sent abroad, including Russian weight rate of 10 kop. and 2 kop. in silver for the receipt.

	Rouble	Kopeck		Rouble	Kopeck
Aachen	...	22	Luttich (?)	...	28½
North Africa	...	38¼	Lyon	...	38¼
Amsterdam	...	28¼	Magdeburg	...	22
Antwerp	...	28¼	Mainz	...	22
Australia, via Cape of Good hope	...	70¾	Marseilles	...	38¼
Australia, with the English East India Landpost	1	9¾	Mecklenberg-Schwerin	...	22
Baden	...	22	Mecklenberg-Strelitz	...	22
Bayonne	...	38¼	Memel	...	16
Berlin	...	22	Montpelier	...	38¼
Bordeaux	...	38¼	Munich	...	22
Brunswick	...	22	Norway (via St. Petersburg)	...	12
Bremen	...	22	Norway (via Prussia)	...	46½
Breslau	...	22	Nuremberg	...	22
Brussels	...	28½	Ostend	...	28½
Cassel (Hesse)	...	22	East Indies	1	00
Cette	...	38¼	Paris	...	38¼
China	1	00	Portugal - to	1	22
Cologne	...	22	- from there	...	59
Copenhagen	...	31¼	Rostock	...	22
Danzig	...	22	Rotterdam	...	28½
Dresden	...	22	Rouen	...	38¼
European Turkey	...	37	Scotland	...	35
Frankfurt am Main	...	22	Sweden (via St. Petersburg)	...	22
Frankfurt an die Oder	...	22	Sweden (via Prussia)	...	41¼
Greece	...	37	Switzerland	...	26½
Great Britain & Ireland	...	35	Spain - to	...	22
Hamburg	...	22	- from there	...	59
Hannover	...	22	Stettin	...	22
Italy	...	10	Strasbourg (Alsace)	...	38¼
Konigsberg	...	19	Stuttgart	...	22
Constantinople	...	37	Syria (via Austria)	...	10
Leipzig	...	22	Tilsit	...	16
Liverpool	...	37	Trieste	...	22
London	...	37	Warsaw	...	10
Lubeck	...	22	Weimar	...	22
			Vienna	...	22
			Wismar	...	22

Fig. 1

This 1860 envelope from Zolotonosha (Fig. 2), paid to Colchester, shows the charges neatly itemised – domestic postage 10 kop., foreign postage 23 kop. (Prussia – 10 kop., G.B. – 10 kop. and Belgium – 3 kop.), receipt 2 kop., total 35 kop., which confirms the entry for Great Britain and Ireland and which is the same as the separate entry for Scotland (was independence being considered even then?). However, this informative annotation is the exception rather than the rule and paid letters from St. Petersburg to Great Britain at the time of this listing usually show no indication of the postage charged, nor any accountancy markings. This absence of any information means that the surest way of determining a postage rate is by examination of the relevant bi-lateral convention, but this is not always practical and a good alternative is to study the charges made on unpaid letters into Russia, which should (after deduction of the 2 kop. receipt fee) agree with those listed.

The list shows some curious anomalies: the separate listings for Liverpool and London are both at 37 kop., an additional 2 kop. which I cannot explain, and which is not borne out by the charges seen on letters to Russia. The 1860 letter from Liverpool (Fig. 3), sent unpaid to Henry Schliemann at St. Petersburg, shows the Prussian debit to Russia of “4/3”, where “3” (sgr.) is the Prussian transit charge and “4” the amount to be paid to Great Britain (3 sgr.) and Belgium (1 sgr.). On the reverse, neatly marked in red ink, at St.

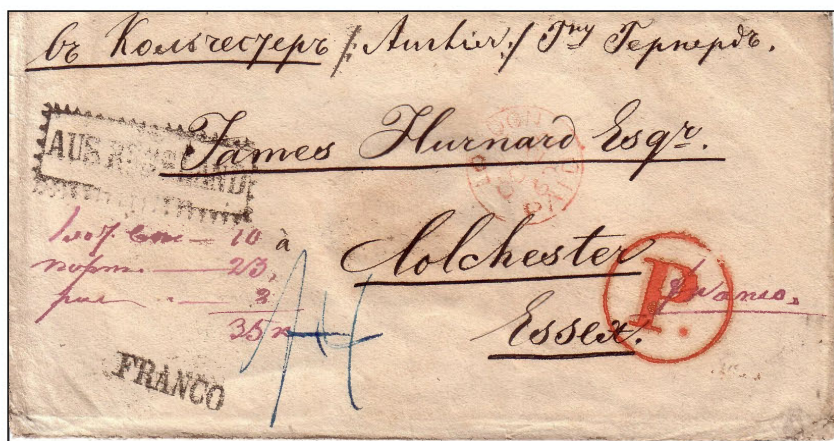


Fig. 2



Fig. 3

Petersburg is the amount 33 kop., charged to the addressee. Schliemann was at this time, a merchant in St. Petersburg dealing mainly in indigo. He later became a successful archaeologist who discovered Mycenae and Troy.

This 1854 letter from London to Warsaw (Fig. 4) shows the usual "4/3" Prussian accountancy but the "33" (kop.) charge to the addressee is now on the front and this appears to be the standard procedure at Warsaw. Also on the front is the "3½/GROSCHEN" handstamp applied at the London Foreign Branch Office, which indicates the British claim on Prussia. This accountancy mark was issued soon after the introduction of the new rate but remained in use for only a few years before the British Post Office ceased using any form of claim markings on unpaid letters. These letters from London and Liverpool have both been charged in accordance with the Great Britain and Ireland entry and their own entries remain a mystery.

The entries for both Spain and Portugal are unusual, being "to - 22 kop., from there - 59 kop.". No explanation is given for the difference in rates between the two directions but the 22 kop. figure suggests that outward letters could be

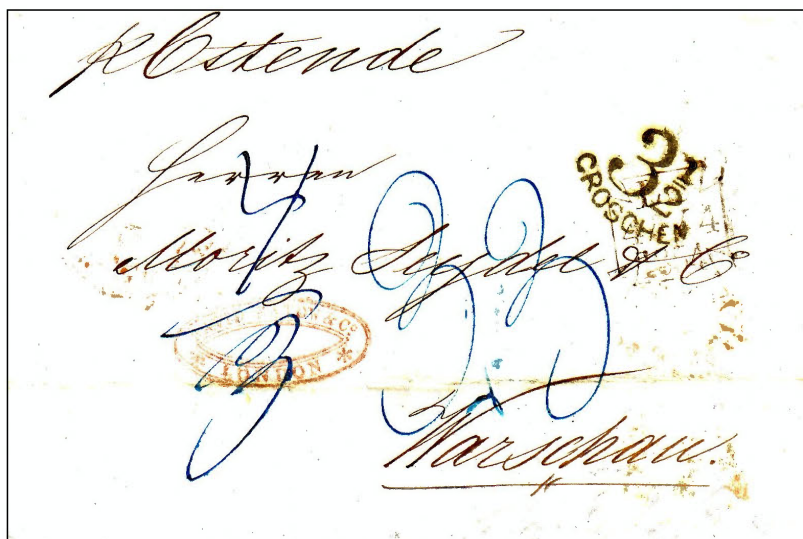


Fig. 4

prepaid only as far as the western border of the German-Austrian Postal Union. If any of our readers has a proving cover for the 22 kop. rate to either Spain or Portugal, I would be grateful to receive a scan. The 59 kop. inward rate can be confirmed by this 1860 letter from Bilbao (Fig. 5) to Helsingfors/Helsinki, via St. Petersburg. It shows a Prussian claim of 15 sgr. (12/3), the "3" being the normal transit charge and "12" the total of the claims for Spain, France and presumably Belgium (in view of "Verviers/

Coeln" datestamp). The total charge to the addressee, "59" (kop.) has been neatly marked in red ink on the reverse, as per the standard procedure at St. Petersburg. The boxed "Spanien" in red was an entry mark applied at Aachen/Bahnpost No.10 and was used on mail from both Spain and Portugal.

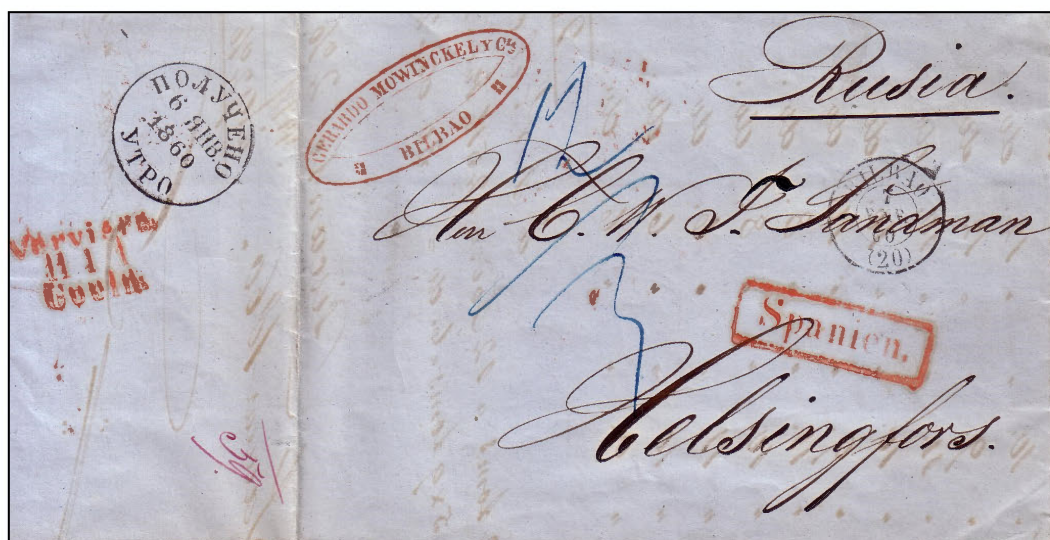


Fig. 5

Another interesting feature of the listing is the number of rates which are in fractions of a kopek, even allowing for the fact that nine of the entries are for French towns and cities, despite there being no listing for France as a country. At least they are all at the same rate. Presumably when the postal charges were paid in cash this was not a problem as Russia did possess coins of $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ kopek, but payments using stamps (after July 1864) had to be rounded up to the nearest whole kopek. Here again, there are some strange listings. Brussels and Ostend are both listed at $28\frac{1}{2}$ kop. whereas Antwerp is $28\frac{1}{4}$ kop. Amsterdam is $28\frac{1}{4}$ kop., but Rotterdam is $28\frac{1}{2}$ kop.. Why these $\frac{1}{4}$ kop. differences? An 1859 envelope from Brussels to Warsaw (Fig. 6) shows that the correct amount of $26\frac{1}{2}$ kop. was charged to the addressee and thus confirms the Brussels listing. However, the 1860 letter from Troyes, France to Åbo/Turku, in Finland (Fig. 7) shows the postage charge of $36\frac{1}{4}$ kop. ($38\frac{1}{4} - 2$) rounded up to 37 kop.



Fig. 6



Fig. 7

Consistency in accountancy procedures did not markedly improve when permission was eventually given for postage stamps to be used on international mail. These 1865 letters from St. Petersburg to Lörrach, in Baden (Fig. 8) and from Voznesensk, Ukraine to Berlin (Fig. 9) both bear stamps to pay the 20 kop. rate to the German-Austrian Postal Union but neither shows any indication that the receipt charge had been paid, whereas the envelope from Astrakhan to Langnau, Switzerland (Fig. 10) has been franked at 27 kop., which is as per the list entry of 26½ kop. but rounded up, and must, presumably, include the receipt charge (but hadn't this been increased to 5 kop. by this date?)

After Russia had concluded a new postal agreement with Prussia, which came into effect at the beginning of 1866, the Russian Post Office issued a new table of rates and was careful to ensure that not a single fractional rate was included.



Fig. 8



Fig. 9



Fig. 10

THE RAREST OF THE RARE

Peter Cybaniak and Roman Dubyniak

From late March to November 1918 there was an Austrian Military Courier Air service Kyiv - Proskuriv - Lviv - Krakiv - Vienna. Mail, though difficult to find, does exist.

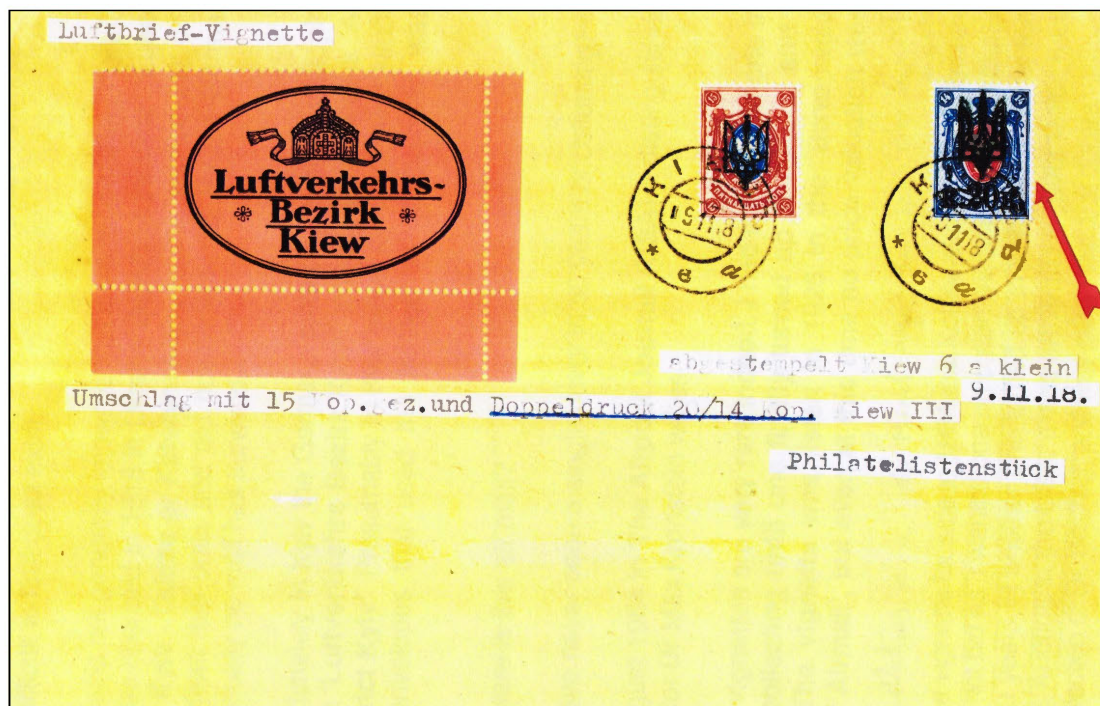
What is not generally known is that a German Military Courier Air service also operated in 1918 in Ukraine Berestia - Lytovske - Lutsk - Berdychiv - Kyiv - Odessa or Katernoslav. As this was only for German front line units and did not accept mail for the German homeland, virtually no mail has survived.

Fortunately in Kyiv the Germans produced, in strips of 5, pink vignettes with "Luftverkkkehrs Bezirk Kiew" in black print - that is "Air Service District Kyiv".

Presumably in Kyiv these vignettes were simply stuck onto envelopes that used the service as no payment was required.

In August 1964 in the The Airport Journal (USA) a distinguished Airpost collector Dr Max Kronstein writes

"These vignettes are very rare indeed. I had never seen one in 40 years of collecting until one finally turned up at auction and I obtained it. The vignette was listed in 1925 in the Berezowsky "Handbook of Airmail", but even at this time no price valuation was given". The illustration is a recent acquisition from the Raritan 2014 auction, which was last seen in the 1984 Kohler auction.





David Feldman
GENEVA • HONG KONG • NEW YORK

Russian Post in the Chinese Empire: Russia's War in China

Dr. Raymond Casey Collection - Part IV

Geneva, December 2, 2014



Autumn Auction Series - Dec 1-5, 2014

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* by arrangement
Postmaster Provisionals =
Vereinbarungsaufdrucke

Brief historical background

After the Russian October Revolution, Azerbaijan declared independence on 27 May 1918 (Republic).

The new government issued the 1st Musavat series (white paper with whitish gum). Russian troops invaded Azerbaijan on 27 April 1920 and the next day a Soviet Republic (ASSR) was declared.

The 2nd Musavat series was issued (greyish to buff or brownish paper with yellow or no gum). Thereafter the Soviet Republic (Mi 13-27/SG 11-25) and the Famine Relief (Mi 11-12/SG 26-27) issues appeared. Both series were further used for overprinting to cover increasing postal tariffs due to spiralling inflation

On 12 March 1922 Azerbaijan, Armenia and Georgia were federated as the Transcaucasian Federation of Soviet Republics. From 1 October 1923 Azerbaijan stamps were replaced by those of the Transcaucasian Federation, which was subsequently absorbed into the USSR (5 December 1936).

The rapid increase in postal tariffs forced the administration somehow to revalue the recently issued stamps [Soviet Republic (Mi 13/27 SG 11-25), Famine Relief (Mi 11-12/SG 26-27)].

Development of postal tariffs in Azerbaijan from October 1921 - January 1923				
Postal tariff*	Postcard (roubles)	Letter (roubles)	Money order Parcel (roubles)	Registration (roubles)
1 Oct. 1921	150	1,000		+1,000
15 Jan. 1922	3,750	3,750 local 8,750 general	70,000	+8,750
15 March 1922	7,500	7,500 local 17,500 general		+17,500
15 April 1922	15,000	15,000 local 33,000 general		+33,000
7 June 1922	20,000	20,000 local 50,000 general		+50,000
15 Nov. 1922	100,000	100,000 local 200,000 general		+300,000
5 Dec. 1922	200,000	200,000 local 400,000 general		+400,000
5 Jan. 1923	500,000	500,000 local 1,000,000 general		+1,000,000
* Ceresa R.J. The postage stamps of Russia Vol. 4. Transcaucasia parts 6/7. Azerbaijan. Section C11 1995 p. 697-705				

Expecting further increases and attempting to avoid costs in preparing printing plates, this resulted in the most peculiar series of stamps during the inflation period.

The postal administration determined that certain stamps with a given face value had to be sold from a given date onwards at a newly defined value (multiples of face value). To guarantee this, by arrangement (Vereinbarung) with the local post offices, it was decided that each office would use a handstamp in its possession for overprinting the stamps. It followed the use of handstamps which had no relation to the intended purpose, namely revaluation. Smaller offices executed the revaluation in handwriting on the stamps or covers.

This arrangement resulted in four Postmaster Provisionals (Vereinbarungsaufdrucke) revaluation issues on

1. 15 January 1922
2. 3 March 1922
3. April 1922
4. 15 November 1922

It seems that the short-lived November issue was to meet an unexpected shortage of numerator surcharged stamps of sufficient high value to cover the new rates and it is chronologically out of order as it followed numerator surcharges.

The Vereinbarungsaufdrucke 1. to 3. were formally in use until 20 May 1922 when numerator surcharged stamps were put into circulation. However, a number of smaller post offices were not supplied

in time with the new stamps (or ran out of supply) and continued to use the provisionals, or simply used unoverprinted stamps or added in manuscript, on the cover, the new rate. These can be identified by the cancellation date.

Sometimes, the overprints show a very clear impression - this is not the case in genuine entires - and the ink does not spread into the very porous paper on which the basic stamps were printed. It is speculated (Ceresa, lc. p. 541) "that the All-Union Collectors' Society manufactured Neudrucke (reprints). It has not been ascertained if new cachets were produced or if the original ones were available to them. In any case, the reprints were illegal".

Quite a number of these Neudrucke (reprints) and also genuine stamps are signed by **A3. BOKA**, which stands for Alexander Samoilowitsh **VOKA**, a Russian/Soviet stamp dealer around the mid-1920s. The sizes of the signature boxes of **Voikhansky*** and **VOKA** are very similar (~3.5 x 9.0mm) and may be confused with each other.

It remains with the Azerbaijan stamp collector to decide to add or not to add the Neudrucke to his/her collection, if the speculation is accepted. I decided to add, since both genuine and Neudrucke stamps are scarce and it seems that the same cachets were used. Without that a number of these peculiar overprints would remain in the dark.

Postmaster Provisionals (Vereinbarungsaufdrucke) Details of overprints				
Over-print type	Overprint in Russian	Translation	Description	Used at
I	БАКИНСКАЯ П. К.		Violet, 18 mm long, 2.5 mm high	Baku Central Post Office
IIA	БАКИНСКАГО П.Д.О. №1	Baku post office No. 1	Violet, 31 mm long	Baku District P.O. No.1
IIB	БАКИНСКАГО П.Д.О. №1	Baku post office No. 1	Violet, 25 mm long	Baku District P.O. No.1
III	БАКУ. 927		Black or violet	Baku-Batum postal wagon
IV	Принято	Received	Black or violet	Baku District P.O. No.2 Shemhathka P.O.?
V	Разъездной чиновникъ	Travelling officer	Black or violet	Baku-Batum railway line
VI	Начальникъ Бакинскаго жел.-дор. почт. отдѣленія	Head Baku railway post office	Black or violet	Baku head railway post office
VII	БАКУ		Black or violet	Baku railway station
VIII	Balakhanskogo P.&T.O.	Balakhany P.O.	Violet handstamp	Balakhany
IX	ЕЛІСАВЕТПОЛЬСКОМ П.Т.К.	Elisavetpol P.O.	Black handstamp	Elisavetpol Post & Telegraph office
X	Manuscript		Black/violet ink	Tauz Railway station
XI	Manuscript	"РОДУБ" - name of postmaster ?	Red or black? manuscript	Bibi-Eibat
XII	Manuscript		Black/red manuscript and date?	Baku Gub. Central Railway P.O.
XIII	Kubinskoe Pochtovo-telegrafnoe otdelenie	Kuba post and telegraph office	Violet three-line handstamp	Kuba
XIV	Manuscript		Surcharge in red ink	Zakataly

* E.S. Voikhansky, Potshtove Marky Aserbaydshana, Baku, 1971

Recorded Postmaster Provisionals (Vereinbarungsaufdrucke)																		
Source: R.J. Ceresa: The Postage Stamps of Russia, 1917-1923, Vol.4. Transcaucasia, Parts 6/7, Azerbaijan section C-II(1995), Pages 756-758 and 763																		
Issue date Issue No.	Basic stamp Mi/SG **	Face Value (roubles)	Overprint No.															Postal Value (roubles)
			I	II A	II B	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII 3	IX	X	XI	XII	XIII 3	XIV	
15 Jan 1922 1	20/18	150	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				7,500
	22/20	400	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x		17,500	
	26/24	3,000	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x			50,000	
	27/25	5,000	x	x	x	x ^o	x ^o	x ^o	x ^o	x ^o							70,000 ¹	
3 Mar 1922 2	11/26	500	x	x	x												25,000 ²	
	12/27	1,000	x	x	x												50,000 ²	
Apr 1922 3	13/11	1*	x	x	x												10,000	
	15/13	5*	x	x	x												15,000	
	21/19	250	x	x	x												33,000	
	25/23	2,000	x	x	x							(x)	(x)				66,000	
	26/24	3,000	x ^a	x ^a	x ^a												50,000	
	27/25	5,000	x ^a	x ^a	x ^a												70,000	
15 Nov 1922 4	24/22	1,000														x		
	25/23	2,000														x		
	38/38A	10,000 on 1		(x)	x					x						x	20,000	
	39/39A	15,000 on 5		(x)	x					x							50,000	
	41/41A	33,000 on 250														x	x 100,000 200,000	
	42/43A	50,000 on 3,000		(x)	x					x							300,000	
	44/44A	66,000 on 2,000			x											x	x 500,000	
	45/45A	70,000 on 5,000														x	750,000 ?	

Legend

- 1** Money transfer and parcel receipts
- 2** Sold from 3-10 March 1922 as charity stamps for the army and navy
- 3** No details known
- x^o** Kohl excludes the 5,000R stamps other than Types I-III, because money transfer rarely happened at smaller P.O's
- (x)** Not listed by Ceresa, but in collection
- *** Official status questioned (SG)
- **** Michel 2014, Vol.9, Part 2 and Stanley Gibbons, Part 10, 2008
- a** As 1st issue

Postmaster Provisionals (Vereinbarungsaufdrucke)

1st Issue, Type I, 18 mm, violet

БАКИНСКОЕ П. К.



Double overprint



Down slip of last "2" in cancel



1st Issue, Type I, 18 mm, violet

БАКИНСКАЯ П. К.



Registered letter posted Baku on 15.4.22 to Berlin (front).



Registered letter posted Baku on 15.4.22 to Berlin. Cover franked with three 400 Rouble stamps each revalued to 17,500 Roubles and one 150 Rouble stamp revalued to 7,500 Roubles, a total of 60,000 Roubles (back).



Registered letter posted Baku on 8.5.22 to Austria (front).



Registered letter posted Baku on 8.5.22 to Austria. Cover franked with eight 3.000 Rouble stamps revalued to 50.000 Roubles a total of 400.000 Roubles (back).

1st Issue, Type II A, 31 mm, violet

БАКУНСКАГОГ.Д.Т.О №1



1st Issue, Type II B, 25 mm, violet

БАКУ. 921



1st Issue, Type III, violet or black

БАКУ.
927



1st Issue, Type IV, violet or black

Принято



**Registered letter from
Baku 2nd office to Vienna.
Postmaster provisional
overprint on Mi/SG 22/20
with no. IV**

Принято

The manuscript registration label is numbered, the letter is cancelled with Baku 2, 27.2.22 and the 2nd '2' in 22 is inverted. Obviously, the stamps were overprinted at the counter, partially on the stamps or the cover. The letter passed uncensored the Moscow Central Expeditiya Office. Since the two stamps had been revalued at 17.500 roubles each, it indicates a registered rate of 35.000 roubles accepted by Moscow.



1st Issue, Type V, violet or black

Разъездной чиновника



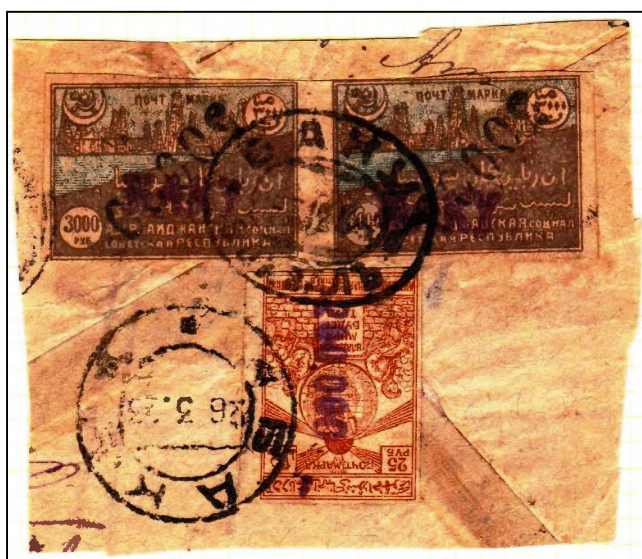
1st Issue, Type VI, violet or black

Начальник Бакинского
жв. -дор. почт. отделения



1st Issue, Type VII, violet or black

BAKY



Piece with two 3.000 Rouble stamps overprinted 50.000 Roubles, additionally overprinted BAKY (Baku railway station) revaluing each stamp to 300.000 Roubles and 25 Rouble stamp overprinted 200.000 Roubles a total of 600.000 Roubles.

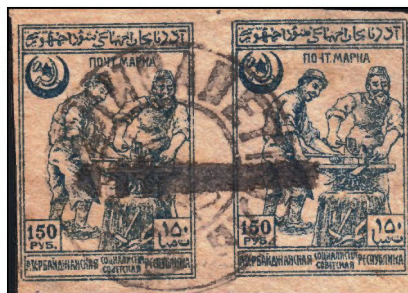
1st Issue, Type VIII, violet or black?

Balakhanskogo P.&T.O.

No copies/pictures of overprinted stamps known except statements in writing that they exist.

1st Issue, Type IX, black

ЕЛІВІДІЕТПОЛЬСКОІ П.Т.К.



violet



2.000 roubles
overprint
(Mi/SG 25/23)
Not listed in
Michel/Ceresa
Cancelled Agdash/
Gub. Elizavetpol

1st Issue, Type X, violet or black

Manuscript at Tauz Railway Station



Copy from E.C. Voikhansky, Potschtovye Marky Aserbaydshana, Baku, 1971

1st Issue, Type XI, red or black?



Bibi-Eibat postal control /
Manuscript in black? or red
“РОДУ6” - name of postmaster?



Postmaster's signature
revalued to 17.500
Roubles.

1st Issue, Type XII, red? or black



A number of post offices did not overprint stamps but revalued them with a manuscript marking on the stamps, alongside the stamps, or simply used them at the new rates without indication of the new revaluation.



This stamp is a revaluation with a single violet ink stroke and a cancel of Jan.23, 1922 from Baku Central P.O.. Although at Baku Central P.O. provisionals were usually available in sufficient amounts there must have been for a short period (maybe a few hours) that day a shortage of these stamps so that the P.O. clerk used an ink stroke for revaluation as an emergency measure.

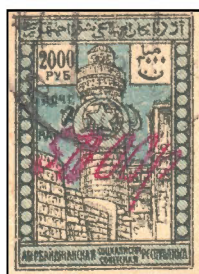
1st Issue, Type XIII, violet three line hand stamp

Kubinskoe Pochtovo-telegrafnoe otdelenie

No further details known

1st Issue, Type XIV, manuscript surcharge in red ink

Used in Zakataly



Ceresa (l.c.) describes Mi/SG 41/41A and Mi/SG 44/44A surcharged in red with 100.000/200.000 or 500.000 rouble.

On the left are Mi/SG 41/41A surcharged with 200.000 roubles and cancelled “Zakataly” (date not clear) and Mi/SG 25/23 surcharged with 50.000 roubles (used in Zakataly?).

2nd Issue, Type I, IIА, IIВ violet handstamp

БАКИНСКОЙ Д. К. Бакинского г.д.о.м.1

I = 18mm, IIА = 31mm, IIВ = 25mm



3rd Issue, Type I, IIA and IIB violet handstamp

БАКИНСКОЕ П. К. Бакинская обл. д.т.о. №1

I = 18mm, IIA = 31mm, IIB = 25mm



IIA



3rd Issue, Type I, IIA and IIB violet handstamp

БАКИНСКАЯ П. К. БАКИНСКАГО Г.П.Т.О №1

I = 18mm, IIA = 31mm, IIB = 25mm



II A



IIB



IIA



IIB



as first issue

4th Issue, violet handstamp



Unlisted Mi/SG 19/17 with type IIA overprint, cancelled Baku 4.2.2?
Error? Speculation?
Shortage of other stamps at PO?

Postmaster Provisionals (Vereinbarungsaufdrucke)

The 1st issue came into use on 15 January 1922 and on 20 May (1 June) 1922 the 1st numerator surcharged issue appeared. Despite that, the provisionals were occasionally used beyond the latter date, mostly without overprint.

A number of smaller towns/villages did not overprint (lack of appropriate handstamps?) the stamps for revaluation but used these at the new rates without indication of revaluation. Sometimes the new rates can be found on covers in manuscript - in conclusion, stamps without overprints in the period mentioned above and beyond are **Postmasters Provisionals** and can be identified from the cancellation date.



Surakhany
3.5.22



Revaluation by
horizontal rubber
stamp? May? 22



12.11.22



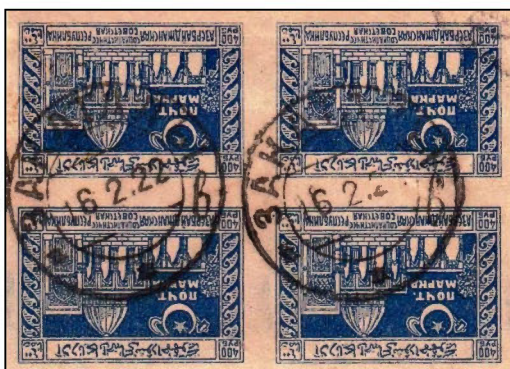
31.1.22



Elisavetpol? 22.8.(2)2
1st "2" in 22 deleted



Chernyi Gor.
Manuscript date in
cancellation
16.6.(2)2



Zakataly 16.2.22



Baku 1.5.22

Postmaster provisional covers without overprint

The official use of postmaster provisionals ended on 20 May 1922 (1st numerator surcharged issue made). This cover is cancelled 24.6.22 in Elenino and must be considered as a late use of postmaster provisionals, because no numerator overprinted stamps were available.

The cover has 4 x 150 roubles = 4 x 7,500 r = 30,000 r, 8 x 400 roubles = 8 x 17,500 r = 140,000 r, in total 170,000 r, the correct rate for a registered letter to Moscow at the time (see also Ceresa Azerbaijan; section C-I, p 537 and C-II, p 654).



Registered (label 441) letter from the German colony Helenendorf to Tübingen, Germany, cancelled 19.3.22 in red (Elenino Elisav.). Two unoverprinted stamps (Mi/SG 22/20) were used because ready-made postmaster provisionals were not available.

The postmaster wrote "Elenino 35,000 roubles" on the cover, indicating that each stamp was revalued at 17,500 roubles, thus covering the fee of 35,000



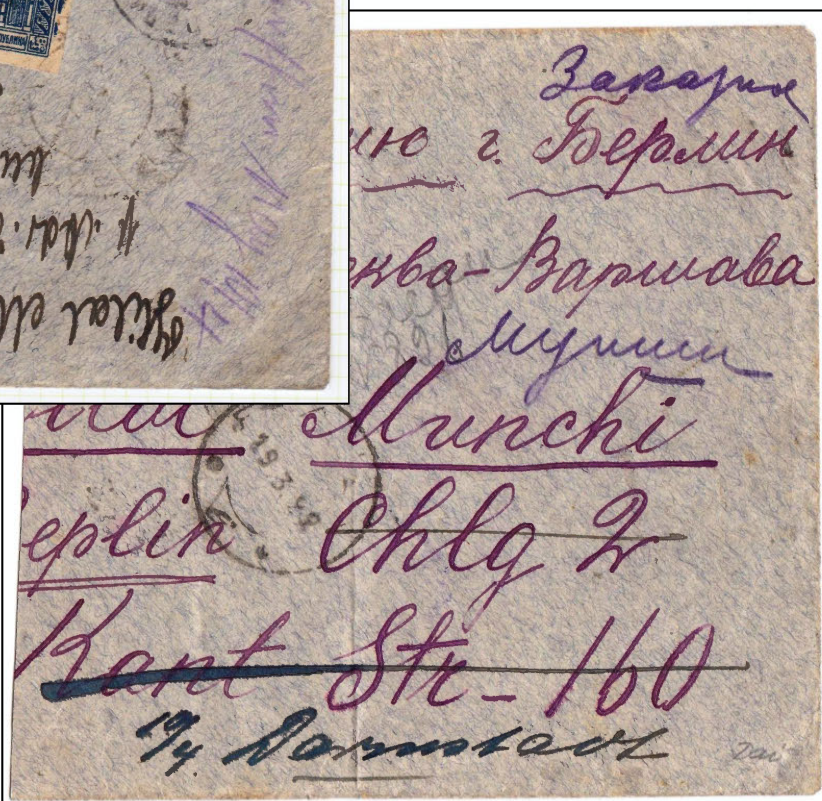
roubles for a registered letter abroad.

The letter passed the "Auslandsbriefstelle Berlin W.8" and arrived in Tübingen on 10 April .

The upper stamp was lost and replaced.

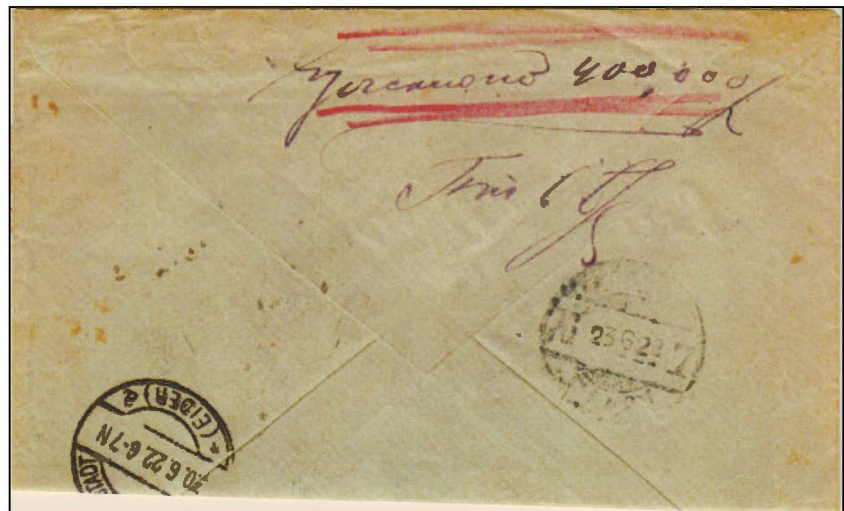
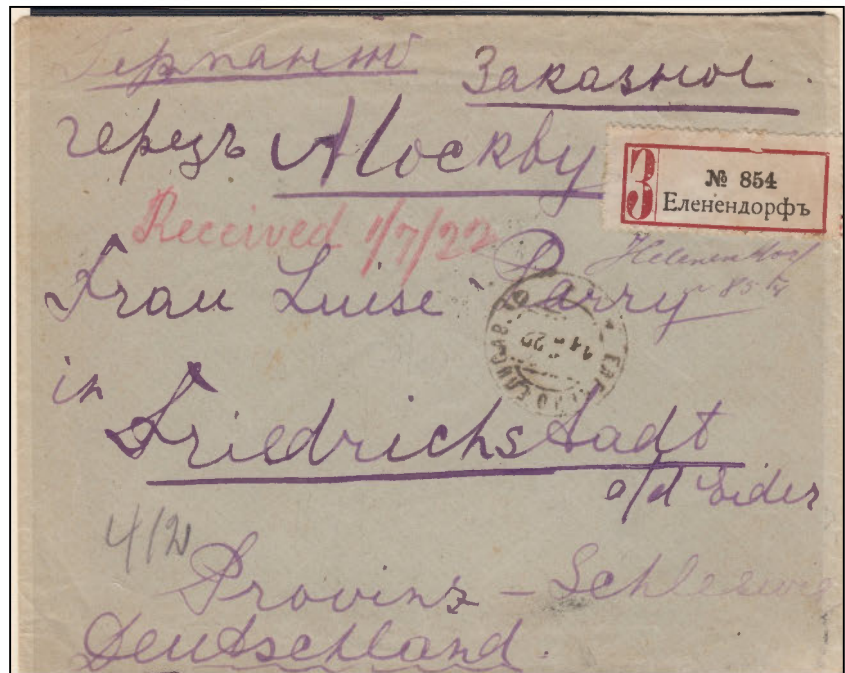


Registered letter posted Baku on 19.3.22 addressed to Munich (routed via Moscow). Cover franked with two 400 Rouble stamps each revalued to 17,500 Roubles a total of 35,000 Roubles being the foreign registered letter rate.



The first issue come into use on 15 January 1922 and on 20 May (1 June) 1922 the 1st numerator issue. Stamps without overprints in this period and sometimes beyond are **Postmaster Provisionals** and can be identified from the cancellation date.

Registered (No. 854) letter from Helenendorf, a German settlement, dated 11.6.22 to Germany, with arrival postmark Friedrichstad 30.6.22 addressed to Luise Larry (probably a British name, therefore the "Received 1/7/22" in red manuscript on cover front) with Moscow transit mark - on 11 June 1922 there were no stamps available, neither numerator surcharged nor others in the P.O. and the clerk noted on the cover's back "400,000 r" in cash.



Forgeries



Alexander Epstein

Such a phenomenon as hyperinflation was experienced in many countries as a result of the uncontrolled issue of paper money against a background of destroyed economies, e.g. as a result of war, revolution etc. Germany at the beginning of the 1920's and Russia in 1918 to 1924 could serve as examples.

The hyperinflation is accompanied by a swift rise in prices, including the postal rates. To meet such rises, one requires continuously to issue new postage stamps of higher face values. If the printing of the new stamps does not keep pace with the quickly changing rates, recourse is made to overprinting new values on the old stamps as it was at that time e.g. in Germany. As to Soviet Russia, there was not even such an opportunity on the scale of the whole country, although postmasters on the spot did it, in some cases creating the so-called local provisionals.

There were two cases of all-Russian conventional revaluations of stamps without any surcharges, while the stamps destined for revaluation had been preliminarily withdrawn from use. The first happened in March 1920 when the Imperial Arms definitives with the face values 1k to 20k (SG 92-101, 107-116, 170, 171) as well as the PSB stamps of 1, 5 and 10k (SG 180-182) allowed earlier for postage were officially revalued 100 times, i.e. used at 1r to 20r, respectively. Just this revaluation was rather

widely accompanied by the local provisionals mentioned above. This revaluation was connected with the standard introduction of new inland postal rates on 10/20 March and the stamps were widely used for franking registered, money and parcel mail, while ordinary mail up to 15g remained post-free. A drastic rise in the inland and foreign postal rates on 15 and 25 August 1921 respectively (the latter once more on 21 November) and issue of the first RSFSR stamps with the face values of 100r to 1000r also in August made the earlier revalued definitives almost useless and they were withdrawn from use in December 1921.

However, the hyperinflation continued and the rates rose rather swiftly, especially when the inland and foreign postal tariffs were increased almost on an order of magnitude on 15 and 30 April 1922, respectively. For instance, an inland ordinary letter cost by that time 50,000r (against the former 7,500r) and a foreign one 200,000r (against the former 30,000r). By this time, the highest face value of a stamp was 22,500r (SG 260). The preparation of new stamp issues required considerable time and they appeared actually as late as November 1922.

In such a situation, the postal administration resorted again to a conventional revaluation of the Imperial Arms definitives putting them in use anew as from 15 April. This

time the stamps were 1r to 14r including the stamps with kopek face values (SG 92-99, 107-114, 170, 171) previously revalued 100 times and also 1, 5, 7, and 10r (SG 100, 121, 123-125, 183, 185, 186, 189, 191, 192, 194) not revalued previously. Now they all were put into use revalued 10,000 times. This time, there were almost no local provisionals, i.e. stamps overprinted with the new value. Also during 1922, a currency denomination took place by introducing a rouble of 1922 equal to 10,000 former roubles. Thus, the definitives of kopek face values became taken into account as after the first revaluation of 1920, while the rouble definitives were considered again according to their face value.

One can see that this new revaluation did not include the 15 and 20k stamps (SG 100, 101, 115, 116) revalued 100 times in 1920 as well as the 3r 50r stamps (SG 122, 184, 190, 193). Also the PSB stamps were not included this time. However, it is a fact that at least the first two values mentioned above were used locally on mail. There exist a number of items franked with these stamps in combination with other, 'legal' stamps or even without them. There is also a circular on this matter issued by the People Commissariat of Posts and Telegraphs (PCPT) of the RSFSR on 15 September 1922 under No. 43/1145 that reads (in translation from Russian) [1]:
"Because of receiving reports

from places about cases of franking the mail with stamps of the pre-revolutionary design having the face value above 14k up to 1r and 3r 50k, we explain that the mentioned stamps were withdrawn from use by the People's Commissariat of Posts-and-Telegraphs Circular No. 43/10537 of 7 Dec. 1921."

However, stocks of the stamps officially allowed for postage were being used up rather quickly in some places or even regions and no new stocks came from the centre or came in insufficient quantities. Thus, the postal authorities on the spot were forced to put into use other kinds of stamps they still had in their stocks but which were earlier officially withdrawn from use. They included also the 15 and 20k and even 3r 50k definitives mentioned above.

The usage of such stamps is recorded not only in individual localities but also throughout whole provinces, especially in the western and south-western regions. One should keep in mind that the PCPT of the RSFSR ruled in 1922 over the postal/telegraphic service also in the Ukrainian and Byelorussian SSR still virtually 'independent' at that time. This service was administered by the provincial postal/telegraphic departments which were subordinated to the PCPT either directly (those of the central provinces of Russia) or through an intermediate person – the Plenipotentiary of the PCPT (in the 'independent' and autonomous republics as well as groups of provinces in some distance parts of the RSFSR, such as the Urals, Siberia etc.). The provincial

postal/telegraphic administrations could sometimes make their own decisions. Concerning the usage of stamps not revalued officially, such decisions could be taken also with permission of the corresponding Plenipotentiary.

Let us now consider below some examples of such usages known to me. Some are from my collection if not stated otherwise.

Nikolaev province, Ukrainian SSR

There were found a number of covers from Nikolaev itself in the period June 1922 to January 1923. Most of them represent the perforated 15k definitive on registered and ordinary letters abroad in combination with the 100 and 250r values of the 2nd RSFSR issue of 1921 (SG 214, 216) also generally withdrawn from use by that time but revalued by a handstamped overprint of a post office official seal applied to a block of four such stamps (the so-called Nikolaev provisionals) or, later, without it at all [2]. Some such covers are described below.

Fig. 1 shows a registered letter from Nikolaev (11 Sep. 1922) via Moscow (21 Sep. 1922) to Berlin (29 Sep. 1922) where a 15k definitive revalued to 15r of 1922 is added to three 250r Nikolaev provisionals taken at 25r each to meet the 90r rate in effect at that time. Another example of this kind is shown in Fig. 2 (eBay). Here, the 90r rate on a registered cover from Nikolaev (21 Aug. 1922) via Moscow (31 Aug. 1922) and New York (19 Sep. 1922) to Boston, USA (20 Sep. 1922) is

met with three revalued 15k stamps plus two 100r and a 250r Nikolaev provisionals revalued to 10r and 25r, respectively. One more curious cover, this time an ordinary one, is shown in Fig. 3 (eBay). Having been sent on 18 Sep. 1922 via Moscow (23 Sep. 1922) to Varna, Bulgaria, it was charged 60 centimes postage due (see the manuscript note by the "T"-marking). According to the UPU tariffs, the rate for an ordinary foreign letter was 50 centimes and the postage due should be twice the deficiency to the tariff in force, in this case, 45r. Thus, the deficiency is more than half of the rate. The 2k and 3k officially and the 15k locally revalued definitives give in total 20r. Consequently, it was the 250r RSFSR stamp that was not recognised in this case, since it had no revaluing overprint. Actually, such stamps without overprint could be used only if affixed by clerks at the post office. A cover is also known from Nikolaev with a 20k definitive used in the same manner. It is a registered letter from Nikolaev (14 Aug. 1922) to Berlin where this stamp is a part of a total 90r franking consisting also of two 250r RSFSR definitives without provisional overprint but locally revalued to 25r each plus two 10k Imperial Arms definitives officially revalued to 10r each (R.T.).

Both definitives accordingly revalued are found used also from other towns of this province. For instance, there exists a registered cover from Alexandriya (20 Oct. 1922) to Berlin franked with ten revalued 15k stamps totalling the new 150r rate (R.T.). Use



Fig. 1a



Fig. 1b



Fig. 2a

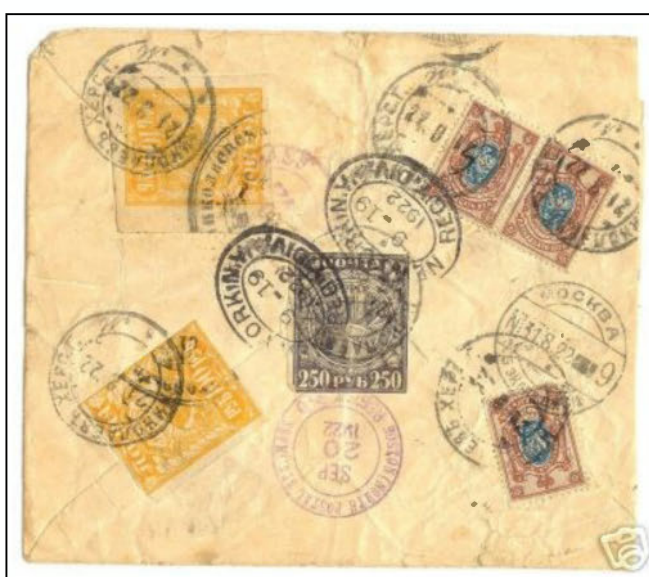


Fig. 2b



Fig. 3a



Fig. 3b

of the 20k definitive is found also from Elisavetgrad. The registered letter in Fig. 4 from Elisavetgrad (24 Jun. 1922) via Moscow (6 Jul. 1922) to Berlin-Charlottenburg (18 Jul. 1922) but readdressed to another Berlin town postal branch is franked with a pair of such definitives revalued to 200,000 rub (this time in old roubles) as the current 400,000-r rate was fixed still in old roubles.

Odessa (probably, also its province), Ukrainian SSR

There is found a single registered cover from Odessa (18 Sep. 1922) to Berlin (1 Oct. 1922) franked with six revalued 15k definitives, thus meeting the 90-rub rate (Fig. 5; V.Ts.). One cannot exclude that such revalued stamps were used also in other places of the Odessa province but no evidence as yet exists.

Podolia province, Ukrainian SSR

Examples exist of mail clearly indicating the use of revalued 15 and 20k definitives in this province. Fig. 6 (eBay) shows an early registered cover from Vinnitsa (8 May 1922) to Berlin (21 May 1922) franked with a pair of 20k definitives locally revalued to 200,000r each in conformity with that time 400,000r rate. The 90-r rate on a registered letter from Nemirov (15 Aug. 1922) via Moscow (22 Aug. 1922) to Berlin (30 Aug. 1922) is met by a strip of four 20k definitives locally revalued and five 2k stamps officially revalued to 2r of 1922 each (Fig. 7; eBay). Finally there is an ordinary letter from Frampol' (1 or 4 Aug. 1922) via Moscow (12

Aug. 1922) to Berlin franked in addition to two 15k definitives locally revalued also with officially revalued definitives 10k, 3k and two 1k matching the 45-r tariff (Fig. 8; eBay).

Crimean Autonomous Republic, RSFSR

The registered cover shown in Fig. 9 confirms the usage of locally revalued 20k definitives in this republic. The franking of this cover sent from Bakhchisarai (7 Sep. 1922) via Moscow (11/13 Sep. 1922) to London consists of a strip of four 20k definitives locally revalued and a single 10k definitive revalued officially giving in total the 90-r rate.

Severskaya, Kuban'-Black Sea province

One more cover (Fig. 10; V.F.) was sent from Severskaya (11 Jun. 1922) to Berlin (25 Jun. 1922). The strangeness of this cover consists in the fact that it is franked with only a single 20k definitive, although inscribed as registered and there is a registration handstamp with a number on this cover. However, this handstamp is circled in blue pencil: such a procedure of encirclement either by small circles or by a solid line was prescribed to annul the franking with stamps invalid for this purpose. The R-cover rate was at that time 200,000r and if the 20k stamp were revalued 10,000 times as in the other cases, then one more such stamp is missing. There can be two alternative assumptions in this case: the stamp was revalued actually to 400,000r because of a local shortage of stamps at all or the letter was posted finally as

ordinary, i.e. the registration was annulled (the blue line!). Thus, questions remain, but the second version looks to me more probable.

Minsk province, Byelorussian SSR

Actually, the Byelorussian SSR territory consisted of only the former Minsk province. However, this republic had a Plenipotentiary of the RSFSR PCPT too who could permit the usage of stamps officially withdrawn from use. There are two examples of using the revalued 15k definitive on mail.

Fig. 11 (eBay) shows a registered cover from Novoborisov (15 Jun. 1922) addressed to Brooklyn, USA via Moscow (3 Jul. 1922) and New York (22 Jul. 1922). Its franking corresponding to the 400,000-r rate consists of two vertical pairs of revalued stamps: local 15k (=150,000r) and official 5k (=50,000r). An ordinary cover from Oleshevnitsy (? Aug. 1922) via Moscow (10 Aug. 1922) to Berlin (Fig. 12) is another example. Three 15k definitives revalued to 15r of 1922 each meet the 45-r rate. The cover was initially surcharged but then it was recognised as a mistake and the T-mark was crossed over by a blue pencil.

Shcheglovsk, Tomsk province, RSFSR

The registered cover (Fig. 13; eBay) from Shcheglovsk (14 Sep. 1922) via New York (13 Oct. 1922) and San Francisco (18 Oct. 1922) to Alameda, Calif., USA (19 Oct. 1922) is the only example from that region known to us. The

franking includes two 15k locally revalued and five 2k officially revalued to 15r and 2r of 1922, respectively. The curious thing is that this conforms to the former 40-r tariff, although the actual rate had been increased to 90r over a month previously. Nevertheless, the letter was accepted for delivery. This cover is an additional confirmation of the fact that the introduction of, at least, new foreign tariffs could be delayed in some regions with the agreement of the PCPT plenipotentiary (there was one such for Siberia as well).

Volyshevo, Pskov province, RSFSR

An ordinary letter from Volyshevo (19 Jun. 1922) via Petrograd (22 Jun. 1922) to Czechoslovakia is franked on 200,000 rub with a 15k and a 5k definitives revalued 10,000 times locally and officially, respectively (Fig. 14; Delcampe). The letter was taxed, i.e. the 15k stamp was regarded as invalid for postage.

Moscow

Although it looks rather strange, the following example shows that stamps not subject to official revaluation were used even in the country's capital. This is demonstrated by the ordinary postcard in Fig. 15 sent from Moscow (27 Dec. 1922) to Tallinn, Estonia without being surcharged. The postal rate for postcards abroad was at that time 90r and it was met, in addition to a 40r stamp of the RSFSR 'Star' overprinted issue (SG 293) and a Hunger Relief charity stamp valued at 20r (SG 285),

with a pair of 15k definitives revalued to 15r each. It is now impossible to judge whether such revaluation was allowed at a local level or was merely the negligence of a postal clerk.

All the items discussed above represented mail sent abroad. Some items of inland mail are now discussed.

St. Koda, Arkhangel'sk province, RSFSR

An ordinary letter came to Arkhangel'sk on 15 Feb. 1923 from Kova station, Northern railway. The stamps – four imperforate 15k and two perforated 20k allegedly made up the current 1-r inland rate. The stamps are cancelled with a 2-line cachet of the stationmaster having no date (Fig. 16; eBay). The officially revalued Imperial Arms definitives were still valid for postage until March 1923 at their face value in kopeks of 1923 (another denomination took place). However, the stamps on the cover were not recognised as valid for postage, hence the postage due marking (although it is unknown where it was actually applied) with an amount of 2r (i.e. twice the current rate) written in.

New Bukhara, Bukhara Soviet People Republic

This case is illustrated by a registered cover mailed from Novaya (New) Bukhara (28 Aug. 1922) to Samara (8 Sep. 1922) (Fig. 17; R.T.). Its franking includes, besides a 20k definitive, one more definitive – 3r 50k. officially withdrawn from use. One should remember that the Russian post continued

functioning in this former emirate but was administered by the PCPT of the Turkestan Soviet Republic in Tashkent which being subordinated in turn to the RSFSR PCPT through a Plenipotentiary of the latter, had, however, its own Plenipotentiary in Bukhara. Turkestan carried out earlier in March 1922 its own local revaluation of stamps sanctioned from Moscow. In particular, the 3r 50k stamp was revalued to 1,000r; the 3k and 20k stamps were not subjected then to revaluation. This happened still before the drastic rise of the tariffs in April and May 1922, and as from 15 April the rules of the all-Russian revaluation came into force in Turkestan as well. One should suppose, consequently, that a new local revaluation took place afterwards in Bukhara if not in the whole of Turkestan. Let us reflect that the inland postal rate for registered letters was at that time 5r per every 20g in weight plus 10r for registration. One explanation consists in the fact that the 3k stamp was taken as 3r of 1922 as it was officially revalued, while the 20k stamp was taken as 2r and the 3r 50k stamps as 5r each. However, such an explanation looks rather artificial: for instance, why not to affix one more 3r 50k to match the 15-r rate? An alternative assumption is that it was a letter of the 3rd weight category that should be franked at 25r. In such a case, the 20k definitive should be revalued to 20r and the 3r 50k to 10r, i.e. 10 times its previous value in Turkestan. This looks more logical.

Nizhni Novgorod

Finally, a curiosity. The ordinary postcard in Fig. 18 was sent from Nizhniy Novgorod (31 Jul. 1922) to Kholm, Pskov province (7 Aug. 1922). It would be natural if the franking consisted of a 2k or two 1k revalued definitives thus matching the 20,000-r ordinary postcard rate. Instead, there is a 15k definitive and no postage due was collected. Was it revalued locally to 2r or was it merely negligence of the postal clerk? Who knows?...

I am very grateful to Robert Taylor, Valeriy Tsyplakov and Vitaly Fedyrin for photocopies or scans of some covers illustrated here. Their initials are indicated above for the corresponding items.

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2. Alexander Epstein. Provisional Revaluation of Stamps in Mikolaiv Province. "Ukrainian Philatelist", No. 102, 37-41, 2009.



Fig. 4a



Fig. 4b



Fig. 5a



Fig. 5b

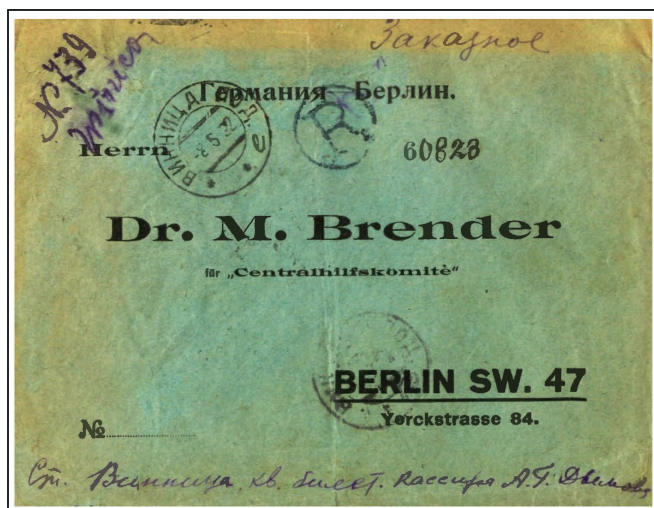


Fig. 6a

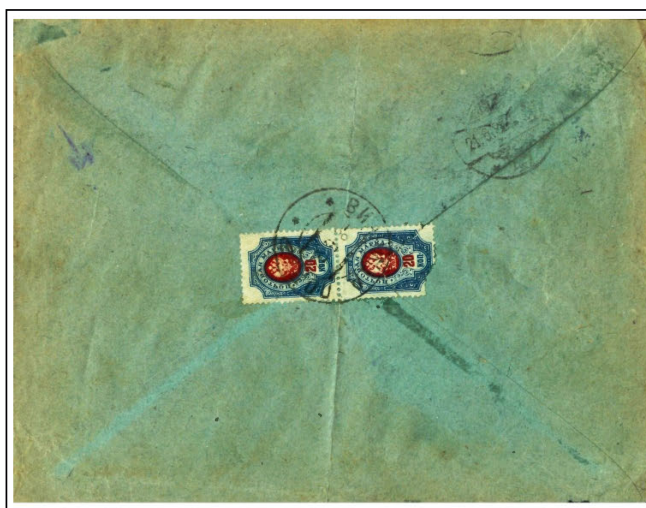


Fig. 6b

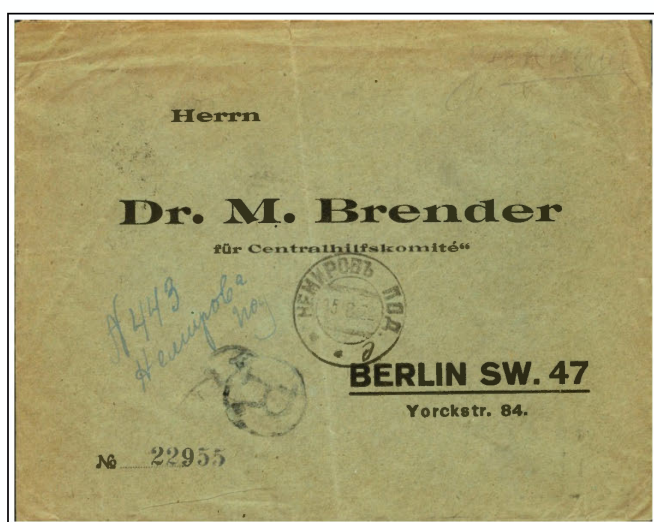


Fig. 7a



Fig. 7b



Fig. 8a



Fig. 8b

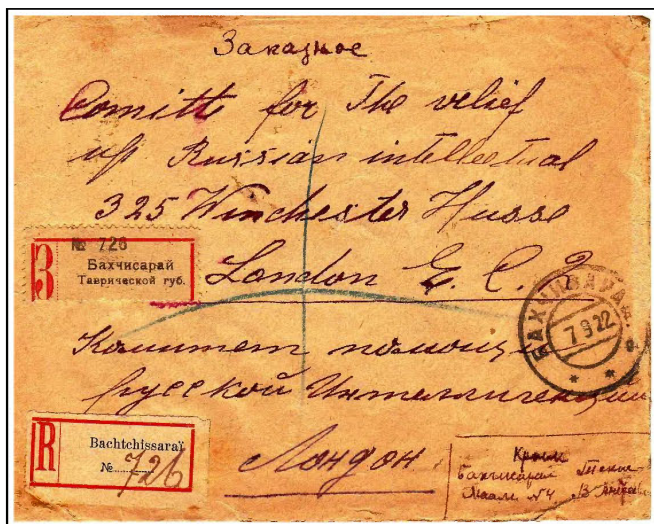


Fig. 9a

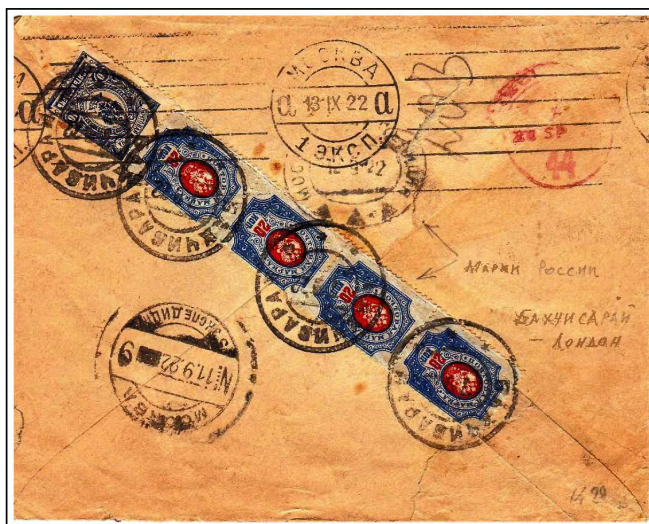


Fig. 9b



Fig. 10a



Fig. 10b



Fig. 11a



Fig. 11b

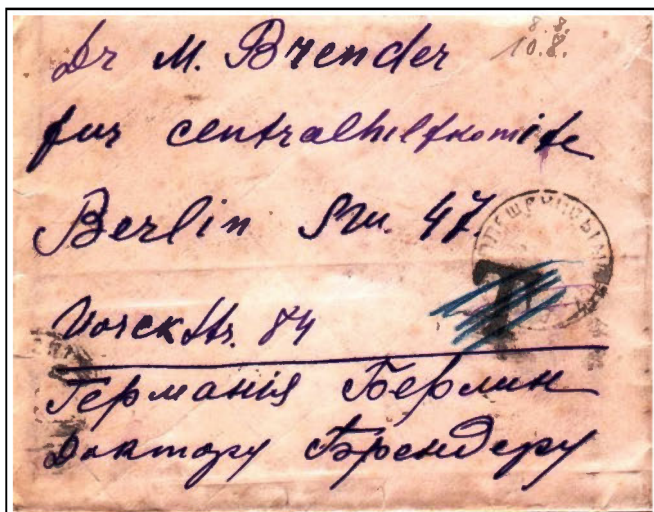


Fig. 12a

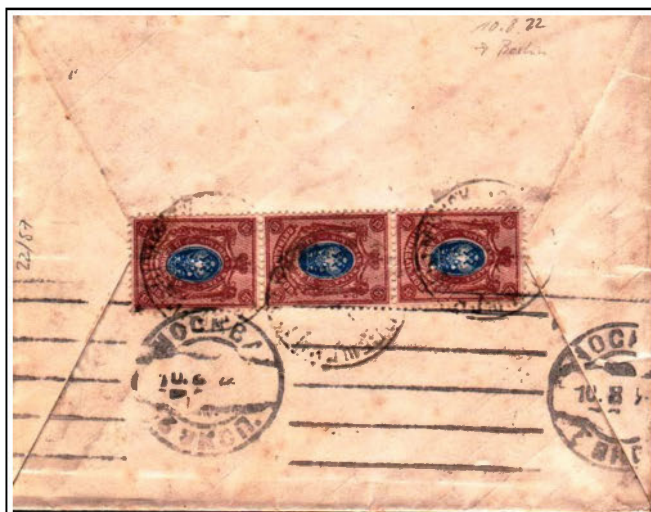


Fig. 12b



Fig. 13a



Fig. 13b



Fig. 14a



Fig. 14b



Fig. 15

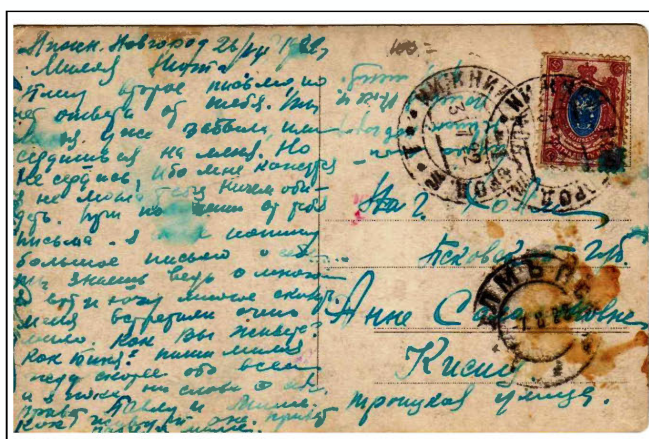


Fig. 18

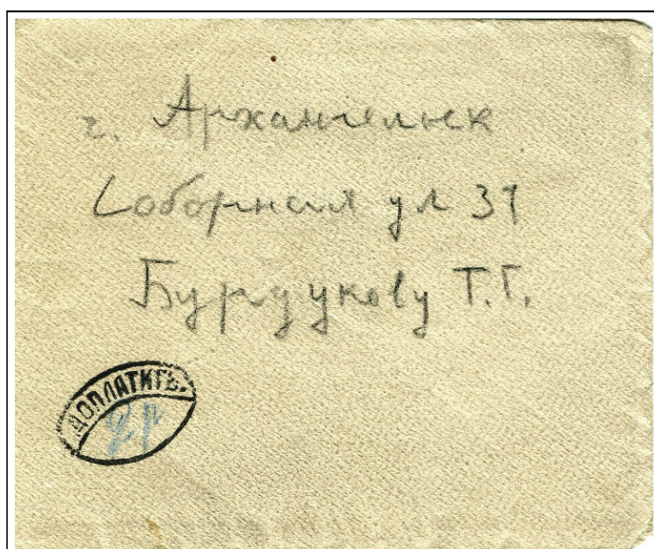


Fig. 16a



Fig. 16b



Fig. 17a

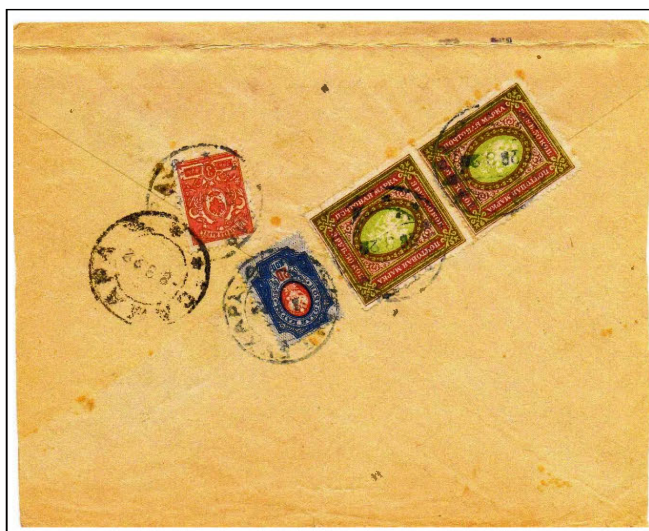


Fig. 17b

Author: Ing. Alois Vávra
(Prague)

We started this search in issue No. 68 of our magazine "Information from the Study Group for the Stamps of Russia" (original title: Informace sekce známkových zemí Ruska) in 2009. The "unknown beauty" is a postage stamp of the 6th issue of the USSR (Michel 682 III A) with a face value of 30 kopeks, which shows an aviator or a parachutist [1] in full gear. It was allegedly printed by lithography in various shades of blue and it was allegedly issued in September 1946. The following members of our study group actively participated in the research: Ak. arch. T. Kotas, J. Kozický, J. Somora, V. Šulc, Ing. A. Vávra and Ing. J. Zigmund. Several articles about this stamp have appeared in specialised literature. With only one exception, all the articles describe the printing method as lithography. Only one catalogue [1] mentioned offset-lithography as the printing method. So, where is the truth? The A. S. Popov Postal Museum in St. Petersburg (Head of the Postage Stamp Research Department Ms. L. P. Rylkova) responded to this question as follows:

1. Before World War II, a stamp with a face value of 30 kopeks with the aviator design was printed by typography in 1939 with comb perforation (Michel 682 I A) and in 1940 with line perforation (Michel 682 I C). The use of

typography continued in the 1940s alongside the new offset printing.

2. After World War II, the production switched to another printing technique - offset lithography. There are two issues: from 1946 and 1947.

3. The catalogues indicate September 1946 as the date of issue of the first offset-printed stamps with comb perforation (Michel 682 III A). However, the dating is controversial; the second half of November is more likely. This issue shows a printing error on the 51st stamp in the sheet: the first "C" in "CCCP" is closed ("OCCP", see Fig. 1). In our opinion, the printing was not too large; the stamps lasted only several months which is evident from existing findings. There is no 1st offset issue in the national collection of stamps in the museum.

4. The 2nd offset issue with comb perforation (Michel 682 II A), or line perforation (Michel 682 II C) respectively, was issued in bulk on 3 September 1947. For unknown reasons, the design of the stamp was slightly modified: a white, sickle-shaped arc is visible behind the centre of the propeller.

5. No other printing techniques were used to print the "Aviator". The lithography myth can be explained by the lack of experience of collectors with the new offset printing technique. Therefore, lithography was included in

the catalogue of stamps of the USSR published by Kogiz in 1948. The authors confused the lack of an image of the stamp on the gummed side which they previously knew only as a typical feature of lithography.

More information was published by J. Zigmund [2]:

6. Lithography as a printing technique for mass production was not used in the 1930s. The new offset technique was used after World War II. The printing machines came from Germany, possibly as part of compensation for war damages. For the first time, this technique was used to print a postal stationery card with the imprinted "Aviator" stamp in 1945 (Michel P 186 et seq.; [3]), then a postage stamp a year later.

Based on the above, I believe that:

7. German printers also came to the Soviet Union with the machines at the same time. This is demonstrated by the fact that the small offset trial issue does not show any varieties, deviations and imperfections (except for the previously mentioned "OCCP") that we, philatelists, love so much. We attribute this to the German thoroughness, conscientiousness and precision. After fulfilling their task (to train Soviet printers), the German specialists returned home and therefore they were not prisoners of war. A year later, in 1947, the printing of the second offset

issue of the "Aviator" began. In this issue, philatelists are aware of a number of deviations and imperfections that we can discover and study up to this day [4].

So far we have found three specimens of the stamp Michel 682 III A (Fig. 1). We can compare all three portraits of our now known "beauty" with a stamp from 1939 printed by letterpress (Fig. 2) and a stamp printed by offset from the 2nd issue of 1947 (Fig. 3).

Therefore, we already know about our "beauty" that

- it was printed by offset lithography. Therefore, it does not have any foul impressions or impressions of the image on the gummed side of unused stamps. Some collectors consider a foul impression and an imprinted pattern to be the same, however, they are the two sides of one and the same coin. The impression is associated with the gummed side of the stamp (on the surface of the gum) and it disappears after the stamp is attached or removed. On the other hand, a foul impression can be seen on the printed side of the stamp. It is a dark shape which was created by pushing printing ink from the gap between the raised pressure element of the cliché and the paper. Because the ink is dense, it does not drain back to the coloured surface after the cliché is raised but instead it dries in the shape of its contours. A foul impression can be best seen where the pressure was the greatest, i.e. in the corners of the image on the stamp or on isolated details of the image that are surrounded by white areas.



Fig. 1: Michel 682 III A, offset printing, 1946. Printing flaw "ОССР".

- it represents the 1st offset issue that was issued probably in the second half of November 1946. Until then, postmarks can be found only on typographed stamps from 1939 and later years, from then until 2 September 1947 on letterpress typographed or on our "beauty" from the 1st offset issue of 1946, stamps from 3 September and later on all three issues: letterpress, 1st and 2nd offset.

- the paper is more greyish, rougher and of lower quality than the paper used for the typographed stamps and the 2nd offset issue of 1947.

- it has only 12:12½ comb perforation and imperforate stamps should also exist [2]. These, however, could also be partial forgeries, e.g. from the impressed stamp image on postal stationery cards printed in blue (Michel P 192 et seq.; [3]) with subsequent thinning of the paper. The paper colour (white instead of off-white) and its structure (rather smooth instead of rough) can be used to recognise the two.



Fig. 2: Michel 682 I A, typographed, 1939



Fig. 3: Michel 682 II C, offset printing, 1947

The stamp has the following characteristics:

- Its dimensions are 15.1 x 22.5 mm, i.e. practically the same as stamps printed by typography;
- The colour is significantly lighter than all colour shades of typographed stamps;
- The printed design is generally softer, finer, however, detailed;

- In the frame lines, in the colours blue - white - blue, the white line is only about half as thick as both blue lines, while on the typographed stamps all three lines are of approximately the same width;

- There is no white arc behind the propeller centre;

- The hatching on the aviator's collar is separated in the middle from its top as well as bottom hem. This is a much bigger difference than the thinner hatching on typographed stamps;

- 13 - 14 indistinct lines on the left (from the Aviator's view) straps of the parachute are fine, they are only about half as thin as on typographed stamps. Therefore, we cannot confirm the identifying characteristic of Professor Pejsikow [5] - that there are only three to four such lines. It is a rather random distinguishing feature;

- White spots on the forehead, nose, chin and cheek of the Aviator are present, however, this is not a sufficient distinguishing feature because they can also occur rarely on letterpress stamps;

- The three approximately horizontal lines on the hatching on the side of the Aviator's nose are not linked to its contour and a white area separates them also from the hatching of the cheek. They are therefore short, separate and they are clearly thinner than the hatching on the typographed stamps. That is the most important feature for distinguishing the offset issue of 1946 from typographed stamps;

- The typical printing flaw "OCCP" instead of "CCCP" is on the 51st stamp in the sheet.

- It is quite rare. This certainly results from the low print run as well as the fact that it remains among typographed stamps without being recognised.

This offers us a chance to find our "beauty" among her sisters. Our tactic is simple: first, remove all stamps with a white arc behind the propeller centre. Those are the offset stamps from the 2nd issue with comb (Michel 682 II A), or line perforation (Michel 682 II C). Then, we remove all stamps with line perforation (typographed stamps, 1940, Michel 682 I C). From the remaining stamps, we remove all stamps on which the hatching of the collar and the nose are not interrupted. This is the first issue of typographed stamps with comb perforation from 1939 (Michel 682 I A). Our pile of duplicates has significantly diminished. There are still our "beauties" (Michel 682 III A), as well as the other part of the typographed stamps (Michel 682 I A) with thin printing. Here, our search could be made easier by foul impression: in case of thin printing, the colour layer is thinner, more transparent, so that it does not cover the foul impression as in the case of the thick layer of the dark blue colour. Stamps with foul impressions are out of the game! It is advisable to use multiple distinguishing features at the same time because distinguishing features are often covered by the postmark.

The culmination of our efforts came when the offset method was specified as the printing technique in the Michel catalogue with Michel No. 682 III A.

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- [2] Zigmung J.: Informace známkových zemí Ruska70 (2010) 14.
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Lyapin, W.: Pochtovie Marki SSSR 1918-1991. Volume 2. 1941-1960. First edition, Moscow, 2001.
Kalinin A. I.: Rasnovidnosti Pochtovikh Marok SSSR. Issue 11. 1923-1940 "Znak", Saint Petersburg, 2009.



Fig. 4: Pair of stamps with off-centred pilot design



Fig. 5: Normal stamp without OSSR Error



Fig. 6: Strip of 7 stamps.

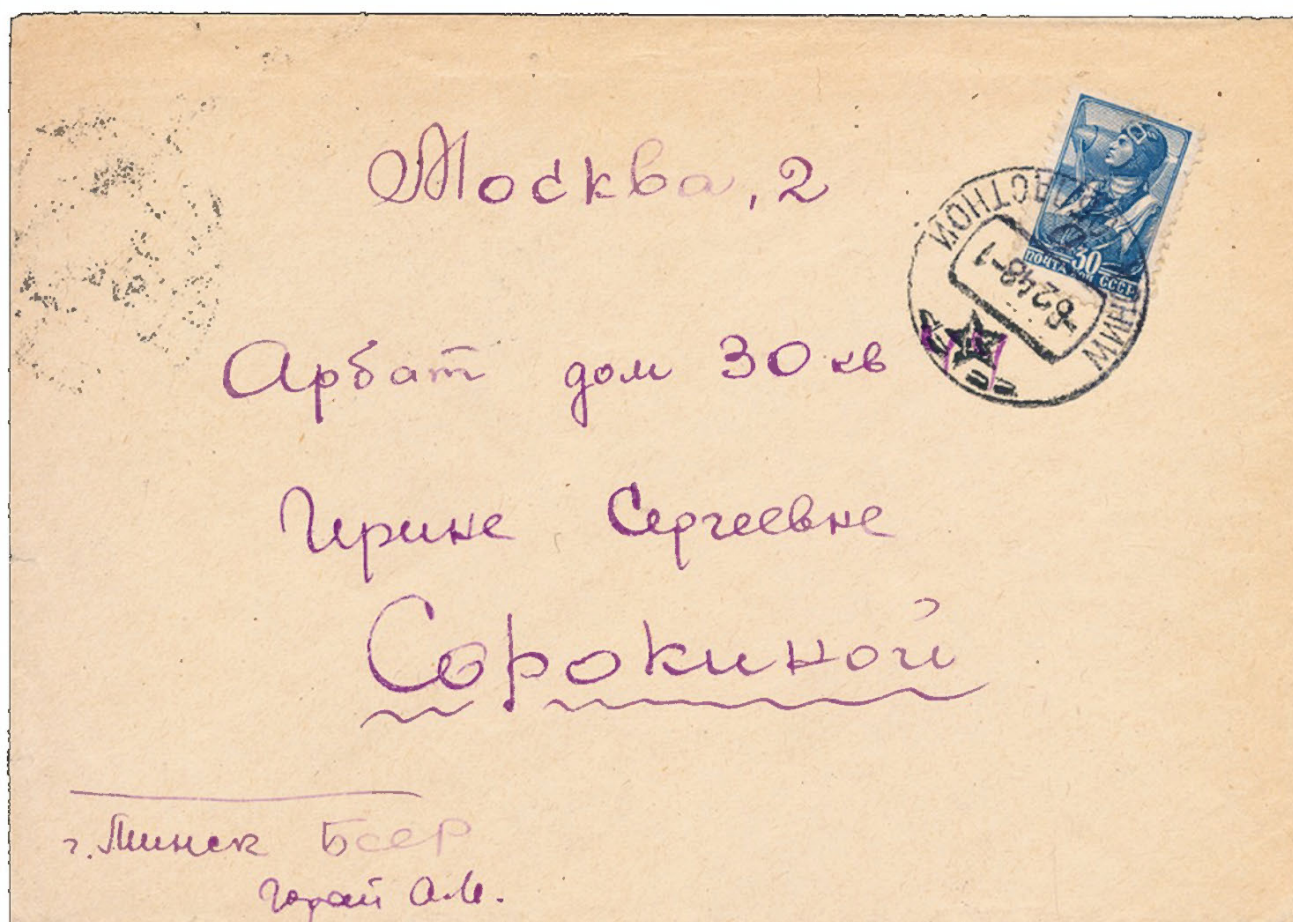


Fig. 7: Normal letter mailed from Minsk to Moscow on 6.2.1948 franked with "unknown beauty".

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**Tribute to
Eric
Gordon
Peel**

by John Kelion

Eric Gordon Peel was born on 9 September 1919.

He always said that there was no excuse for forgetting his birthday as it was all nines: 9-9-1919.

He lived and grew up in Essex; and won a Greek/Latin scholarship to Chigwell school. He matriculated, but his parents could not afford to send him to university, so he went to work. At the outbreak of the Second World War he went into the army, serving in Devon, in Nigeria with a native force, and later was transferred to Burma.

On returning to civilian life, he took the Civil Service entrance examination and went into the Estate Duty Office where he had a very successful career. His expert knowledge of stamps and collectables and their value was a great advantage in the job. He completed his education by studying in the evenings at King's College, London, where he gained a Bachelor of Law degree.

He married Sheila in 1950, and they set up home in North Harrow, where he raised a family of three children; Christopher, Andrew, and Katherine. To his disappointment, but not surprise, none of them were

interested in stamp collecting.

Eric begun collecting stamps in his late teens and his main interests were Russia and Albania. I was 'introduced' to Eric by chance. I was discussing my collecting interests in 1967 with a client who was friendly with Eric. She said she knew someone who also collected Russia but I never expected anything to ensue from the conversation. To my surprise, some months later I received a telephone call on a Sunday evening from Eric, who suggested that we meet up. As I lived in Pinner, only three miles away from him, we arranged a meeting one evening after work. We continued meeting on a weekly basis for nearly fifty years.

I realised very quickly how little I knew and how weak my collection was and almost decided to find another hobby; Eric however, encouraged me to continue and learn. He taught me the importance of postal history as opposed to just stamp collecting and encouraged me to join the B.S.R.P. and to become more active in the hobby.

In those far off days three of the distinguished B.S.R.P. members lived within easy reach of one another; namely Boris Pritt (Ruislip), Dr. Alfred Wortmann (Enfield) and Eric (North Harrow). They had started a study group which met three or four times a year on a Sunday afternoon in their respective homes. These were in addition to regular Society meetings. It was an open

invitation and all members of the Society were welcome to come to compare collections, new material and discuss all things Russian philatelic. On average 10 to 12 people attended, many travelling over long distances; Ian Baillie, Dr. Raymond Casey, Dr. Roy Ceresa, John Lloyd, Robin Joseph, Hilary Norwood to mention just a few. The wives supplied afternoon tea and it was a great success both philatelically and socially. I joined the group and my home became included in the circuit.

Eric collected everything within the Russian field but his collecting habits could only be described as organised chaos. He was always researching two or three things at the same time as well as answering queries from other collectors around the world. He advised auction houses such as Robson Lowe on whether Albania and Russian material was genuine and how it should be 'lotted' and was often consulted as an outside expert for 'The Royal'. He advised Stanley Gibbons on their catalogues for both Russia and Albania. He had a fantastic memory and developed an almost encyclopaedic knowledge. He supplied a great deal of information to authors such as Tchilingherian and Stephen for their handbooks on Russia and Austria Used Abroad and Peter Ashford on his handbooks on Transcaucasia etc. In those days personal computers did not exist and everything had to be done long hand through the post; this took a great deal of time and

effort. Possibly because of this Eric did not write up his collection in the accepted format and only ever showed his fantastic material at Society level. He never really cared about medals or plaudits.

Unfortunately even under severe pressure from me and others, we could not get him to write down the information he had discovered in a formal fashion. It was either written on odd scraps of paper, as a comment alongside an item in his collection, or 'in his head'. Therefore, much of it is now lost, awaiting to be rediscovered. He was finally cajoled into co-writing, 'St. Petersburg: The Imperial Post' with Ian Baillie, which was published under the auspices of the B.S.R.P. in 2001.

Without warning and completely unexpectedly Sheila, the love of his life, died in November 1985.

Eric served on the Committee of the B.S.R.P. for many years, holding several executive positions including President. He finally stopped attending the B.S.R.P. meetings in town when he found the journey became too much for him. He did however continue to act as Chairman of the Expertising Committee even after he stopped attending meetings.

About five to six years ago with failing eyesight, he began to lose interest in stamps. Living alone he found that cooking, shopping and looking after himself took up nearly all of his time and energy, so he decided to part with his collection of Russia. He continued with his Albanian

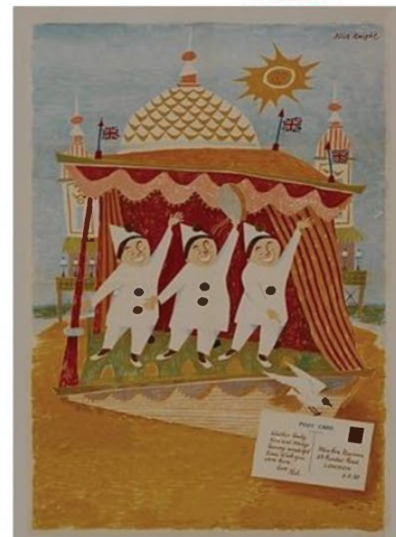
collection but it succumbed shortly afterwards. He still enjoyed fairly good health for his age and his mind was as sharp as ever; doing 'The Times' crossword and Sudoku every day. He regularly listened to classical music, especially Wagnerian opera and loved watching old Hollywood movies.

Two and a half years ago he decided that he could no longer safely live alone and moved into a nursing home in Wealdstone. Gradually he appeared to become withdrawn and institutionalised, even with visitors. He became more and more withdrawn and began not to want to eat or drink. For the last two weeks of his life he lapsed into periods of unconsciousness and finally died peacefully at 9.00 am on Monday 7 July apparently having not suffered.



John Maurice Gwynn
MA. Oxon, M.I.L.

A member of BSRP since 1971, from Balbeggie in Scotland John passed away at Ninewells Hospital, Dundee on 9th October 2014. He leaves a wife Anne, and three children Sarah, Peter and Robert. John Gwynn was Headmaster of Richard Challoner School from 1978 to 1994 before retiring to Scotland where he enjoyed many happy years with his wife Anne. A gentleman, scholar and family man who will be very much missed by all who knew him.



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Thank You

The BSRP wishes to thank Philip Robinson FRPSL for his much appreciated proof-reading of the articles in this journal.

BJRP 103 showcased in Perm, Russia

Sergei Filatov, Chairman of the Perm Philatelic Society, Perm, Russia, invited the BSRP to display our Journal 103 at LITFILA 2014 which was held in the Regional Library from 7 to 30 May 2014, exhibiting monographs, periodicals, catalogues and other philatelic publications. On conclusion

the exhibits, including Journal 103, were donated to the Perm Regional Library. Perm is the administrative centre of Perm Krai, Russia, located on the banks of the Kama River in the European part of Russia near the Ural Mountains.

Insert shows the Large Silver diploma, badge and various items sent to us after the exhibition.



Other Society Journals

We have steadily accumulated a collection of the latest journals from other societies, including the China Philatelic Society of London. Any member wishing to borrow a journal, should please contact Jackie Simpson.

jackiesimpson18@gmail.com.

London Weekend Meeting

The 2015 Weekend Meeting kindly hosted by Terry Page will have a new "streamlined" format. Details will be announced soon.

REMINDER BSRP 2015 Membership Fees

Your membership will shortly be due for renewal. The fee is **£20** per annum (or equivalent in US\$ or €)

All payments received by the end of February 2015 will be reduced to **£18** per annum (or equivalent in US\$ or €)

Payments by cheque to:
Secretary/Treasurer
Caroline Ferreira
BSRP
Flat 2, 64 Vesper Rd.
Kirkstall, Leeds
LS5 3QS

Payment can also be made by PayPal in £ sterling

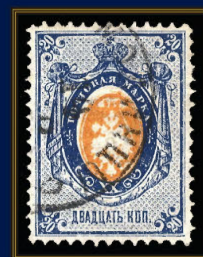
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