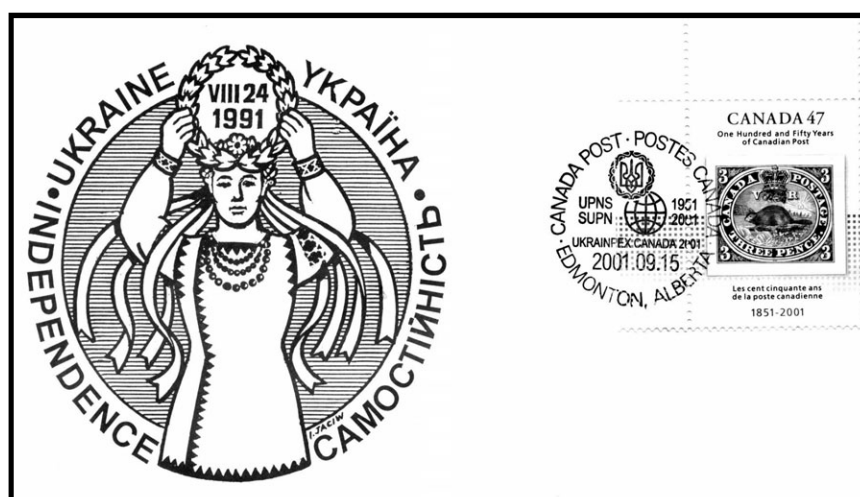




УКРАЇНСЬКИЙ ФІЛАТЕЛІСТ UKRAINIAN PHILATELIST

JOURNAL OF THE UKRAINIAN PHILATELIC AND NUMISMATIC SOCIETY



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The Ukrainian Philatelic and Numismatic Society (UPNS) seeks to unite all collectors of Ukrainian materials and is particularly dedicated to the promotion of Ukrainian stamp, coin, and medal collecting. *Ukrainian Philatelist* serves as the society's official record of original research, new discoveries, and member activities. Inquiries regarding society membership, journal subscriptions and advertisements should be addressed to:

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George D. Fedyk, Editor, *Ukrainian Philatelist*,
P.O. Box 466, Woodville, SA 5011 AUSTRALIA.

Cover: Top – souvenir UPNS envelope, designed by John Jaciw, commemorating the 10th Anniversary of Ukrainian Independence. Postmarked 15.09.2001 at UKRAINPEX 2001, Edmonton, Canada, with a stamp that reproduces Canada's very first postage stamp from 1851. For further details, see article on page 5.
Bottom – private souvenir envelope prepared by Bandura Philatelic Services, commemorating the 10th Anniversary of Ukrainian Independence. Independence Day souvenir sheet cancelled with the official Ukrposhta pictorial postmark dated 24.08.2001 at Kyiv-1 Post Office. Three earlier Ukraine stamps depicting from left: Lviv region coat of arms; national flag and national emblem of Ukraine; Kyiv region coat of arms.

TRAGEDY MET BY RESILIENCE

by Inger Kuzych

The explosions of 11 September 2001 that destroyed the World Trade Center (WTC) in New York City, that damaged the Pentagon, and that downed a total of four passenger planes, reverberated around the world. Not only were thousands of lives snuffed out, but the callousness by which these acts were carried out shocked all civilized nations. Within hours, millions of lives were impacted, some directly, some more peripherally. Our society, too, was affected in several ways.

First, and most tragically, long-time member Marian Hrycak was one of the nearly 5,000 people killed at the WTC. The society's deepest condolences are extended to his family and to all the families who lost loved ones on this day of horror.

Somewhat more indirectly, the attack against the US came just three days before I was to leave for Canada to participate in our Edmonton UKRAINPEX. I ended up not being able to go because my Friday-morning flight was cancelled and no flights to Canada had yet resumed. Fortunately, our Canadian VP and show chairman, John-Paul Himka, was able to pull together a lecture and substitute for me at the UKRAINPEX opening program that evening. Our Calgary members also came through with four additional frames of materials to fill in the ones I was not able to personally deliver.

In addition, after considerable effort, arrangements were made to deliver all the show envelopes with special UPNS-stamp franking (which I had also been scheduled to bring) by surface transport for delayed cancellation. So the Edmonton show did proceed and was a success (see show report on page 5). Thank you to all who assisted in making this first UPNS show in western Canada run as smoothly as it did.

Our New York UKRAINPEX, although scheduled for three weeks later, was much more directly impacted. The Shevchenko Scientific Society, where our convention-exhibit was scheduled to be held, is only about 2½ miles from the WTC site. Within days of the tragedy, I began receiving messages from members who had decided not to attend the show nor exhibit. Discussions with show chairman Roman Pitio several days after the attacks, informed me of further difficulties. Subway and bus lines, while

running, were badly disrupted in southern Manhattan. Everything was running slow and late. All available rooms were taken up by displaced citizens or recovery personnel. Since so many trucks were needed for clean up operations, I was told we would have difficulties procuring a truck to deliver the frames from New Jersey for our show.

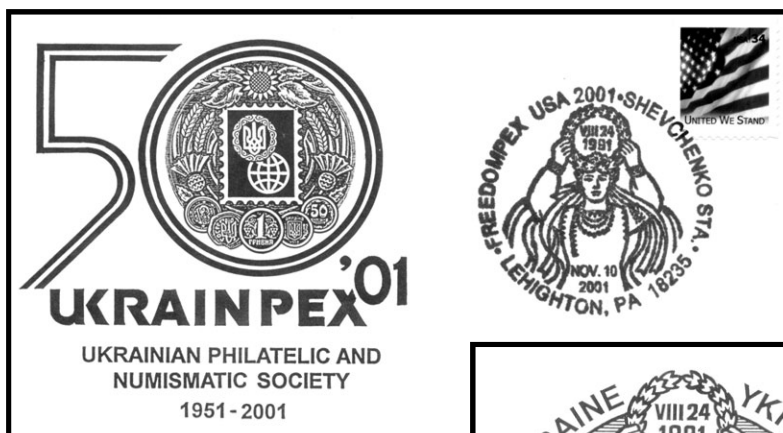
All of the above reasons, plus the fact that we would now not have a satisfactory compliment of exhibits, caused me reluctantly to cancel our New York show. Nevertheless, with the aid of Mike Matus, an alternate gathering was worked out for the second (Veteran's Day) weekend in November at the Ukrainian Homestead resort in Leighton, PA, the site of our regular spring Zustrich-Meets. Amazingly, on very short notice, the local post office agreed to set up a postal station for this new event and to provide a special commemorative cancellation. The cooperation your society received from the Leighton postal officials was truly outstanding and is very much appreciated!

This new show was renamed FREEDOMPEX 2001; there was a threefold tie-in with this name. The first, obviously, had to do with current developments and the society's support for the worldwide struggle against terrorism and to preserve all of our cherished freedoms.

The second connection had to do with the original Shevchenko Scientific Society venue of the show. A temporary postal station, called Shevchenko Station, was to have been set up at this locale. This name was retained for the new temporary postal station set up in Leighton. Taras Shevchenko is renowned for having been an outstanding spokesman for freedom – Ukrainian and otherwise – in the Russian Empire of the 19th century.

Finally, the third tie-in was the selected theme for FREEDOMPEX, the 10th anniversary of Ukrainian independence. This commemoration was beautifully depicted on the pictorial cancellation that was reused (with modification) from the cancelled New York event.

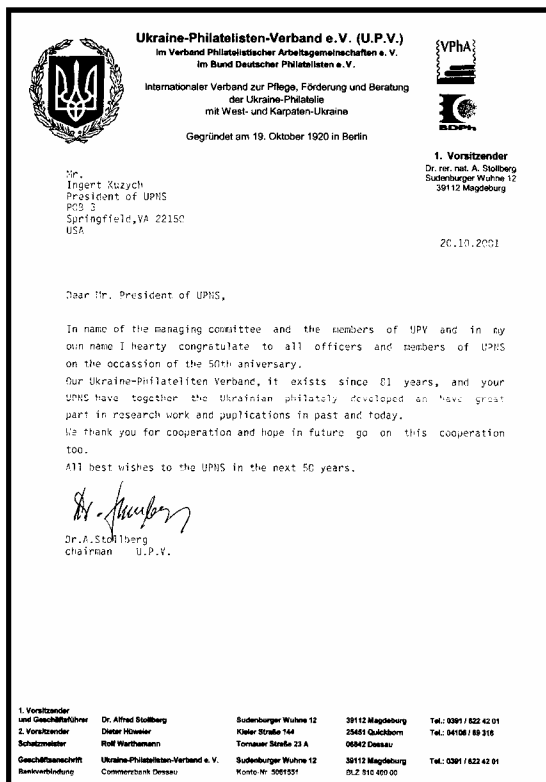
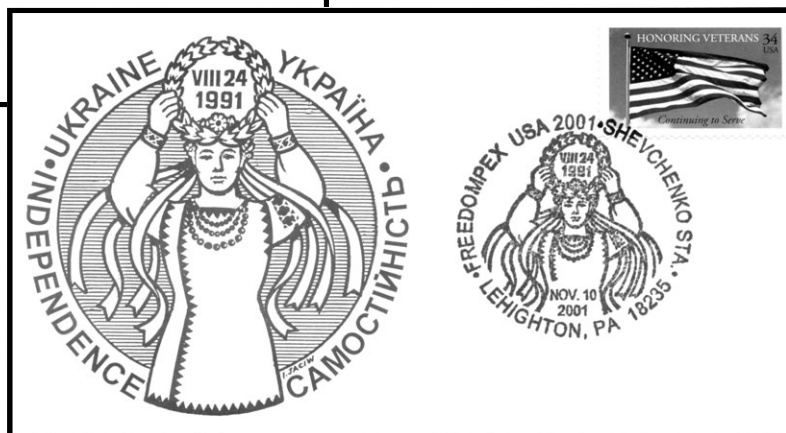
For a show that was hastily cobbled together, attendance was quite satisfactory. Sales at the postal station and at the various dealer tables were very brisk. Some exhibits that were



Covers from FREEDOMPEX 2001 in Lehighton PA. The UPNS 50th anniversary envelope (at left) is scarlet on gold and carries the "United We Stand" stamp especially created to commemorate the events of 11 September. Ukraine's 10th anniversary envelope (below) is deep blue on white. Both covers are postmarked with the FREEDOMPEX 2001 cancel, 10.11.2001.



Andrew Martyniuk (Executive Vice-President) manning the welcome table.



Congratulatory letter received from Dr. A. Stollberg, Chairman of the Ukraine Philatelists Verband in Germany, congratulating the UPNS on its 50th anniversary. The U.P.V. was formed in Berlin 19.10.1920.



From left: Lubomyr Onyshkevych (Trident Visnyk editor) and Paul Spiwak (Western Hemisphere Liaison) examine the latest products from Marka Ukrainy.



From left: Val Zabijaka (Eastern Hemisphere Liaison) and Bohdan Sowa (UPNS member) examine a selection of classic Ukrainian stamps.

originally supposed to have been presented at the New York show were brought to Lehighton and made available for viewing in their binders.

The two envelope types – designed by well-known artist John Jaciw – which had been prepared for the cancelled New York UKRAINPEX were put to use at FREEDOMPEX (see illustration). In all then, UPNS prepared four collectible show covers during this anniversary year: two in Canada and two in the US. For members wishing to obtain these special items, details are as follows.

The two covers from the Canada show or the two covers from the US show are only sold as pairs. Although the cachet designs on the covers from the respective shows are the same, the colors of the envelopes are different. The two show covers from Canada are scarlet on silver (50th UPNS anniversary) and azure on white (10th anniversary of Ukrainian independence) and sell for \$6. The same two covers for the US show are scarlet on gold and deep blue on white and are \$4.

All four covers may be purchased for \$10 (postpaid); this price is for US destinations. For Canada and overseas, add \$1 for additional postage. Order from: UPNS, Box 3, Springfield VA 22150 USA; make checks out to UPNS.

At FREEDOMPEX, I was able to formally announce the 2001 winners of the Julian Maksymczuk Award for services to Ukrainian philately.

John-Paul Himka this year made a special contribution to our society by acting as chairman for our well-organized Canadian UKRAINPEX in Edmonton. He has been a regular contributor to our *Ukrainian Philatelist* journal ever since his first submittal in 1989. Dr. Himka also serves as the society's Canadian Vice President.

John Jaciw has been a friend of UPNS for a very long time. In 1985, he designed our current society logo and through the years he has contributed many UKRAINPEX special cancellation designs – as well as cachet designs – for show covers. Between 1957 and 1996, he designed 167 seals for the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus, which have now become a popular collector item. (See articles about Mr. Jaciw in *Ukrainian Philatelist* No. 85.)

Volodymyr Shvets made a significant contribution to Ukrainian numismatics last year with the release of his excellent bilingual (Ukrainian-English) reference book, *Catalog of Ukrainian Money from 1917*. This 176-page, fully illustrated volume is easily the most comprehensive guide to both Ukrainian banknotes AND coins ever produced. A must have for any serious collector of Ukrainian monies.

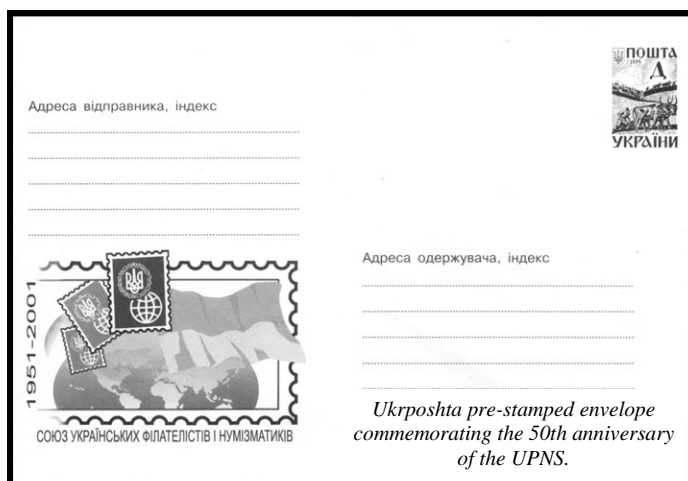
Georg von Steiden's splendid tome *Spezialkatalog Karpaten-Ukraine* may soon become the "Bible" for all Carpatho-Ukraine collectors (see review in *Ukrainian Philatelist* No. 85). This 192-page, bilingual (Ukrainian-German) book contains a wealth of information not previously found in any other Carpatho-Ukraine catalog. The full color illustrations of not only stamps but also print varieties, inverts, and postal stationery, as well as dozens of examples of postal usage, make this a reference work that will remain the standard for years to come.

The Ukrainian firm **Marka Ukrainy** also received an award for honoring our society on its 50th anniversary. In May of this year, 500,000 copies of a special, colorful, UPNS commemorative envelope were printed and distributed throughout Ukraine.

Another Deserving Maksymczuk Award Recipient

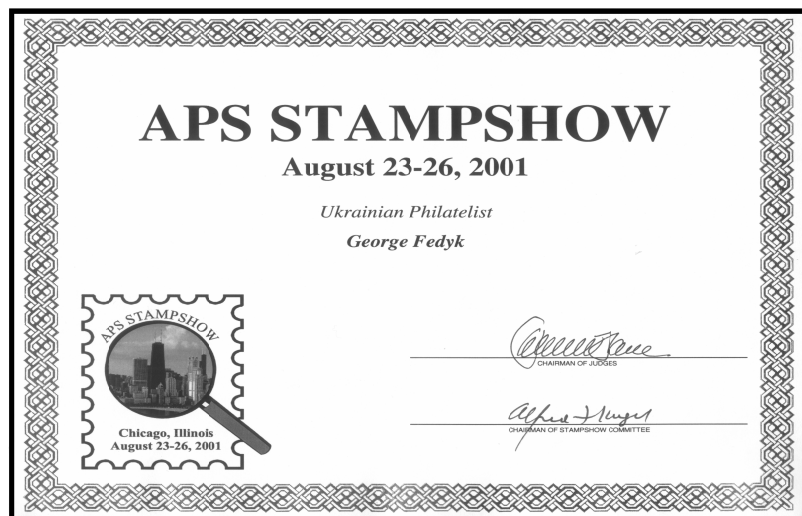
by Andrew O. Martyniuk
UPNS Executive Vice-President

Unbeknownst to our Society President, I received a proposal nominating Dr. Inger Kuzych for the Julian G. Maksymczuk Award. The nomination specifically pointed out Dr. Kuzych's efforts over the past several years to popularize Ukrainian philately, particularly with his monthly articles in *The Ukrainian Weekly*. I put this matter to the Executive Board, and having received overwhelming support from the Board, I presented this special Julian G. Maksymczuk Award at FREEDOMPEX to a surprised Dr. Kuzych on behalf of the entire Society.



Society President Ingert Kuzych (left) receives his Julian G. Maksymczuk Award from Andrew Martyniuk.

UKRAINIAN PHILATELIST WINS VERMEIL AT APS STAMPSHOW



I am honored to advise members of our success at the recent American Philatelic Society (APS) Stampshow, held in Chicago between 23-26 August 2001.

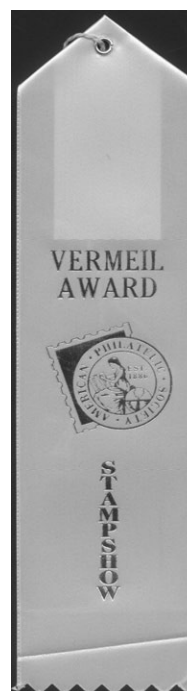
Since January 2000 the UPNS flagship publication, *Ukrainian Philatelist* (UP) has been prepared and edited under a new structure. Newly elected UPNS president, Ingert Kuzych, appointed former editor of *The Southern Collector* (TSC), George D. Fedyk, as UP editor. TSC was the quarterly journal of the Ukrainian Collectibles Society of Australia and in its four and a half year lifespan of 19 issues was awarded six literature awards.

George Fedyk's first three UP issues were entered in the APS Show in Chicago and were awarded a Vermeil Award, the highest possible for a non-color glossy publication.

Depicted on this page are the award certificate, ribbon and medal. The editor also received the judging panels written critique, which overall was very positive.

This award is shared with all the contributors of the first three UP journals.

George D. Fedyk, *Editor*



UKRAINPEX '01

by John-Paul Himka

UKRAINPEX '01, commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of UPNS, was held in Edmonton, Alberta (Canada) on 14-16 September 2001. The show was supposed to have opened on Friday evening with a talk by UPNS president Inger Kuzych, but he was stranded in Washington on account of the terrorist attacks against the World Trade Center and Pentagon that had occurred three days previously. Inger was also supposed to have brought up four frames' worth of exhibits, the specially printed envelopes commemorating both UPNS' fiftieth anniversary and the tenth anniversary of Ukrainian independence and 450 specially prepared Canadian postage stamps bearing the UPNS logo. The local organizers in Alberta had to do a lot of last-minute improvising. The show didn't proceed as originally planned, but it ended up a success nonetheless.

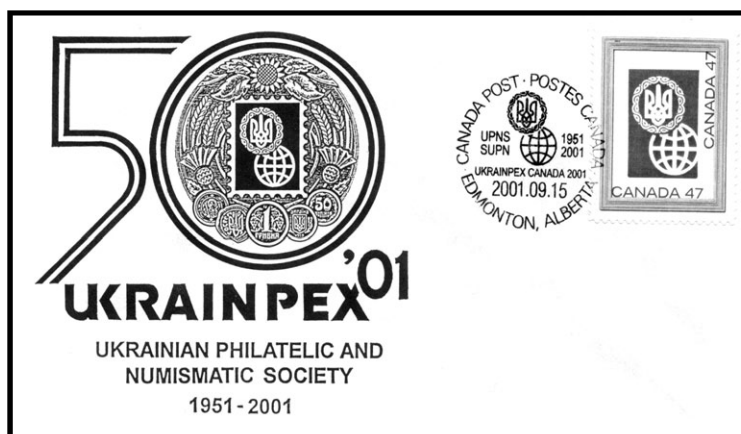
On Friday 14 September over thirty people gathered at the Ukrainian Canadian Museum and Archives to open the show. There were two speakers. Ivan Stadnyk spoke in Ukrainian about the first Ukrainian stamp exhibition held in Edmonton (and it seems the first ever held in North America as well), which took place on 7 October 1951. One of the organizers of that first show, Alexander Malycky, was present during Mr. Stadnyk's speech. Speaking in place of Inger Kuzych was UPNS VP for Canada John-Paul Himka. His topic was "Ukrainian Postage Stamps as a Reflection of Ukraine's Modern History".

Fourteen frames of exhibits were on display. Notably, all the exhibitors were from Calgary, Alberta. Andrew Avramenko had four exhibits: "Commemorative Ukrainian Postal Stationery Envelopes with Corresponding Stamp Designs", "Coupons and Banknotes of Present-Day Ukraine",



Talking stamps: (left to right) Andrew Avramenko, Bohdan Hrynshyn, Lub Wojtiw, Alexander Malycky (seated) and Mykola Tichonow.

"The Internal Circulation Vouchers of Enterprises in Ukraine of the 1980s and 1990s" and "Modern Coins of Independent Ukraine". Andrew Ilnycky displayed "Album Pages of New Era Ukraine". Alexander



UPNS 50th Anniversary cover with a Canadian personalized stamp with the society logo.

Malycky also showed four exhibits: "The Local Post of Ukrainian Displaced Persons Camps in Post-World War II Germany", "Odesas in Philately", "The Trident on Postal Issues of Ukraine" and "Ukrainian on Postal Issues of the Occupiers of Ukraine".

There were dealers at the show: Ihor Rudyk of the Stamp Gallery in Calgary and Chrystia Chomiak of Lemberg Stamps and Covers in Edmonton. Also, Mykola Tichonow, a veteran of the Montreal UPNS chapter, had a table with interesting items for sale; he drove many hours from his current home in Hudson's Hope in northern British Columbia to attend the show.

On Saturday 15 September Betsy Wilson of Canada Post staffed a booth selling Canadian philatelic and numismatic material. She also had the special cancellation designed by John Jaciw that Canada Post authorized for UKRAINPEX '01. Many collectors prepared their own stamps and envelopes for cancellation at the show. Since the specially printed UPNS covers were not available at that time, the special cancellation was held at the main post office in Edmonton for another two weeks so that the UPNS covers with the UPNS stamps could be cancelled.

Everyone who attended seemed to be very pleased by the show. Perhaps the most rewarding aspect was all the animated discussion among the collectors, some of whom had never met before.

The two UKRAINPEX '01 souvenir covers (only sold in pairs) can be ordered from: UPNS, Box 3, Springfield, VA 22150, USA. Cost for the two covers is US \$6.00 for US mailings and US \$7.00 for Canada and abroad. (The first cover is displayed above, the second is displayed on the front of this journal).

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

First of all, my congratulations with your successful efforts to retain the former high level of the UPNS journal. ... and now my answer to Peter Cybaniak's letter:

I thank Peter Cybaniak for showing both sides of the cover described in my paper as item 5. Indeed, I have in my collection no covers franked with the Mariupil stamps, so I was forced to use literature sources or photocopies received from friends. Of course, having found the cover item 5 illustrated in the *Ukrainskyi Filatelistychnyi Visnyk*, I did not know who was its owner.

However, I cannot agree with Mr. Cybaniak in that the stamps surcharged 35k WERE IGNORED on this cover as well as that they were illegally surcharged. As a matter of fact, these stamps were ultimately annulled, but this happened at a later date.

It is easy to see that the trident stamps making 35k in total alone do not match the South Russian registered letter rate 70k (only the basic rates, i.e. for letters weighing up to 15g are shown in my table and just this rate shown in column 5 was the correct rate rather than that of 50k in column 2!), so at least one 35k overprinted stamp was necessary in this case. However, there are as many as three such stamps that should mean an overweight letter (the 3rd weight category over 30 to 45g).

One may suppose that the sender originally affixed a pair of the surcharged stamps to the cover front matching the basic registered letter rate. However, when weighing the letter at the post office, it turned out too, too heavy! Thus, additional franking became necessary. Probably, the stocks of the Mariupil stamps were exhausted, and there remained only a single stamp and the rest was made by the trident stamps. Of course, this is only speculation.

Indeed, the 25k postage due in item 4 does look peculiar but it was on the cover, whose photograph I received from a correspondent from Mariupil (there was only the photo of the cover's back, since the front evidently could add little to the story). This amount of postage due remains on the postal clerk's conscience. Probably, it was a single rather than double deficiency either to the former ordinary letter rate of 35k (in such a case the surcharged stamp was actually ignored) or the new rate of 70k introduced in the area occupied by the White Forces if the postage due mark was applied at Taganrog where this letter arrived a day before their introduction. Anyway, we can only speculate on the reason, why the postal clerk acted contrary to the regulations in force.

As a whole, I cannot agree also with Peter Cybaniak's statement that my paper is very confusing and wrong in its conclusions. If so, more forcible arguments are needed.

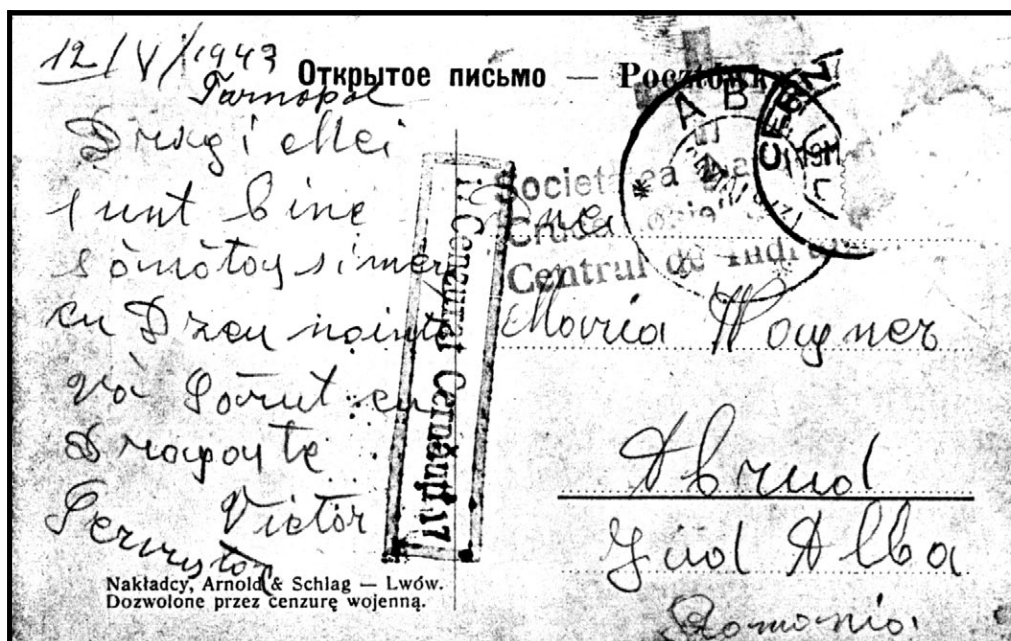
Alexander Epstein (email), 5.07.2001, Estonia

Excellent 'new topic' article, however I have never heard of a Romanian Fieldpost Office in Lviv; it is quite a mystery. Romanian troops were never seen in Lviv, even the Romanian Red Cross Office in Lviv is a mystery. The only Romanians in Lviv were a few Romanian Bukovyna deserters from the Romanian Army who fled to Lviv in the years 1936-1937. So why a Romanian Red Cross Office?

Does Chris (Ceremuga) show in his Figure 1 and Figure 3, postcards posted at Romanian Field Post Office No. 109 in Lviv, with the Romanian Red Cross Office No. 4 handstamp, or does he show two postcards of Lviv posted in Chernivtsi at Field Post Office No. 109, with the appropriate Chernivtsi censor handstamps, and the Romanian Red Cross Office No. 4 in Chernivtsi handstamp? Does Chris (Ceremuga) show in his Figure 2, a Lviv postcard simply posted at Fieldpost Office No. 109 in Chernivtsi?

To deepen the mystery, I have a postcard dated 12.5.1943 posted in Chernivtsi, with a Romanian Red Cross (no number) handstamp, censored in Chernivtsi, but with Ternopil written on the card in a hand different to the hand of the sender. Is this postcard from the Romanian Red Cross Office in Ternopil (between Lviv and Chernivtsi)? I enclose a copy of the postcard.

Peter Cybaniuk (portion of his letter), 26.06.2001, England



Both side of Peter Cybaniuk's postcard

Editorial

Readers are advised that I now have a new email address. All correspondence should be directed to: bandura@ozemail.com.au or to my postal address:

George Fedyk, PO Box 466, Woodville SA 5011, Australia.

Contributors are requested to forward both electronic and hard copy versions of articles—for both text and illustrations. Any Ukrainian text should especially be emailed. Black and white JPEG or BMP (Bitmap) image file formats are preferred for illustrations. Further inquiries should be directed to the editor.

UKRAINE CELEBRATES ITS 10th ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE

by Volodymyr M. Woytowych

In the week leading up to the celebration of Ukraine's 10th Anniversary of Independence there were many events throughout Ukraine that involved not only government officials and local residents but also many foreign tourists and visitors of Ukrainian descent from the Diaspora. The key events included:-

Third Ukrainian World Forum

The Third World Forum of Ukrainians opened on 18th August at the *Palats Ukrainy* with much pomp and ceremony and with high expectations from the 600 or so delegates from both Ukraine and the Diaspora. The official opening commenced with an honor guard carrying the Ukrainian National flag into the concert hall to the sounds of a patriotic Ukrainian march, which was immediately followed by an instrumental rendition of the National Anthem. A jubilee choir then sang "Bozhe Velykyi Yedynii".

The President of Ukraine, Mr. Leonid Kuchma, delivered the opening keynote speech in which he provided an overview as to the development of the independence movement including Ukraine's achievements during the last decade. Key elements of the President's speech included a right to Ukrainian independence; avoidance of any civil/foreign conflicts during Ukrainian's development; success in foreign relations; closer ties with Russia similar to that of the USA and Canadian relationships, and the need for dominance of the Ukrainian language within Ukraine.

The next speech was delivered by Mr. Askold Lozynskyj, President of the World Congress of Ukrainians (WCU) in which he outlined the Diaspora's contribution during the decade of Ukraine's independence. It was by no means ironic that Mr. Lozynskyj's speech was in response to a challenge by President Kuchma a month earlier in which he specifically asked the

WCU to detail the Diaspora's contribution to Ukraine and for delegates not to criticize the governments' handling of Ukraine's affairs.

Mr. Lozynskyj went on to provide constructive criticism of the government on issues such as the development of Ukrainian culture and language within Ukraine; taxes on foreign language school books; the need for government officials to speak Ukrainian, and the state of spiritual and ethnic life of Ukrainians in Russia. His address brought thunderous applause from the delegates and was perhaps the biggest highlight of the three-day forum.

After the opening day's proceedings an international concert was held at *Palats Ukrainy* under the banner of 'Ukrainian Singing in the World' which consisted of a wide range of performers of Ukrainian descent from the Diaspora. The highlights of this international concert were the 'Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus' from North America, 'Nadija Dance Ensemble' of Canada, and Australia's well-known soloist from Melbourne Ludmilla Bereznyak.

Over the next two days the Forum moved to the National Institute in honor of Taras Shevchenko, where

delegates attended various sessions to put their views forward and develop specific resolutions. The subject matter of these sessions consisted of:

1. Youth – Organizational issues, spiritual upbringing, ideological orientation, sports and health issues, coordination of youth organizations
2. Scholarship and education – Ukrainian schools in Ukraine and the Diaspora, perspective's on the development of Ukrainian scholarship in Ukraine and the world
3. Information and publication – establishing an information network for Ukrainian communities worldwide, the Internet,





Front cover of the official invitation to attend the 'Third World Forum of Ukrainians', 18-20.8.2001



Front cover of the official invitation to attend the 'Ukrainian Singing in the World' concert at the 'Palats Ukrainy' theatre

- developing Ukrainian book publication, newspapers, film, television and radio, press freedom in Ukraine and the Diaspora
4. Development of Ukrainian culture
 5. Development of the Ukrainian language in Ukraine
 6. Economic cooperation – joint ventures in finances and production, developing Ukrainian tourism
 7. Preserving the Ukrainian ethos – the role of parents, family, the ecology, ethical-moral considerations, assimilation, social and economic problems
 8. Social services
 9. Spiritual unity of Ukrainian churches
 10. Developing social community structures in Ukraine

On the premises of the Institute there were various organizations displaying and selling their products. There was an exhibition of magnificent icons composed of traditional Ukrainian cross-stitch, together with books, videos, pottery, commercial ventures, and much more. One of my key interests is philately and I was pleasantly surprised to find that 'Marka Ukrainy' was represented. They displayed a highly professional and fascinating range of modern Ukrainian stamps, miniature sheets, greeting cards, specially designed envelopes, books, posters, and first day covers.

From a numismatic perspective I managed to obtain a book on the history of the 'Hryvnia' which was written by Viktor Yuschenko and Volodymyr Panchenko that was published in Kyiv in 1999. I found this book of great interest as it covers in great detail a history of the prominent people who appear on each 'Hryvnia' including the significance of the designs on the reverse side of the notes. In addition, the book includes illustrations of each banknote and coins (monety) that were issued up until the date of publication.

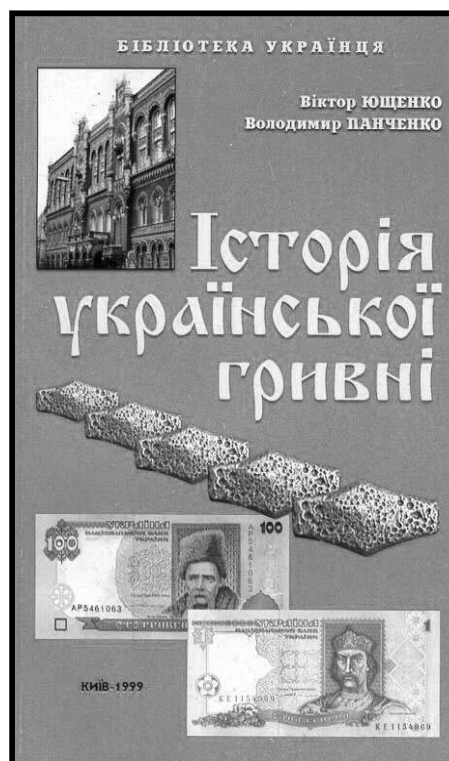


'Mandat delehata' (Delegate's mandate) voting card as used at the Third World Forum of Ukrainians

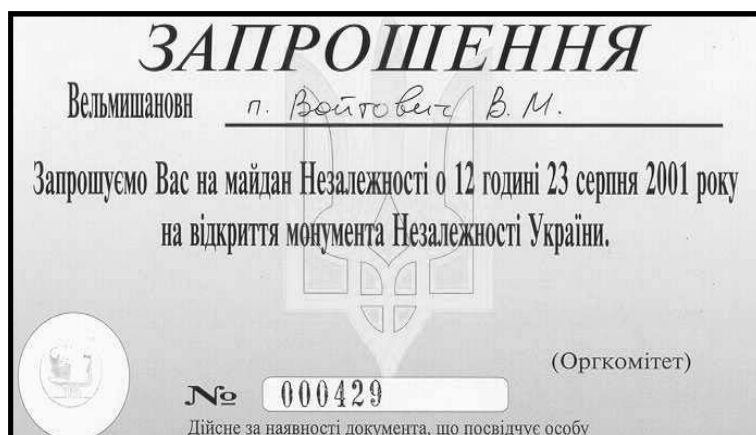
Upon the conclusion of the various sessions the delegates and guests made their way back to *Palats Ukrainy* where each session leader presented a brief overview of the resolutions developed, upon which the Forum was officially closed.

As a delegate to the Forum, I found that the planning and organizational aspects of this important gathering, of international representatives of Ukrainian civic groups from around the world, could have been better organized. Having attended each of the previous Forums, I came away from this Forum with a sense of optimism regarding the slow progress being made in Ukraine as democracy continues to develop along with civil society. We live in hope and I am confident that real progress will occur, however, it may take a little longer than one would expect.

A number of days after the conclusion of the Forum I took the opportunity of visiting the 'Marka Ukrainy' store, which is located some distance from the central business district of Kyiv and was somewhat difficult to locate. Upon entering the store however, I was extremely impressed by its overall layout, with its modern display cabinets and highly professional presentations with a huge range of modern Ukrainian philately. I would strongly recommend



Front cover of the book 'History of the Ukrainian Hryvnia'



*Official invitation to attend the opening of the
'Independent Ukraine' monument in Kyiv, 23.8.2001*

stamp enthusiasts to visit the 'Marka Ukrainy' store, which is located on vul. Starokyivska, 8/12, Kyiv, 03055, Ukraine; Tel./fax: (44) 213-75-11; E-mail: markaua@ukr.net For more information refer to their website www.stamp.kiev.ua/

Opening of the revamped Independence Square

Thursday August 23rd saw the official opening of Kyiv's revamped Independence Square, which consists of a new monument being a 62 meter column, atop which stands Ukraine's lady liberty. With much pomp, fanfare, and ceremony, with huge balloon arrangements, national dancers and a daylight fire works display, the new square was officially consecrated by President Kuchma, government, and city officials.

In front of the towering and daunting monument of a gilded female figure in a green patina holding a guilder rose (kalyna) above her head, President Kuchma indicated that in years to come this figure would symbolize Ukrainian independence, democracy, liberty and the unity of ethnic and religious groups in Ukraine.

Commemorative 10th Anniversary Concert – 23rd August 2001

In the evening of 23rd August a gala concert was held at *Palats Ukrainy* which was attended by the Presidents of Ukraine, Russia, Poland and Macedonia. In President Kuchma's opening address he outlined Ukraine's accomplishments over the past 10 years and provided an overview of what still needs to be done. He went onto compare Ukraine's 1991 Act of Independence to that of the christening of Kyivan-Rus in 988. Although he called the first decade of independence the first step in the process, he

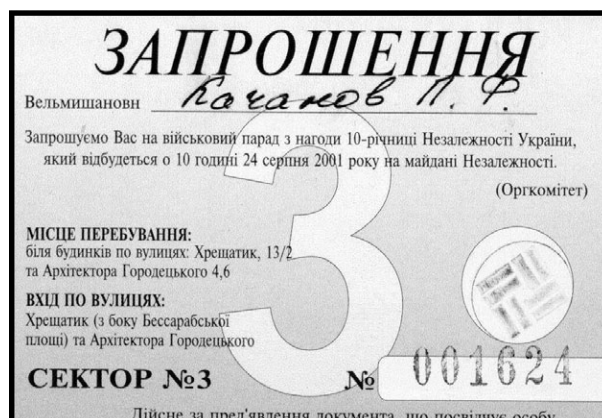
emphasized the fact that Ukraine's independence was irreversible.

A gala concert followed which consisted of professional Ukrainian cultural groups, with specific performances dedicated to visiting dignitaries from neighboring countries.

Military Parade – 24th August 2001

The culmination of the Independence celebrations came on August 24th when Kyiv's main thoroughfare, Khreschatyk, seemed to be filled with nearly all the residents of Kyiv to view the largest military parade in Ukraine's decade of existence. On the reviewing stand stood the Presidents of Ukraine, Russia, Poland, and Macedonia, foreign dignitary's, along with the country's government and city leaders.

The Minister of Defense, Oleksander Kuzmuk, after saluting each regiment under his overall command, delivered the keynote address in which he underscored the current readiness of



Official invitation and seating ticket to attend the military parade for the 10th anniversary of independence along Khreschatyk, 24.8.2001

Ukraine's military following a major restructuring of the armed forces. After the playing of the national anthem and the singing of the religious hymn 'Bozhe Velykyi Yedynii', white doves were then released into the clear blue sky above Independence Square.

The military parade commenced with soldiers from regiments of the armed forces (resplendent in their uniforms) goose-stepping their way down Khreschatyk and saluting the dignitaries on the reviewing stand. Following the foot soldiers was a magnificent display of military hardware which consisted of armored personnel vehicles, locally developed state of the art tanks and anti ballistic missiles. A fly-over of MIG fighter jets, modern helicopters, and the world's largest transport carriers, the Antonov airplanes 'Ruslan' and 'Mriia', followed the parade of military hardware.

A display of colorful floats with singers, musicians and dancers in traditional costumes from various regions of Ukraine, including Olympic athletes and gymnastic displays, concluded the festivities.

Ukraine Post

Whilst in the center of Kyiv, I took the opportunity of visiting the central post office, which is located on the corner of Khreschatyk and Independence Square. Upon entering the post office building I was impressed by its modern, spacious, and efficient layout. In the main foyer area there are specialty booths selling everything from greeting cards, stamps, envelopes, to camera equipment. A separate philatelic shop was a stamp collector's delight. On display were the most recent issues of Ukrainian stamps, first day covers, special issues, journals, catalogues and much more. Considering that the 10th anniversary FDC was released with a first day of issue cancellation date of 18th August, I managed to



Cover of a Ukraine Post greeting card for the 10th anniversary of independence



Ukraine Post un-denominated souvenir envelope for the 10th anniversary of independence



Ukrposhta un-denominated envelope issued for the Third World Forum of Ukrainians.

Third World Forum of Ukrainian postmark, Kyiv-1 post office, 18-20.8.2001

obtain a small number of original FDC's and had these stamped at the post office with 24th August special cancel. Although the post office was closed for normal business due to the public holiday, they at least had one counter opened for philatelic enthusiasts, with a steady stream of people lined up to affix that days' special cancellation on their own specially prepared covers.

Anniversary Concerts

During the day a mass of people attended a Flower Festival and towards the evening an increasing throng of people, estimated at over half a million persons, eventually filled the center of the Kyiv, which culminated in a number of rock and pop concerts throughout the city. These concerts culminated in huge and impressive bursts of fireworks orchestrated to a pyrotechnics display to conclude the day's events and festivities.

Volodymyr Woytowych is a Compliance Manager in the financial services industry, the current Chairman of Directors of the Ukrainian Credit Cooperative 'Karpaty'; Chairman of the Association of Ukrainian Credit Unions in Australia; a member of the Executive of the Association of Ukrainians in New South Wales; a member of the Executive of the Australian Ukrainian Federation of Ukrainian Organizations (AFUO); former (inaugural) chairman (12 years) of the 'Ivasiuk' Ukrainian Folk Ensemble; chorister in the Ukrainian Orthodox Church; former member of PLAST; a member of the Ukrainian Collectibles Society (Australia), and an active collector of



Third World Forum of Ukrainians souvenir concert program

SO, HOW HAS UKRAINE POST COMMEMORATED NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE DURING THE FIRST TEN YEARS?

by George D. Fedyk

In issue 7 of *The Southern Collector* (Vol. 2, No 4, October-December 1996) I reviewed and illustrated the official philatelic releases that Ukraine Post issued up to and including the fifth anniversary of independence. It is now opportune to review all the philatelic material released during the first 10 years (postage stamps and souvenir sheets, first day of issue (Premier Jour) covers and cancels, commemorative postmarks, pre-stamped envelopes and postcards, and Ukrposhta souvenir covers).

From the outset, let me state that I am quite biased. I am always rapt to not only see, but especially procure, anything remotely related to Ukraine. I am an *Ukrainica* junkie. I will collect virtually any philatelic item as long as it is related to Ukraine (and if my budget allows).

Especially high up in my interest stakes are items related to overt statements of Ukrainian nationalism and patriotism. Why? The answer is not all that surprising. My ancestry is deeply Ukrainian (from both western and eastern parts of Ukraine). My grandparents and parents went through the upheavals of the first world war, Polish and Soviet Russian occupations, Stalin's premeditated famine, German occupation and the second world war, and like so many thousands of other Ukrainians, the flight from their beloved homeland. I have matured with a great sense of understanding and appreciation of Ukrainian symbology, history and culture. I am proud of my heritage.

Probably like many others of similar background, as well as many others within Ukraine today, I eagerly await new philatelic releases. However, I believe I am discerning enough to know that there is a limit of what can be issued before it becomes overkill. So, to offset this need, I look to quality of design and production—something that at worst is on par with what is being issued by the rest of the world, and hopefully in many cases surpassing it, as well as prudent marketing of the product and it's ultimate effectiveness of purpose, that is, is it getting its message across and is it pleasing to behold.

So, on the basis of personal opinion, how do I rate Ukraine Post's effort in portraying its independence over the first 10 years of statehood? For a nation that has always espoused such national consciousness, and with such a range of national symbols, supported by such a long, profound, yet tragic history, I believe that overall, Ukraine Post could have done a better job.

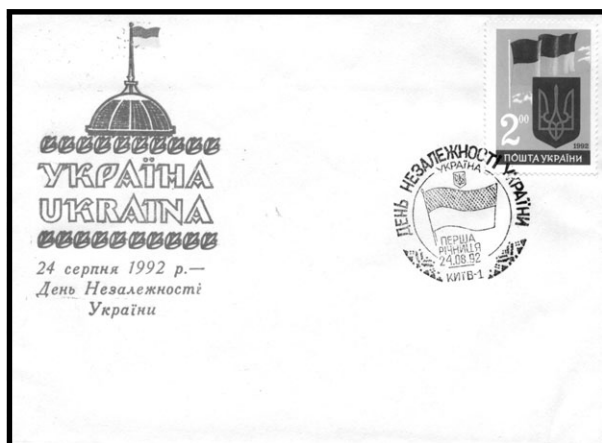
I base my premise on the inherent cultural, social, and management problems Ukraine inherited from over 70 years of Soviet subjugation, and centuries of tsarist overlordship in the previous few centuries. Finally, in the last decade of the 20th century, Ukraine Post (Ukrposhta) has had the golden opportunity to promote, first to its own people, secondly to its diaspora, and thirdly to the global community, the rich national heritage, culture, and history of the Ukrainian people; a history that stretches back to the days of Askold and Dyr, some four or so centuries before Muscovy and the Russian nation even emerged. I am exploring whether Ukraine has indeed taken advantage of this opportunity.

So, what has Ukraine Post issued over the past 10 years that celebrates and commemorates it's independence? The table below lists all official (and officially sanctioned) issues.

	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	Total
Stamp	1	—	1	—	1	7	—	—	—	1	11
Souvenir Sheet	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	3
First day (Premier Jour) cover	3	—	3	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	9
First day of issue cancel	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	4
Pre-stamped envelope (PSE)	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	1	1	5
Pre-stamped postcard (PSP)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Commemorative postmark	1	—	2	1	2	1	1	—	1	4	13
Official souvenir envelope	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	5+	7+



1992 Flag & Trident issue FDC , 19.8.1992



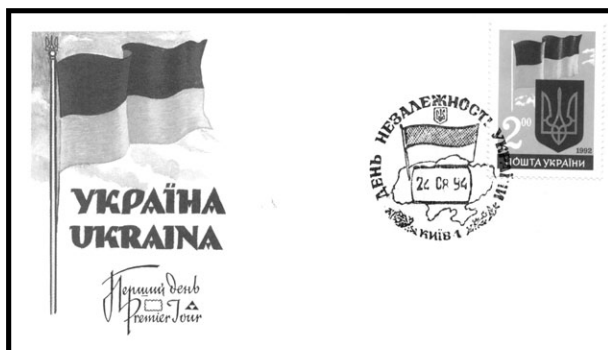
Independence Day postmark, 24.8.1992

For the first anniversary of independence the Ukrainian Ministry of Communications (now Ukrposhta/Ukraine Post) released a single stamp, depicting the national flag and national symbol, the trident (Tryzub) (5 million copies). The stamp was released on 19 August 1992. The Association of Philatelists of Ukraine (APU) issued a souvenir envelope that was used as a first day of issue cover (FDC) while the Canadian Bank Note Company (CBNC, who printed the stamp) also released two different cachet covers that were also used as FDCs. A single first day of issue postmark (FDIP) was available at the Kyiv-1 post office. CBNC also provided a FDIP that differs from the original Kyiv-1 FDIP, especially in thickness. For the actual day of independence (24.08.1992) a commemorative postmark was released at Kyiv-1 post office while the APU released a souvenir envelope.

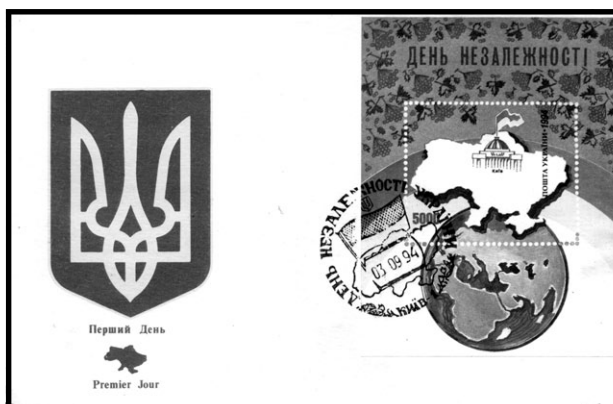


1992 Flag & Trident stamp issued 19.8.1992

For the second anniversary of independence in 1993, Ukrposhta did not release any official philatelic material.



Independence Day postmark, 24.8.1994
CBNC first day envelope (Type 1), first used in 1992



Independence Day souvenir sheet, issued 3.9.1994
Independence Day FDI postmark, 3.9.1994

For the third anniversary in 1994, Ukrposhta issued a souvenir sheet with a single stamp (200,000 copies), which had simulated perforations. The two CBNC envelopes used for the 1992 stamp FDC were again used as official FDCs (apparently there were many left over from 1992) as was a new APU envelope, while many more private covers were created by philatelists (no official Ukrposhta envelopes were prepared). This souvenir sheet has a bit of an unfortunate history. Ukrainian independence day is 24 August but the souvenir sheet was not released until 3 September. At the time it was quite a scandal (something like releasing an American independence day stamp on '14 July'). Fortunately, a variable date postmark (at Kyiv-1) had been prepared for the anniversary, so covers with this postmark dated 24.08.1993 are known. The same commemorative postmark, with the date 3.09.1993, was applied to the souvenir sheet on its first day of issue.

For the fourth anniversary in 1995 no new items were prepared. Ukrposhta only made available the variable date postmark that had first been used in 1994 (Kyiv-1). An assortment of envelopes with the date 24.08.1995 are widely available.

For the fifth anniversary of independence, Ukrposhta did indeed prepare numerous items for this milestone event. First, 5 million pre-stamped/ denominated envelopes (PSE No. 40016) were issued. A commemorative postmark marking the gala parliamentary (Rada) meeting that was held in Kyiv for the 5th anniversary was issued on 23.8.1996 (Kyiv-1). A single stamp (400,000 copies) was then released on 24.8.1996 with its own specially prepared FDC with its own FDIP (Kyiv-1). A commemorative postmark was also made available at the Sevastopol-11 post office. Further, a number of Ukrposhta sponsored souvenir cards as well as a souvenir stamp booklet were released.



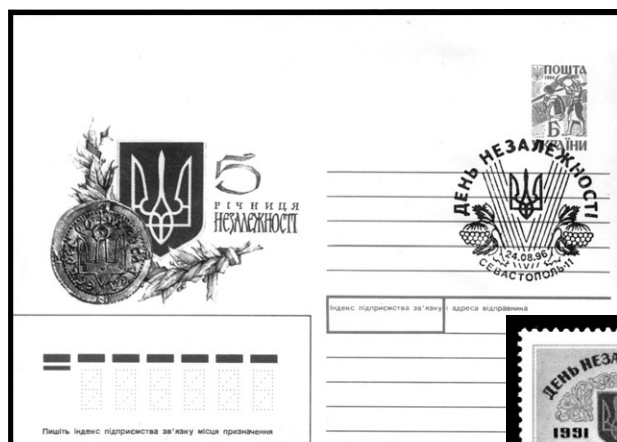
*Independence Day postmark, Kyiv-1 post office, 24.8.1995
CBNC first day envelope (Type 2), first used in 1992*



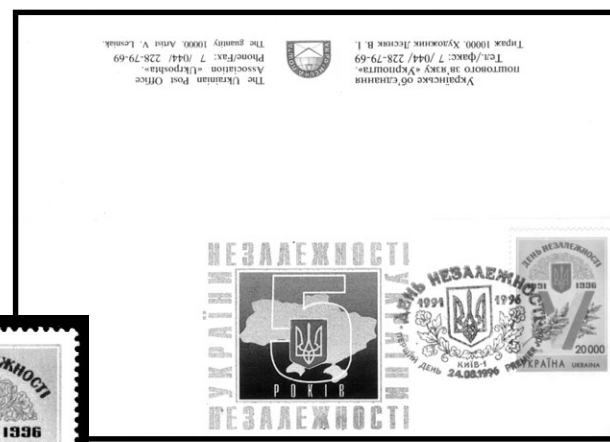
*5th Anniversary of Independence PSE, Ukrposhta No. 40016
Gala Parliamentary Meeting postmark, Kyiv-1 post office, 23.8.1996*



*5th Anniversary of Independence stamp,
Ukrposhta FDC and FDIP, Kyiv-1 post office, issued 24.8.1996*

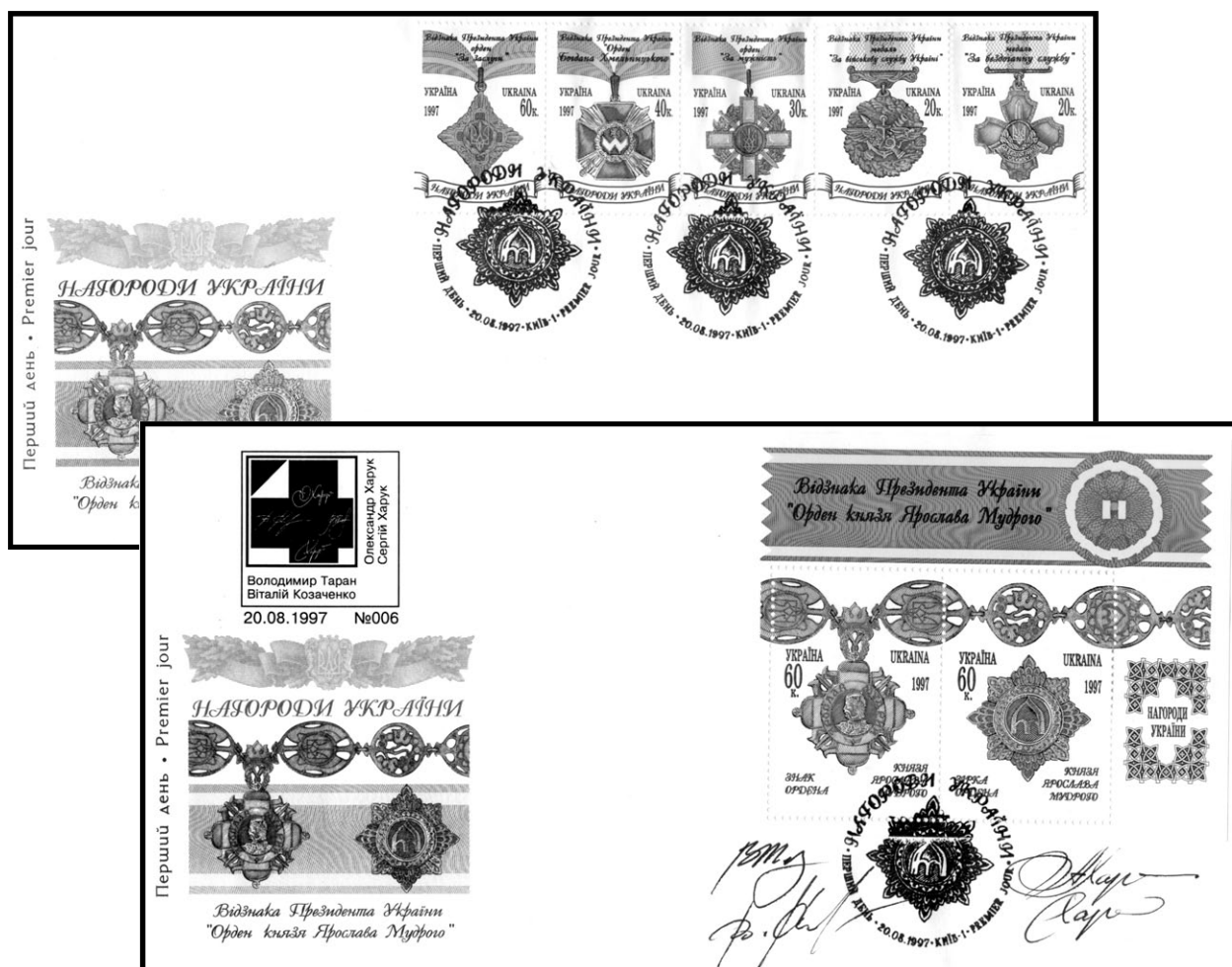


*5th Anniversary of Independence PSE,
Ukrposhta No. 40016
Day of Independence postmark,
Sevastopol-11 post office, 24.8.1996*



*Ukrposhta souvenir booklet for the
5th Anniversary of Independence
(10,000 issued)*

*5th Anniversary of Independence stamp
issued 24.8.1996*



Ukrainian Presidential Medals of Honor series, issued 20.8.1997 for the 6th Anniversary of Ukrainian Independence

Ukrposhta first day covers for the se-tenant strip of five and the souvenir sheet.

First day of issue postmark, Kyiv-1 post office, 20.8.1997.

The souvenir sheet FDC is from a special set of 50 produced by the series' designers, imprinted with their logo and signed by all four designers.

To mark the sixth anniversary of independence in 1997, Ukrposhta veered away from traditional subject norms and released a set of seven stamps, appearing as a se-tenant strip of five stamps and two stamps in a souvenir sheet (the se-tenant strips were issued in various quantities, but no more than 300,000 of one value while 50,000 souvenir sheets were issued). Further, the five se-tenant stamps were issued in a fabricated layout pane of 25 stamps (5 x 5) with decorative selvedge design. The theme of these stamps was 'Ukrainian Presidential Medals of Honor'. Two FDCs were released, one with the se-tenant strips and the other with the souvenir sheet. Each FDC bore a FDIP dated 20.08.1997 from Kyiv-1. On 12.8.1997 a new PSE was also issued (Order No. 7-3377, 2.1 million copies). On August 24 the previously used 'Day of Independence' variable date commemorative postmark was made available at the Kyiv-1 post office.



Day of Independence PSE, Ukrposhta No. 7-3377
Independence Day postmark, Kyiv-1 post office, 24.8.1997



Independence Day PSE, Ukrposhta No. 8-3353
Independence Day postmark, Kyiv-1 post office, 24.8.1998



Non-denominated Ukrposhta envelope marking
Ukrainian Independence Day, dated 24 August.
This cover was cancelled with a 24.8.1999 circular date stamp
from Kyiv-1 post office.

On 17.8.1998, for the seventh anniversary of independence, Ukrposhta released a new PSE (1 million copies, No. 8-3353). On the day of independence, 24.8.1998, the variable date postmark that had been used in previous years was again used.

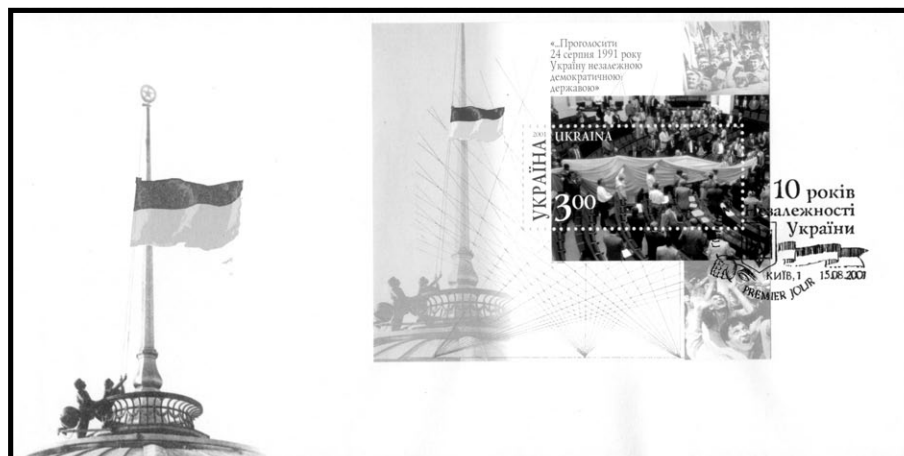
In 1999, other than an official Ukrposhta non-denominated envelope printed at the AT Konvi plant, no stamp, commemorative cancel, PSE or postcard was issued to mark the eighth anniversary of independence.

In the year 2000, for the ninth anniversary of independence, Ukrposhta only issued a new PSE (No. 0-3375, 1.86 million issued) and a new commemorative postmark, this time a new design with a fixed date.



Independence Day PSE, Ukrposhta No. 0-3375)
Independence Day postmark, Kyiv-1 post office, 24.8.2000

To mark and celebrate the 10th anniversary of Ukraine's independence, Ukrposhta issued a single stamp in souvenir sheet format on 15.8.2001. A FDIP and a new PSE (No. 1-1337) were issued, but there was no official *Premier Jour* FDC. For the actual day of independence, 24.08.2001, four commemorative



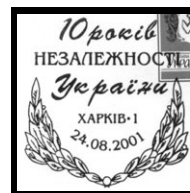
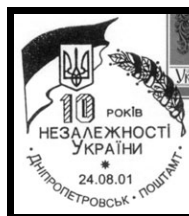
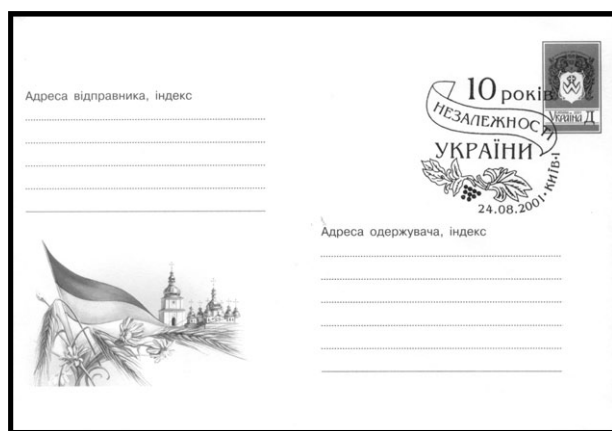
10th Anniversary of Ukrainian Independence souvenir sheet on a souvenir envelope,
FDI postmark, Kyiv-1, 15.8.2001

fixed date postmarks were issued – at Cherkasy Poshtamt, Dnipropetrovsk Poshtamt, Kharkiv-1 and Kyiv-1 post offices. At least five Ukrposhta souvenir envelopes were also issued. More items were probably issued but at the time of preparing this article, I have not received additional information.

It is also interesting to survey how Ukrposhta has commemorated the anniversaries of the Ukrainian National



Souvenir (non-denominated) envelopes issued by Ukraine Post for the 10th Anniversary of Independence celebrations.



At left: Independence Day PSE, Ukrposhta No. 1-3337

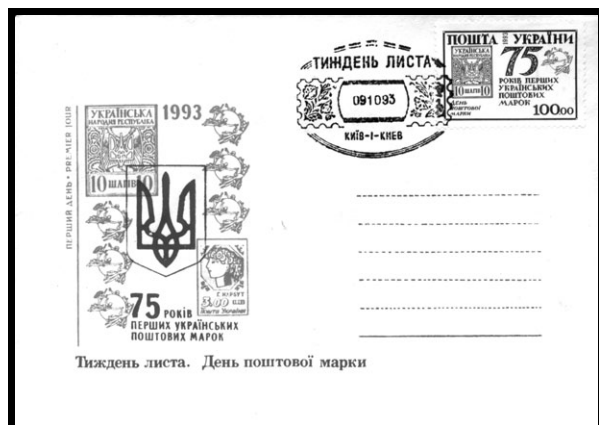
From left: commemorative postmarks issued for the 10th anniversary of independence –Kyiv-1 post office (on PSE), Cherkasy Poshtamt, Dnipropetrovsk Poshtamt, and Kharkiv-1 post office.

Republic, the Western Ukrainian National Republic (ZUNR) and Carpatho-Ukraine over the past ten years. All these anniversaries should not be forgotten as they are all closely tied in with Ukraine's independence struggles. I have been able to ascertain the following stamps, commemorative postmarks and pre-stamped envelopes that mark events directly related to the two Ukrainian states of the 1918-1920 period and Carpatho-Ukraine of the 1939-1945 period.

- 9.10.1993, postage stamp, 75th anniversary of the first postage stamps of Ukraine.
- 1.11.1993, Lviv Poshtamt postmark, 75th anniversary of the November Uprising in Lviv.
- 1.11.1993, Ivano-Frankivsk Poshtamt postmark, 75th anniversary of the Western Ukrainian National Republic (ZUNR).
- 20.11.1993, Lviv Poshtamt postmark, 75th anniversary of the first stamps of ZUNR.
- 22.1.1994, Ivano-Frankivsk Poshtamt postmark, 75th anniversary of the Proclamation of United Ukraine on 22 January 1919.
- 17.3.1994, Khust post office postmark, Zakarpattia oblast, 120th anniversary of the birth of Avhustyn Voloshyn, President of Carpatho-Ukraine.
- 1.5.1995, Uzhhorod Poshtamt postmark, 50th anniversary of postage stamps of Carpatho-Ukraine.
- 9.12.1995, postage stamp, Mykhailo Hrushevskiy, President of the Ukrainian National Republic.
- 1995, pre-stamped envelopes (No. 5-3118 and No. 5-3176), Mykhailo Hrushevskiy, first President of Ukraine.
- 29.9.1996, Kyiv-1 post office postmark, 130th anniversary of the birth of Mykhailo Hrushevskiy, first President of Ukraine.
- 12.10.1998, pre-stamped envelope (No. 8-3427), 80th anniversary of the Western Ukrainian National Republic (ZUNR.)
- 1.11.1998, Ternopil-1 post office postmark, 80th anniversary of the Western Ukrainian National Republic (ZUNR)
- 18.1.1999, pre-stamped envelope (No. 8-3559), 80th anniversary of the Proclamation of United Ukraine on 22 January 1919.
- 11.2.1999, pre-stamped envelope (No. 9-3022), Avhustyn Voloshyn, President of Carpatho-Ukraine.
- 15.3.1999, Khust post office postmark, Zakarpattia oblast, 60th anniversary of the Proclamation of Carpatho-Ukraine.
- 17.3.1999, Khust post office postmark, Zakarpattia oblast, 125th anniversary of the birth of Avhustyn Voloshyn, President of Carpatho-Ukraine.

All the mentioned items depict standard dates, events, and personages of modern Ukrainian history and nationhood. However, the depicted subjects are quite selective. There are a number of obvious omissions – individuals such as Pavlo Skoropadskiy, Hetman of the Ukrainian State after Hrushevskiy, and Symon Petliura, supreme commander of Ukrainian forces and President of the Ukrainian Directory after Skoropadskiy, have not been portrayed. One can delve further and ponder the omissions of the Ukrainian leaders in the struggle for independence from first, Polish rule, then Nazi-German, and then Communist Russian occupation – people like Evhen Konovalets, Andrii Melnyk, Stepan Bandera. All these people led the Ukrainian people in their struggle for independence. Maybe it is time that Ukraine gains maturity and accepts the truth of its past and not hide personages and events that may still cause certain sectors of the Ukrainian establishment embarrassment. People outside Ukraine do know the true history!

So, why are my general comments leaning towards the negative? On face value, Ukraine Post did



75th Anniversary of the First Postage Stamps of Ukraine
Stamp issued 9.10.1993
Official FDC with commemorative postmark, Kyiv-1 post office



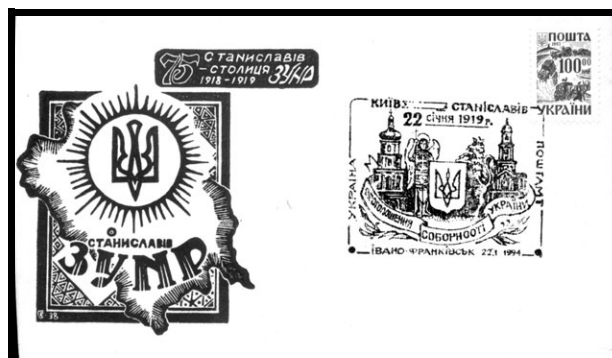
75th Anniversary of the November Uprising in Lviv
Lviv Poshtamt postmark, 1.11.1993
Souvenir envelope released by the Lviv postal authorities



75th Anniversary of the Western Ukrainian National Republic (ZUNR)
Ivano-Frankivsk Poshtamt postmark, 1.11.1993
Private souvenir envelope



75th Anniversary of the First Postage Stamps of ZUNR
Lviv Poshtamt postmark, 20.11.1993
Private envelope prepared by Dyvosvit Ltd, Lviv



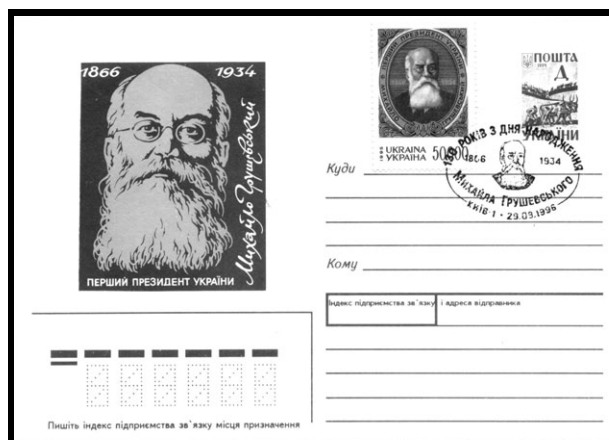
75th Anniversary of the Proclamation of United Ukraine, 22.1.1919
Ivano-Frankivsk Poshtamt postmark, 22.1.1994
Privately prepared envelope



120th Anniversary of the Birth of Avhustyn Voloshyn,
President of Carpatho-Ukraine
Khust post office postmark, Zakarpattia oblast, 17.3.1994
Private envelope prepared by Dyvosvit Ltd, Lviv



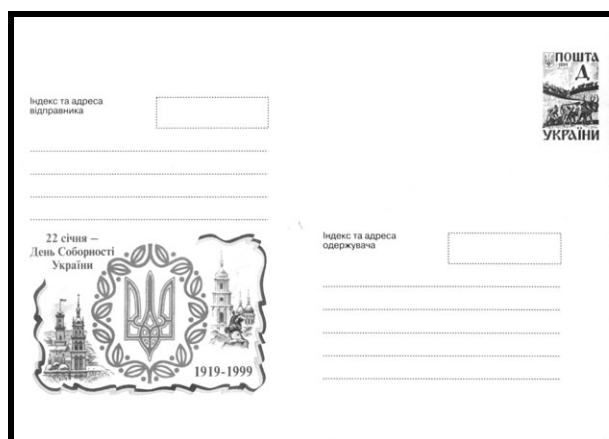
50th Anniversary of Postage Stamps of Carpatho-Ukraine
Uzhhorod Poshtamt postmark, 1.5.1995
Private envelope prepared by Dyvosvit Ltd, Lviv (No. 75)



130th Anniversary of the Birth of Mykhailo Hrushevskiy,
First President of Ukraine
Stamp issued 9.12.1995, Ukrposhta PSE issued 1995 (No. 5-3176)
Kyiv-1 post office postmark, 29.9.1996



80th Anniversary of the Western Ukrainian National Republic (ZUNR)
Ukrposhta PSE issued 12.10.1998 (No. 8-3427)
Ternopil-1 post office postmark, 1.11.1998



80th Anniversary of the Proclamation of United Ukraine, 22.1.1919
Ukrposhta PSE issued 18.1.1999 (No. 8-3559)



Avhustyn Voloshyn, First President of Carpatho-Ukraine
Ukrposhta PSE issued 11.2.1999 (No. 9-3022)
60th Anniversary of the Proclamation of Carpatho-Ukraine
Khust post office postmark, Zakarpattia oblast, 15.3.1999



Avhustyn Voloshyn, First President of Carpatho-Ukraine
Ukrposhta PSE issued 11.2.1999 (No. 9-3022)
125th Anniversary of the Birth of Avhustyn Voloshyn
Khust post office postmark, Zakarpattia oblast, 17.3.1999

issue 11 stamps (3 souvenir sheets), 9 first day (*Premier Jour*) covers, 4 first day of issue cancels, 5 pre-stamped envelopes, and 13 commemorative postmarks in ten years. If you carefully evaluate their origins, discounting the fact that the stamps, FDCs and PSEs were issued for the entire nation, you will note that the majority of the postmarks emanated from Kyiv. In 1995 one postmark was issued in Sevastopol, Crimea, while three of the four postmarks marking the 10th anniversary were released in Cherkasy, Dnipropetrovsk and Kharkiv. Nothing in western Ukraine or major eastern parts in over ten years. Speculate as you will but it seems to me that the majority of the Ukrainian populace in the two extremes of the country didn't have the opportunity to bask in the glory and patriotism associated with Ukrainian independence during this time.

Let me also state the obvious—it's not as if that many stamps were issued either. Ukraine boasts a population of approximately 50 million persons. The 1992 stamp was issued in a quantity of 500,000 copies; the 1994 souvenir sheet—200,000 copies; the 1996 stamp—400,000 copies; the 1997 set of seven—a maximum of 300,000 of two of the five stamps and 50,000 souvenir sheets; and only 50,000 souvenir sheets of the 10th anniversary issue. Can you believe that! 50,000 souvenir sheets for a potential domestic market of 50 million as well an international audience of many more millions. Why wouldn't you want to flood the market to commemorate something generations (and I mean generations) of Ukrainians have aspired and died for? I just wonder how many Ukrainians, who overwhelmingly voted for independence in December 1991, have actually got to even see a 10th anniversary souvenir sheet? Surely Ukraine Post and the powers that be should have realized the exceptional marketing opportunity to promote patriotism, especially at home. Surely the people at home deserved to a better deal.

I understand Ukrposhta's business operation of issuing millions of pre-stamped envelopes (a throwback of the former Soviet postal system). But, and although I have not received confirmation of the printing quantity yet, I somehow doubt that Ukrposhta issued 50 million 10th anniversary PSEs. To be cynical even further, you will note that the specific PSE did not even carry any legend stating that it was commemorating the 10th anniversary of Ukraine's independence (so, you could question whether it indeed was issued for the anniversary celebrations). Very strange if you consider that all previous PSEs had text declaring Ukraine's national day of independence.

From the perspective of quality, technically, I do not believe anyone can fault stamp production—stamp production is today on par with the rest of the world. In particular I single out the 1997 issue that was printed using both offset and intaglio technology; truly beautiful art in miniature form. The quality of envelopes has also improved and today it is excellent (in the early years collectors would cringe at quality but accept whatever was produced). Generally postmark application is much better today than in the past (a lot of that had to do with envelope paper quality), but I still get mail that has stamps and commemorative cancels obliterated by over zealous postal employees who apply circular date cancels in heavy ink. It would be nice if Ukrainian postal authorities actually introduced and stuck to accepted parameters for the application of postmarks and circular date stamps.

Finally, what about the designs? Discounting the Ukrainian Presidential Medals of Honor series that was issued for a specific purpose, there were only four independence day stamps that depicted different themes and which all bore the national colors of blue and yellow. Only the 1992 and 1996 stamps bore the Ukrainian trident. Surprisingly, the 2001 souvenir sheet did not carry a trident but the intrinsic meaning was profound in it's own way. Who knows, if more stamps/souvenir sheets had been issued, a greater diversity of design could have been appreciated. What has been issued is I believe fine, but again, who knows what designs have been rejected or even not issued.

In summary, the negatives this writer has are (1) the lack of a regular (yearly) appearance of a stamp or souvenir sheet dedicated to independence and associated patriotic overtones (I think Ukraine deserves yearly issues); (2) no pre-stamped postcards; (3) the ludicrous situation of printing such miserly small quantities (you really have to wonder to whom they are issuing the stamps for at all); (4) the small number of PSE's, given that the policy is to flood the domestic market with 'millions' of PSEs of various topics (only one year in the past six has missed out on a new independence design, so at least that is good); and (5) the real problem area of postmarks. Independence is a national event and it should not be limited to the capital. Gradually it seems that Ukraine Post's policy is to release important FDI postmarks at centers other than Kyiv. Hopefully this will translate in having more areas of Ukraine celebrate independence on a truly national scale. Why, if they can issue up to 16 postmarks to commemorate something as inane as Letter Writing Week on a national basis, then surely they can issue as many cancels for the nations' own birthday!

THE HUTSUL BATTALION

by Ingrid Kuzych, Roman Dubyniak, and Peter Cybaniak

During the early years of the 20th century, two of the western provinces in the Austro-Hungarian Empire—Galicia and Bukovyna—were both populated with large Ukrainian populations. For the most part these East Slavic subjects (referred to as Ruthenians) in this multi-ethnic empire were satisfied with their lot as Austrian citizens. When World War I broke out, Ukrainians in the Empire rallied to the Austrian cause in the hope that victory might allow for the liberation of their countrymen under Russian autocracy.

Initially the fighting did not go well. During the early months of World War I (August to November 1914), Russian troops occupied all of Eastern Galicia (Halychyna) and Bukovyna. The Austrian army stiffened, however, along the Carpathian Mountains. With German aid, the combined forces were able to counter attack and drive the Russian troops from Bukovyna in February of 1915. Chernivtsi was liberated on 18 February and the local military took control.

In Eastern Galicia in 1914, a Ukrainian

Legion was formed from volunteers, the so-called Ukrainian Sich Riflemen (*Ukrainski Sichovi Striltsi*) or Legion USS. Their bravery in battle against the Russians earned them the respect of the Austrian authorities as well as the civilian Ukrainian population in Galicia. The USS is frequently credited with being the only Ukrainian unit in the Austrian army, but such was not the case. A smaller, less-well-known formation was also organized. Hardly ever mentioned in any Ukrainian encyclopedias or textbooks, we have had to reconstruct much of its existence from alternate sources.

Putting the Pieces Together

The story of this military unit begins with the outstanding diplomat Mykola Vasylko (1868-1924), who was both a member of the local Bukovynian Diet and the main Parliament in Vienna (1898-1918). In early 1915, with the aid of a Major Fischer, he obtained permission from the military authorities in Vienna to form a Bukovynian Legion of volunteers comparable to the USS unit from Galicia. This new Legion was



Figure 1. An Austro-Hungarian fieldpost card sent by Baroness Rosa Wasylko of Josefsplatz 39, Wien VIII, on 1st May 1915 to Lieutenant, Baron Stefan Wasylko, at the Headquarters of Oberstl. Papp, Chernivtsi, Bukovyna, redirected, in blue crayon, to The Territorial Divisional Office at Fieldpost No. 52, where it was marked, in red crayon, 'unsuitable, return to sender' on 25th May 1915. A one line 'E. k. ruth. Kriegsfreiwilligen Baon (Huzulen)' unit handstamp is applied in violet together with a one line violet censor marking 'mlt. überprüft'.

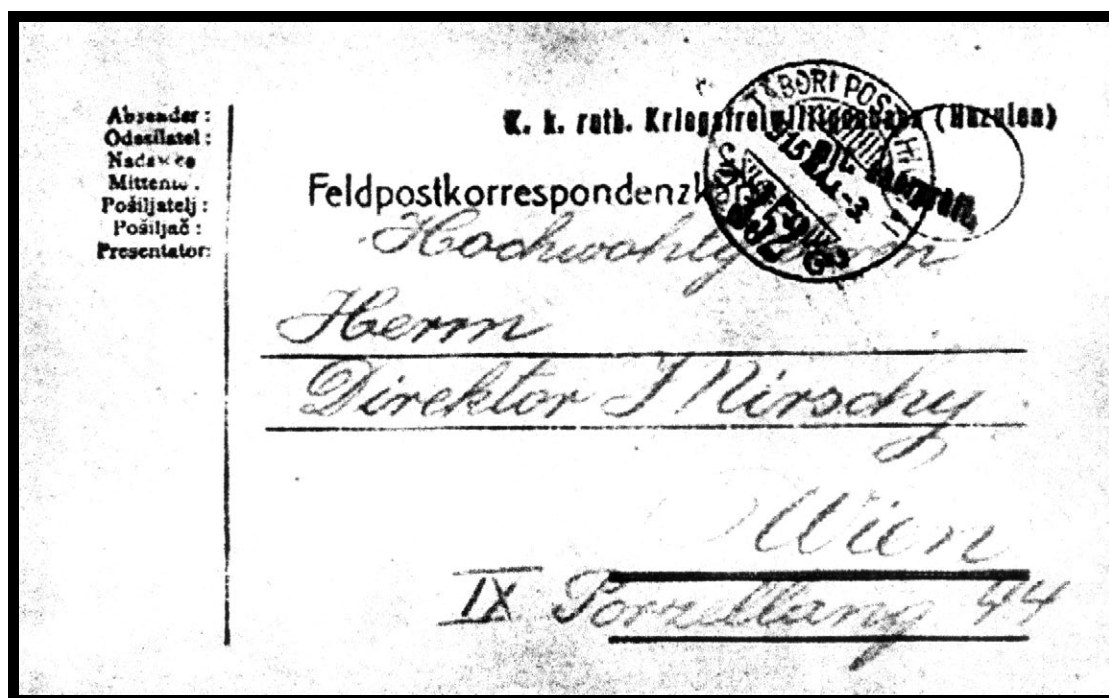


Figure 2. An Austro-Hungarian fieldpost card sent by Platoon Commander (Zugsführer) Ihnat Hurban from the 3rd Company of the 'K.k. ruth. Kriegsfreiwilligen Baon (Huzulen)' at Field Post Office No. 352 dated 3rd May 1915 to Mr. Director J. Nirschy at Porzellangasse 44, Wein IX, Austria. A one line 'K.k. ruth. Kriegsfreiwilligen Baon (Huzulen)' unit handstamp is applied in violet together with a one line violet censor marking 'mkt. überprüft'.

formed into two battalions reflecting the two main ethnic groups of Bukovyna province: a Romanian one and a Ukrainian one. The latter was given the epithet of the Hutsul Battalion; its full name was: *K. k. ruth. Kriegsfreiwilligenbaon (Huzulen)*. At that time in the Austro-Hungarian army, a battalion was composed of four companies, generally of about 250 men each. So the full complement of the Bukovyna Legion, with its two battalions, would have been about 2,000 men. The Hutsul Battalion was stationed in Chernivtsi.

Little is known of the Hutsul Battalion, its date of formation, its exploits in battle, or its final fate. From two surviving postcards, we know the names of a few of their leaders: Lt. Baron Stefan Vasylo (Wassilko), the addressee on the earliest known Hutsul Battalion item sent on 1 May 1915 (Fig. 1) and Platoon Commander Ihnat Hurban (of the 3rd Company of the Hutsul Battalion), who mailed a card two days later (Fig. 2).

From the published War Orders of the Austro-Hungarian Army during the years 1914 to 1918, several brief mentions allow us to piece together a sketchy chronology of the Hutsul Battalion. The first reference to a Bukovyna Legion is an Army Order dated 1 May 1915 that shows two volunteer battalions (Hutsul and Romanian) as part of the Infantry Brigade Obstlt.

(Oberstleutnant) Papp. (It was customary to name army formations after outstanding military officers.) This brigade was part of the XI Corps, itself a component of Army Group Pflanzer-Baltin, which changed its name to the 7th Army on 8 May 1915 while retaining its commander.

Five months later, on 1 September 1915, mention is made that the Brigade Oberstleutnant Papp is now composed solely of a Volunteer Division (*Freiwilligen Abteilung*) of Ukrainians and Romanians formed into three companies, i.e. some 750 men. What happened to the other 1,250 or so volunteers? They were possibly casualties (killed, wounded, or missing in action) or they could have been transferred to other units.

From 4 June 1916 is the note that the Infantry Brigade Obstlt. Papp consists of a Volunteer Battalion (*Freiwilligen Baon*). However, which battalion (Hutsul or Romanian) is not specified, perhaps the two were merged.

The final mention in the War Orders about the Volunteer Battalion in the Infantry Brigade Obstlt. Papp is from 28 June 1916. No subsequent traces have been located in these sources.

The above chronology would seem to indicate that the size of the Obstlt. Papp Brigade continued to shrink over time. Whether this was

due to simple reorganization, attrition in battle, or both is unclear.

Brief references in *Ukraine: A Concise Encyclopedia* would seem to show that at least some remnants of the Hutsul Battalion survived to the end of the war in November of 1918. Mention is made that a battalion composed of volunteers from Bukovyna fought on the side of the Ukrainian Galician Army—the military formation of the Western Ukrainian National Republic—which functioned from November 1918 to June 1919.

Does anyone have any further information they can supply regarding this enigmatic military unit?

Mystery of the Fieldpost Card

The fieldpost card in Figure 1 has an interesting history. It was sent by Baroness Rosa Vasyenko to Lt. Baron Stefan Vasyenko on 1 May 1915 (whether Stefan was related to Mykola Vasyenko, who helped organize the Bukovyna

Legion, is unknown but possible; Mykola belonged to the Vasyenko line of nobility in Bukovyna). The Baroness wrote from Vienna but addressed the card to Chernivtsi, Bukovyna, recently liberated from the Russians. The card was redirected to the Territorial Division Office (Fieldpost No. 52) where on 25 May 1915 it was marked with the cryptic statement: ‘unsuitable, return to sender’. Why so?

A strong and ultimately successful counteroffensive of Austrian and German troops into Eastern Galicia began on 19 April. Army records show that from 16 May the 7th Army, which included the XI Corps and the Brigade Papp, was part of a supporting deployment to retake the remainder of Bukovyna (Figure 3). So, had something befallen Lt. Vasyenko or could he just not be reached? The answers to these poignant questions remain to be resolved.

If any reader can help provide answers to some of the queries raised in this article, please contact Ingrid Kuzych at: P.O. Box 3, Springfield VA 22150 or at: ingert@starpower.net

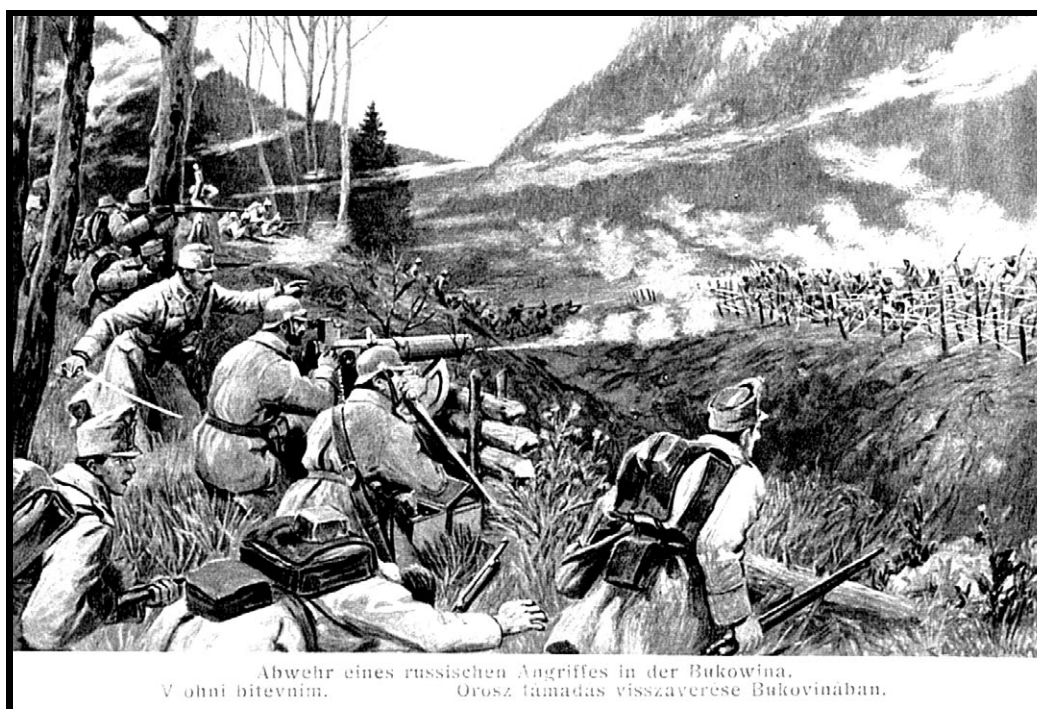


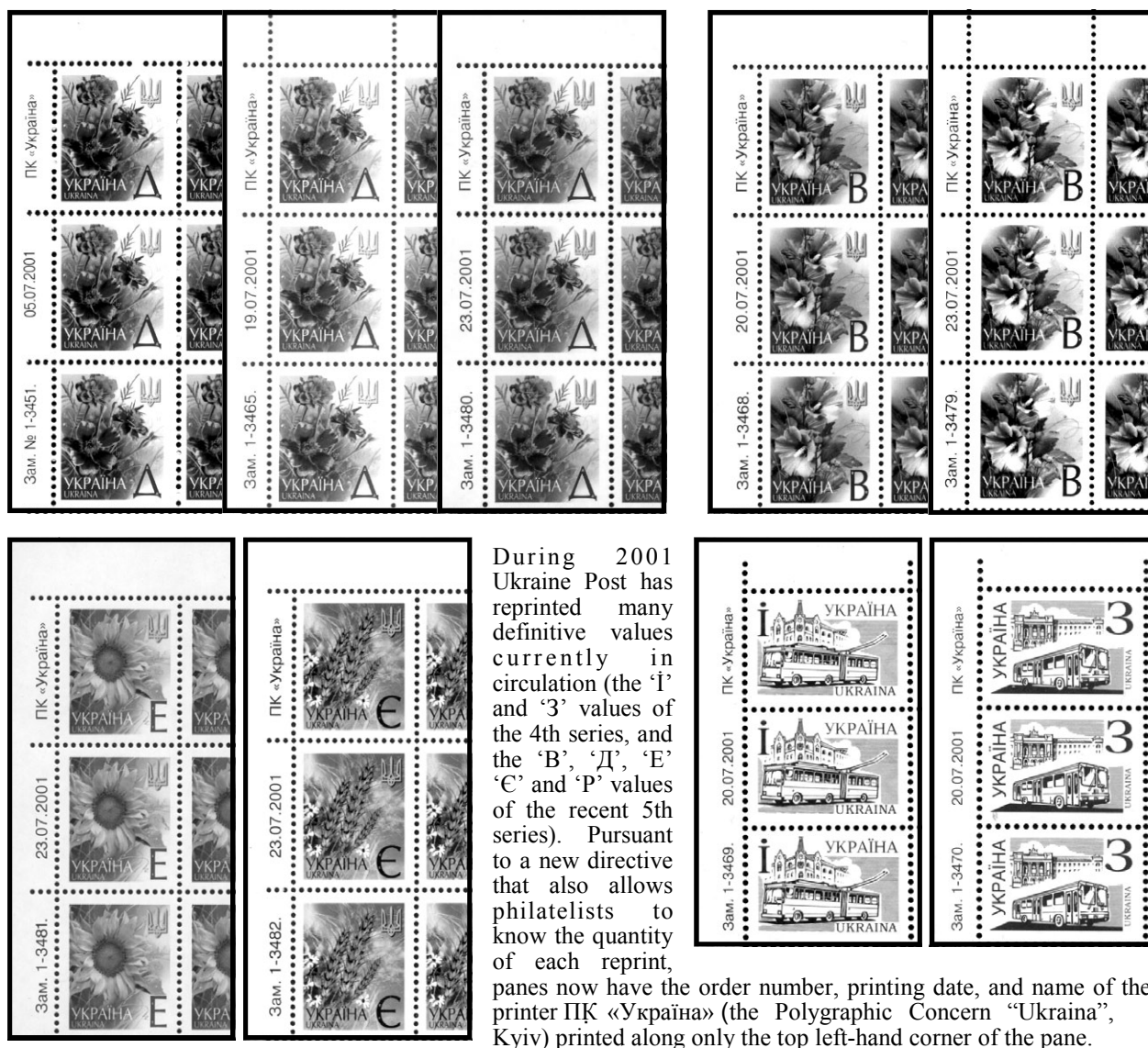
Figure 3. “In the Heat of Battle”.
An Austrian military unit holds position against a Russian Advance in the Carpathian Mountains of Bukovyna.

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MARGINAL INSCRIPTIONS ON DEFINITIVE REPRINTS

by George D. Fedyk



To date, the following marginal inscriptions have been recorded: 'I': "Зам. 1-3469/20.07.2001" (1 million copies); '3': "Зам. 1-3470/20.07.2001" (3 million copies); 'Д': "Зам. 1-3451/05.07.2001" (3rd reprint, 24 million copies), "Зам. 1-3465/19.07.2001" (4th reprint, 12 million copies), and "Зам. 1-3480/23.07.2001" (5th reprint, 20 million copies); 'B': "Зам. 1-3468/20.07.2001" (3rd reprint, 19 million copies) and "Зам. 1-3479/23.07.2001" (4th reprint, 15 million copies); 'Е': "Зам. 1-3481/23.07.2001" (3rd reprint, 7 million copies); 'С': "Зам. 1-3482/23.07.2001" (3rd reprint, 1½ million copies); and 'Р': "1-3483/23.07.2001" (3rd reprint, 200,000 copies) [not illustrated].

THE GREAT FAMINE OF 1932-33 AND THE FOLLOWING TERROR IN LIGHT OF POSTAL ISSUES

by Andriy D. Solczanyk

The Great Famine of 1932-33, instigated by Stalin's decision to destroy the Ukrainian nation, is commemorated by Ukrainians every year all over the world.

It is not easy to describe this infamous period of Ukraine's history through philatelic material (stamps, postal stationary, postmarks, etc.), because only a few rehabilitated victims of the terror appeared on philatelic material of the USSR and Ukraine.

As most issues listed in this article are either USSR (to 1991) or Ukraine (from 1992) only names of other countries will be specified.

Stalin, the organizer of the terrible events of famine and terror, is shown on many stamps.



Joseph Stalin

His deputies in Ukraine were first secretaries of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Ukraine (CCCPU) who as a rule were non-Ukrainians. In the years 1928-1938 the First Secretary of CCCPU was a Pole, Stanislaw Kosior (1889-1939). During 1932-1933 Ukraine endured the Famine and the destruction of people active in the field of Ukrainian culture and science, as well as the transition from "Ukrainization" to "Russification". After the liquidation of the existing CCCPU in the Fall of 1937 Kosior was arrested and executed. He is seen on two stamps 3516C (15.5.69), 5812 (10.10.89) and two envelopes 6593 (8.9.69) and 179/89 (12.4.89). He was honored on Kyiv cancellation 2207 (18.11.69).

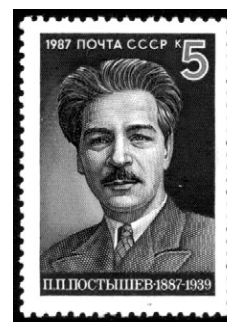
Stalin realized that Kosior would be unable



Stanislaw Kosior

to accomplish the task of the destruction of Ukrainian villages and Ukrainian cultural elite. In January 1933 he sent to Ukraine his special agent, a Russian, Pavel Postyshev (1887-1939), who became the second secretary of the CCCPU and the first secretary of Kharkiv, and then in 1934 of the Kyiv oblast committee of the Communist Party of Ukraine (CPU). His tasks were: to break opposition to "collectivization" (collective farm system) in the villages, where the famine first began; to destroy opposition from Ukrainian communists, stop "Ukrainization", and initiate "Russification"; to liquidate the rights enjoyed by Ukraine in the 1920's and degrade it to Moscow's province, and to destroy the leading group of Ukrainian intellectuals. He brought with him to Ukraine tens of thousands of Russian communists who eagerly relieved farmers from the last crumbs of bread leading to a great Famine.

With Postyshev came Vsevolod Batytskyi



Pavel Postyshev

GPU (Gosudarstvennoie politicheskoe upravlenie – State Political Administration) chief in Ukraine.

The irony and mockery of the Ukrainian peasantry manifested on stamp 504, issued in April 1933 (15 k), on which “happy” Ukrainians appeared working on the field of a collective farm at the time when millions were dying from Stalin-created hunger.



Ukrainian peasants

In March 1937 Postyshev was removed from his duties in Ukraine and transferred to Kuibyshev. The Ukrainian Soviet Encyclopedia gives the official date of his death as 26.2.1939. There are various versions about his death: execution, death in prison, or others. Postyshev is pictured on two stamps: 3514 (30.9.68), 5598 (18.9.87) and on one envelope 22/87 (21.1.87).

The enforcer of the terror was an organization that carried various names at different times. Until 1922 it was ChKa (Chrezvichainaia Komissia – Extraordinary Commission), from 1923 to 1934 GPU, and from 1934 to 1941 NKVD (Narodnoi Komissariat Vnutriennikh Del – People’s Commissariat of Internal Affairs). When Dzerzhynsky died in 1926 his successor was a Pole, Viacheslav Menzhynsky (1874-1934). He was responsible for the terror in Ukraine. Menzhynsky is found on stamp 4229 (7.8.1974) and on envelope 9417 (21.1.74).



Viacheslav Menzhynsky

His successor was another Pole, Henryk Yagoda (1891-1937) head of the NKVD in 1934-1936 and who was responsible for terror in Ukraine at that time. Then followed Nikolai Yezhov (1895-1939), chief of the NKVD in 1936-1938. The terror at that time was called “Yezhovshchyna”. After him came Lavrentii Beria in 1938. All three were shot and never appeared on postal issues.

To this group might be added Nikolai Krylenko (1885-1938), commissar of justice of

the USSR. He appears on envelope 155/85 (20.3.85).

At the lower level of authority at that time were members of the CCCPU, government of the UkSSR (Council of People’s Commissars – CPC) and members of the All-Ukrainian Central Executive Committee (AUCEC).



Nikolai Krylenko

Six people of that group are represented on postal issues. Missing is Mykola Skrypnyk (1872-1933), People’s Commissar of Education and deputy premier of CPC of UkSSR. He initiated “Ukrainization” and was a member of Political Bureau of the CCCPU in 1925-1937. Skrypnyk committed suicide.

Hryhorii Petrovskiy (1878-1958) was born in Kharkiv. In the years 1919-1938 he was the head.

of AUCEC. After the collapse of the CCCPU in 1937-1938 Petrovskiy was transferred to Moscow. In 1926 the city of Katerynoslav was renamed Dnipropetrovsk in his honor. He appears on two envelopes 5064 (27.12.67) and 12340 (30.8.77). The



Petrovskiy Kharkiv cancel

centenary of his birth was commemorated by cancellations of Dnipropetrovsk 3457 and Kharkiv 3458, both of 4.11.78.

Kyrylo Sukhomlyn (1886-1938) was born in the village of Krasnopil, now Korop raion, Chernihiv oblast. In 1927-1938 he occupied various offices in the CPC of the UkSSR. In 1930-1937 Sukhomlyn was a member of the Political Bureau of the CCCPU. He was liquidated. Sukhomlyn is depicted on envelope 93/86 (25.2.86).



Kyrylo Sukhomlyn



Ivan Akulov

Ivan Akulov (1888-1939), a Russian from St. Petersburg, held important positions in the CCCPU (1932-1933). In 1931-1933 he was first deputy chief of the GPU. From 1933 he worked in Moscow, and was eventually shot. He features on stamp 5660 (24.4.88).

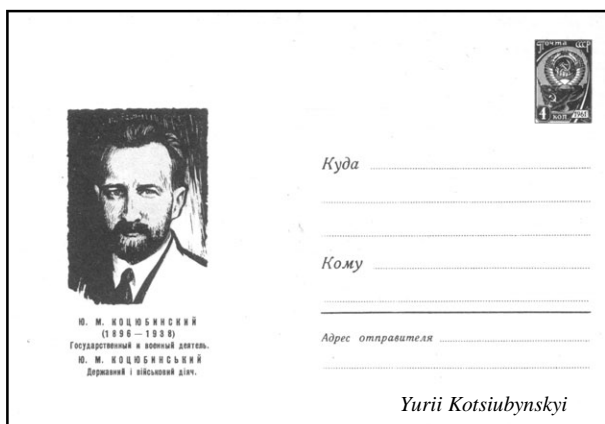
Vlas Chubar (1891-1939) was born in the village Fedorivka, now Chubarivka, Polohy raion, Zaporizhia oblast. He was premier of the Council of People's Commissars of the UkSSR and a member of the Political Bureau of the CCCPU until 1934 when he was transferred to Moscow and later executed. He is appears on envelope 455/90 (5.11.90).



Vlas Chubar

Yurii Kotsiubynskyi (1896-1937), son of the well-known Ukrainian writer Mykhailo Kotsiubynskyi was born in Vynnytsia. From 1934 he was the head of State Planning, deputy premier of the CPC of the UkSSR, and a member of the CCCPU. Arrested in April 1936 he was shot. Kotsiubynskyi is portrayed on two envelopes 3972 (6.10.65) and 394/86 (18.8.86). His monument in Chernihiv is illustrated on two envelopes 9606 (27.3.74) and 15633 (10.5.82).

Panas Liubchenko (1897-1937) was born in Kaharlyk, now Kyiv oblast. In 1927-1934 he was secretary of CCCPU, first deputy premier (1933-1934) and premier (1934-1937) of the CPC of the UkSSR. Between 1934-1937 Liubchenko was a member of the Political Bureau of the CCCPU. He committed suicide. Liubchenko is appears on envelope 5135 (1967 year).



Yurii Kotsiubynskyi

The Red Army was also at Stalin's disposal. Yona Yakir (1896-1937) was born in Kishenev, now Moldova. He was commander of the Kyiv Military district in 1925-1937. Between 1930-1937 Yakir was a member of the Political Bureau of the CCCPU. In May 1937 he was transferred to Leningrad and in June liquidated. Yakir is featured on stamp 3187 (30.7.66) and two envelopes, 4280 (6.6.66) and 11054 (16.1.76).



Yona Yakir

Ivan Fedko (1897-1939) was born in the village of Khmelevo, now Romny raion, Sumy oblast. He was commander of the Kyiv military district in 1937-1938. Shot in 1939, he appears on envelope 4681 (2.6.67).

This was the picture, although incomplete, of the power structure in Ukraine as reflected by philatelic material.

Stalin did not trust the CCCPU or the CPC of the UkSSR, therefore, besides Postyshev, there were missions to Ukraine by his associates.

Grigori Ordzhonikidze (1886-1937), Stalin's companion from Georgia, came to Ukraine in the spring of 1930 as a representative of the Central Committee of the Communist Party on the affairs of "Collectivization" and kulak liquidation ("dekulakization"). He demanded more forceful methods to achieve these goals. Ordzhonikidze appears on many stamps.



Grigori Ordzhonikidze

Viacheslav Molotov (1890-1986), Stalin's companion, was in Ukraine 6 July 1932 at the 3rd All-Ukrainian Communist Party Conference in Kharkiv. Together with Kaganovich, they sharply criticized the insufficient progress in the requisition of agricultural products from Ukrainian villages. He knew well the situation in Ukraine and her inability to deliver extremely high requisition demands but continued Stalin's plan to terrorize and destroy Ukrainian peasants.

At the end of 1937 Molotov, together with Yezhov and Krushchov, was in Ukraine. At the plenary session of the CCCPU in Kyiv, Molotov proposed a vote of non-confidence for Kosior, Khataievych, M. Popov, H. Petrovskiy and P. Liubchenko, and their removal from the CCCPU. At the same time he proposed to elect N. Khrushchov as the first secretary of the CCCPU



Viacheslav Molotov (left) and Stalin (right)

but members refused to support Molotov's proposal. Liubchenko committed suicide and shortly after other members were arrested and liquidated. Molotov appears on stamps 1264 (30.9.48), Bulgaria 698 (10.10.50) and 1228 GDR (28.7.70).

Dmytro Manuilskyi (1883-1959) was born in the village Sviatets, now Manuilske, Teofipol raion, Khmelnytskyi oblast. On 28 May 1933, at the meetings of the active members of the Communist Party in Kyiv, he held a lecture "How to carry out instructions for the purge of the Kyiv party organization". He stated that communists in Ukraine should forget all theoreticians and experts on the nationality question because "we know only one expert of the nationality question – and it is our party of Bolsheviks that resolves that problem in accordance with the directives of Lenin and Stalin and nobody else". It was said clearly and straightforward. Manuilskyi is visible on envelope 16142 (11.3.83).



Dmytro Manuilskyi



Nikita Khrushchov

C208a (22.11.73), 1991), Ajman (1973 year) and Manama (1971 year).

Nikita Khrushchov
(USA visit)



Semen Tymoshenko (1895-1970) was appointed commander of Kyiv military district. Born in the village Furmanka, now Kilia raion, Odesa oblast, in September 1939 he was in command of the armed forces of the "Ukrainian Front" that liberated Western Ukraine. Tymoshenko is recognized on stamp 4895 (25.12.80). Moscow cancellation 3968 (25.12. 80) marks his 85th birth anniversary.



Semen Tymoshenko

Aleksander Shcherbakov (1901-1945), native of Moscow region, was appointed secretary of the Donetsk oblast committee of the CCCPU and a member of the Political Bureau of the CCCPU. He is appears on stamps 1460-1461 (5.5.50).



Aleksander Shcherbakov

The Great Famine of 1932-1933 found its resonance in the West. Some wrote the truth about it while others denied it.

Edouard Herriot (1872-1957), a French politician, visited Ukraine in 1933. His visit only spanned five days, half of which were used for banquets and receptions, the other half for sight-seeing "Potiomkin villages". After his return to France Herriot proclaimed that there was no famine in Ukraine. He is outlined on stamp B499 (8.10.77) of France.

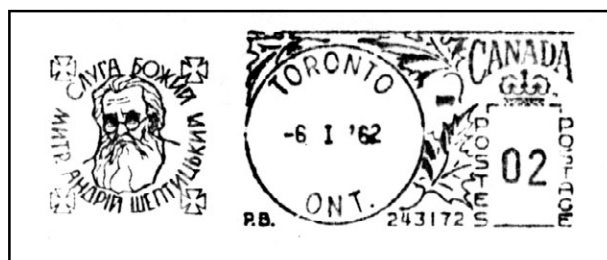


Edouard Herriot

English writer Bernard Shaw traveled to the USSR and stated that he did not see a single undernourished person there. He appears on many stamps e.g. Bulgaria 954 (29.12.56), Ireland 478 (7.5.80) and others.

Metropolitan Andrii Sheptytskyi (1865-

1944) strongly criticized the Soviet government for causing the Great Famine. He and other hierarchs of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Western Ukraine issued a pastoral letter dated 24 July 1933 which began with words: "Death Convulsion of Ukraine". Metropolitan Sheptytskyi is honored on Toronto, Canada, postage meter #243172 that was used by Plast and the cooperative "Play" from 11.12.61. Vienna, Austria, cancellation of 7.4.84 copies the picture of Metropolitan Sheptytskyi from a painting on the wall of St. Barbara church in Vienna, executed by Sviatoslav Hordynskyi.



Metropolitan Andrii Sheptytskyi

Aleksander Solzhenitsyn (b.1918) gives a dramatic account of the Famine in his book "The Gulag Archipelago". He is pictured on stamps of Equatorial Guinea 7488-7489 (25.7.74), Antigua 1945c (8.11.95), St. Vincent 2220i (2.10.95), Maldives 2115e (28.12.95), Grenada 2821e (1.3.99) and Redonda 9107 (29.3.91).

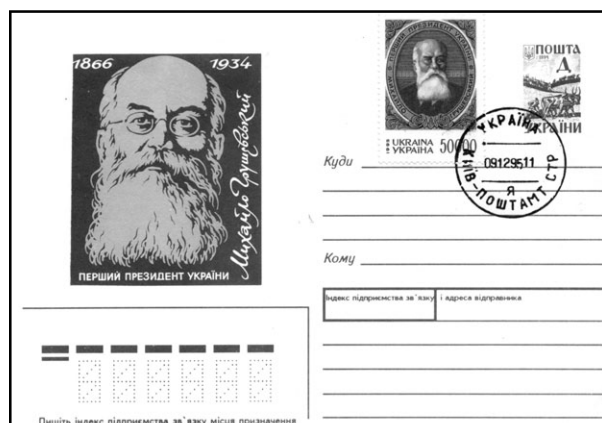
Ukraine commemorated the victims of the Famine with stamp 188 (12.9.93) and Kyiv cancellation of the same date.



Famine issue first day cover, 12.9.1993

On postal issues only 16 victims of the 1930's terror and famine are found. Six died in concentration camps or were liquidated and 10 survived. They returned to Ukraine as invalids.

Mykhailo Hrushevskiyi (1866-1934), a known historian and first president of Ukraine was born in Kholm, now Poland. He died in exile at Kyslovodsk, Stavropol Land, Russia. Hrushevskiyi is depicted on stamp 220 (9.12.95), envelopes 1995 year (order # 5-3118), 81/91 (26.3.91) and cancellations of Kyiv (29.9.91, 29.9.96) and Lviv (12.6.94).



Mykhailo Hrushevskiyi



Myroslav Irchan (Andrii Babiuk) (1897-1937), writer, was born in the village of Piadyky, now Kolomyia raion, Ivano-Frankivsk oblast. He was executed. Irchan is found on Kolomyia cancellation (14.7.97).

Hryhorii Kosynka (1899-1934), writer, was born in the village of Shcherbanivka, now Obukhivka raion, Kyiv oblast. He was shot. Kosynka appears on envelope (30.9.99, order # 9-3330).



Myroslav Irchan



Hryhorii Kosynka

Les Kurbas (1887-1937), innovator of the Ukrainian theater "Berezil" was born in Sambir, now Lviv oblast. He was arrested in December 1933 and died or was executed in a concentration camp. Kurbas is portrayed on two envelopes 562/86 (28.11.86) and 25.2.97 (order # 7-3017).



Les Kurbas

Ivan Mykytenko (1897-1937), writer, was born in the village Rivne, now Novoukrainka raion, Kirovohrad oblast. He was executed. Mykytenko appears on envelopes 230/87 (23.4.87) and 7-3146 (27.6.97).



Ivan Mykytenko

Volodymyr Symyrenko (1891-1943), pomologist was born in Mliiv, now Horodyshche raion, Cherkasy oblast. He was jailed in 1933-1937 and then exiled to a concentration camp in 1938 where he died. The date of his death is uncertain. Symyrenko is shown on stamp 232 (30.5.96).

Volodymyr Symyrenko (1891-1943), pomologist was born in Mliiv, now Horodyshche raion, Cherkasy oblast. He was jailed in 1933-1937 and then exiled to a concentration camp in 1938 where he died. The date of his death is uncertain. Symyrenko is shown on stamp 232 (30.5.96).



Volodymyr Symyrenko (center)



rehabilitation he was allowed to return to Kyiv in 1957. He appears on envelope 9-3326 (12.7.99). Volodymyr Hzhyskyi (1895-1973), writer, Borys Antonenko-Davydovych

born in Ostrivets, now Terebovlia raion, Ternopil oblast. He was imprisoned in a concentration camp from 1934 and rehabilitated in 1956. Hzhyskyi is recognized on Ostrivets cancellation (15.10.95).



Volodymyr Hzhyskyi

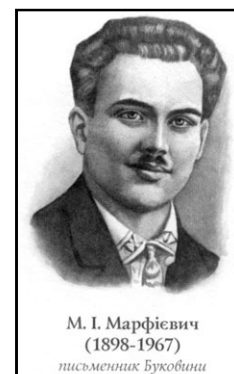
Serhii Korolov (1907-1967), the well known rocket specialist and pioneer of the Soviet space program was born in Zhytomyr. He was held in a concentration camp in 1937-1942. Korolov and his space systems are represented on many issues.



Serhii Korolov



Mykola Marfievych (1898-1967), writer was born in the village Ispas, now Vyzhnytsia raion, Chernivtsi oblast.



Mykola Marfievych

He was jailed in the 1930's and rehabilitated in 1957. Marfievych is revealed on envelope 7-3603 (21.1.98) and Chernivtsi cancellation (20.3.98).

Yevhen Shabliovskiy (1906-1983), literary scholar and critic, was born in Kamin-Kashyrskiy, now Volyn oblast. He was

arrested in 1934 and released in 1954. Shabliovskiy appears on envelope 59/86 (13.2.86).

Ahapit Shamrai



Ahapit Shamrai

Izhevsk, Ferhana and Perm. His birth centenary is marked by Krasnopil cancellation (3.10.96).

Zinaida Tulub (1890-1964), writer, born in Kyiv. Arrested in 1937 and imprisoned in a concentration camp in Kolyma. Freed in 1947, she had to live in Kazakhstan until allowed to return to Kyiv in 1955. She appears on envelope 368/89 (21.9.89).



Zinaida Tulub



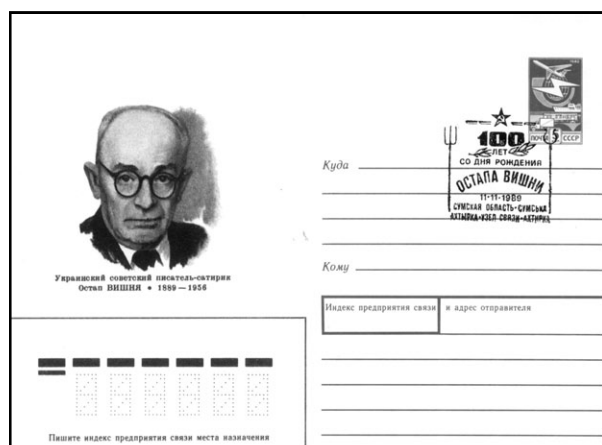
V. Voyno-Yasenetskyi

Ostap Vyshnia (1889-1956), writer, was born in the village Hrun, now Okhtyrka raion, Sumy oblast. Sent to a concentration camp in the Northern region of the USSR in 1933 he was freed in 1943. He is featured on two envelopes 13470 (3.5.79) and 218/89 (26.4.89). Okhtyrka cancellation marks his birth centenary (11.11.89).



Yevhen Shabliovskiy

(1896-1952), literary scholar and critic. He was born in the village of Myrolillia, now Krasnopil raion, Sumy oblast. In 1934-1944 Shamrai was exiled to



Olena Zhurlyva (1898-1971), poetess and educator, was born in Smila, now Cherkasy oblast. She was arrested and sent to a concentration camp in the Altai region in 1938 and eventually freed in 1944. Zhurlyva was featured on envelope 8-3119 (27.5.98).



Olena Zhurlyva

With the help of philatelic material it is possible to prepare a philatelic exhibit and to inform collectors about the Great Famine of 1932-1933 and the ensuing terror.

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THE FIRST REGULAR AND FIRST INTERNATIONAL AIRMAIL SERVICE IN THE WORLD

by Inger Kuzych

In the area of aeronautic firsts, several countries make claim to the title for "First Airmail Service". The problem in distinguishing which claim is valid lies in how one defines "airmail service". Upon closer examination, it becomes clear that virtually all these "firsts" failed to meet two important criteria one would expect a "service" to perform: they did not last for any extended period of time and they did not follow a regular schedule. Towards the close of World War I, however, an Austrian airline was finally established that met the length and regularity criteria. In addition, an extension of the service to Kyiv, Ukraine, made it an international mail run.

Pioneering Airmail Efforts

Homing pigeons were used hundreds of years before Christ in Greece, Persia, and China (it is difficult to determine which was first), so all three countries have some claim to having invented the first airmail service. The first example of a regular pigeon-carried mail service was the overly successful New Zealand Pigeon Post (1897-1901). This operation was ordered stopped by the New Zealand government with the excuse that it violated the official governmental postal monopoly!

However, what is usually meant by airmail is mail carried by an aircraft, and here the earliest flights were made by balloon. The first flight to carry mail on 7 January 1785 was also the first international airmail flight. Piloted by a Frenchman, Jean Pierre Blanchard, and an American, John Jeffries, the trip was made across the English Channel from Dover, England, to near Calais, France. The event was part of the new spirit of amity between the two countries following the American War of Independence (where French aid was instrumental in securing the colonials' victory over England). Several letters, carefully wrapped in a pig bladder to keep them dry, were sequestered in the gondola of this hydrogen-inflated craft. Over the next century many more famous balloon airmail flights were made. All of them had two major drawbacks, however: none of them were regularly scheduled flights (all were subject to the vagaries of the weather) and none could know their exact final destination (since the balloons were dependent on

the winds, they (and the mail) would be moved whither the air currents carried them).

The world's first officially approved airmail flight by a powered craft occurred on 18 February 1911 in Allahabad, British India. Some 6,500 letters were flown by French pilot Henri Pequet from the Agricultural Exhibition grounds to Naini Junction (about 13 km). Proceeds raised by the event funded the construction of a new hostel.

Over the next few years other experimental airmail flights were made in various parts of the world. None were for very great distances; usually only from a temporary postal station at an airfield to a post office in an adjacent community. Most of these flights were in conjunction with aviation meets, where the carrying of souvenir mail was incidental to the competitions among the pilots. While these various flights are worth recalling, they still do not meet the designation of airmail "service". All these flights were simply for one-time special events.

Ad Hoc Wartime Airmail Services

It was during World War I that circumstances necessitated the setting up of more regular delivery of mails. Over time, and by the close of hostilities, these interim delivery methods evolved into what became the world's first regular airmail service.

The first of these provisional services was a military airmail effort set up by Austrian units into and out of the besieged town of Przemyśl (then part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, currently in Poland). Both airplanes and balloons were used to transport the mails during two sieges between September of 1914 and March of 1915, when the Russian armies were finally pushed back. There was one mail-carrying flight during the first siege, 13 during the second. While some mail was flown into the fortress, much more was flown out. Covers from this temporary service are highly desired by collectors, who must be careful to avoid the many dangerous fakes that have appeared over the years.

Another irregular service that arose about the time the Przemyśl flights ceased, was an international service. Many people do not realize that not all of Belgium was overrun during the

First World War. King Albert and his government sequestered themselves in a small pocket surrounding De Panne in West Flanders and communications were set up with England. While most mail went out by ship, some was carried by plane. It wasn't long before civilian mail was also accepted; the first such mail is believed to have been flown on 15 March 1915. Flights continued sporadically till about mid-December when they were discontinued for the winter. In 1916, the service resumed. It is not known whether a fee was charged for flown mail, since the few covers that have survived have neither stamps or charge marks. They are simply cancelled with a circular date stamp of "PANNE". So, even though international flights were made, they were never regular and would hardly constitute a "service."

The world's first officially approved roundtrip airmail flight, an experimental junket featuring the use of the first airmail stamp, took place in May of 1917 between Rome and Turin. The stamp was created on 16 May by overprinting express mail stamps with a three-line inscription "Esperimento Posta Aerea/ Maggio 1917/ Torino-Roma-Roma-Torino". First scheduled to take off on the 19th, the flight was delayed due to bad weather. All mail was postmarked 20 May, but foul weather again forced pilot Mario de Bernardi to cool his heels. He finally took off about 11 a.m. on the 22nd and landed four hours later in Rome, handing over about 200 kg of mail and 100 newspapers. The return flight was once more delayed because of weather until the 26th. Although a few aeronautical firsts were achieved during these two flights, they never evolved into a regular air service.

Establishing the Vienna-Kyiv Line

It is an often-overlooked fact of history, but while the Central Powers of Germany and Austria-Hungary did lose World War I on the

Western Front, they had already prevailed in the East. The Russian Empire, staggered by huge military defeats, the occupation of some of its most fertile territories by German armies, the abdication of the czar, and the seizure of power by the Bolsheviks, finally sued for peace in December of 1917. On 3 March 1918, Russia signed the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk, officially withdrawing from the war, and recognizing the independence of Finland, Poland, Ukraine, and the Baltic countries of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.

In an earlier treaty involving the Central Powers and the Ukrainian National Republic (9 February 1918, also signed at Brest-Litovsk), Austria-Hungary and Germany recognized the newly independent country, but were allowed to occupy a large portion of Ukrainian territory in order to help clear out Bolshevik armies. In return for this aid, Ukraine was to supply foodstuffs to its new allies.

The need soon arose for rapid and regular communications between Vienna and Ukraine's capital of Kyiv, where Austrian and German forces were headquartered. Railway lines had suffered some damage in the fighting and the sole remaining rapid link between the two cities at that time was a single telegraph line, obviously inadequate to handle the necessary communications.

On 20 March 1918, a military plane was sent off with much fanfare to make a trial flight from Vienna's Aspern aerodrome to

Kyiv (Figure 1). The officer put in charge of the mail line was 24-year old Rittmeister (Captain) Field Pilot August Raft von Marwil, a fighter pilot. He made this reconnaissance flight, along with an observation officer, in a Hansa-Brandenburg C1 biplane equipped with a single 200-horsepower engine. Major stopovers were made in Cracow (present-day Poland) and Lemberg (present-day Lviv, Ukraine), both at that time still part of the Austrian province of Galicia

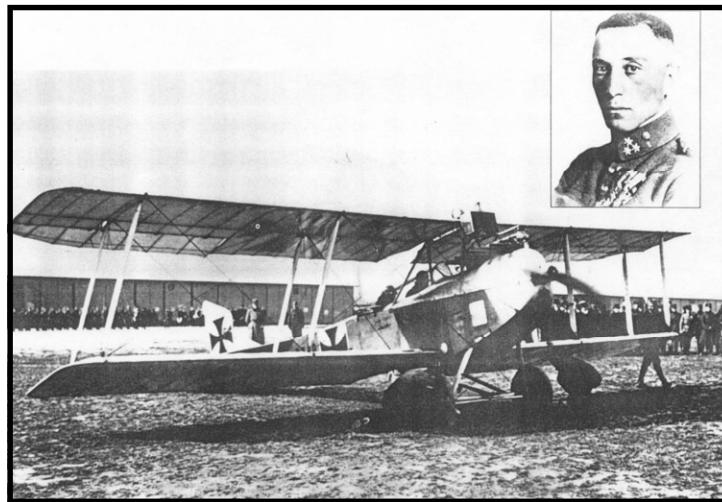


Figure 1. Launching the world's first regular international airmail service, two Austrian Army airmail fliers prepare to take off from Vienna to Kyiv on 20 March 1918. The flight service was put under the command of Captain August Raft von Marwil (inset), who also piloted the first flight.

(Figure 2). After overnighting in Lemberg, they arrived in Kyiv about noon the following day. Only official and military mail was carried on this trip (Figure 3). [AUTHOR'S NOTE: Since Western Ukraine with its "new" capital of Lviv did not secede from the Austro-Hungarian Empire until 1 November 1918 (a few weeks after this air service closed down), that city will be referred to by its "old" name of Lemberg in this article.]

The two men were feted gloriously upon their arrival. They made the return trip to Vienna in a single day, logging 10 hours in the air and stopping only to refuel. It was this return trip that was to be the model for all subsequent flights between the two capital cities.

On 27 March, the Austrian Government issued a "Post and Telegraph Order No. 15"; it contained specific instructions pertaining to the establishment of an airmail service between the major Austrian cities of Vienna and Lemberg. A few days later, on 1 April, a flight schedule was established, which was revised at the end of June 1918 as follows:

Departure from Vienna at 0430 and land at Olmunic (present-day Olomouc, Czech Republic) at 0600. Resume flight at 0630 to arrive in Cracow at 0800. Leave Cracow at 0830 and arrive at Lemberg at 1100. Depart from Lemberg at 1130 to arrive at Proskuriv (present-day Khmelnytskyi, Ukraine) at 1400. Leave Proskuriv at 1500 and arrive in Kyiv at 1730. The return flights to be in reverse order starting at 0400.



Figure 2. The solid line shows airmail routes established to link Vienna to Kyiv via Cracow and Lemberg in one direction, and Vienna to Budapest in the other. The dashed line shows the projected "southern route" of Budapest-Arad-Bucharest-Odessa that was never set up.

The distances between the landing sites at Vienna, Olmunic, Cracow, Lemberg, Proskuriv, and Kyiv were approximately 175, 200, 300, 225, and 300 km respectively, for a total of 1,200 km. With generous time allocated for stopovers, the schedule allowed about 13 hours to complete the route one way. The trip was often completed in less time, even in as little as 11 hours. The average time was about 12 hours. The Olmunic and Proskuriv landings were strictly technical in nature and no mail pickup was made.

On 31 March 1918, a regular air mail service was established, which permitted private mail to Cracow and Lemberg with certain restrictions; mail carried on to Kyiv was entirely official. Towards the end of June 1918, private mail was allowed to proceed all the way to Kyiv. Thus the Vienna-Cracow-Lemberg-Kyiv line became the "First Regular International Airmail Service in the World."

Details About the Vienna-Kyiv Line

This airmail service performed uninterruptedly from 31 March 1918 until the third week in October 1918, almost seven months. This record is quite remarkable when one considers that the line operated under several disadvantages, including: primitive weather forecasting, spotty ground communications, inaccurate maps, and a shortage of good planes and pilots, many of whom were needed for regular, full-time combat duty. Nevertheless, the Vienna-to-Kyiv run functioned with no fatalities and only a few forced landings. An interesting story about one such emergency relates how the

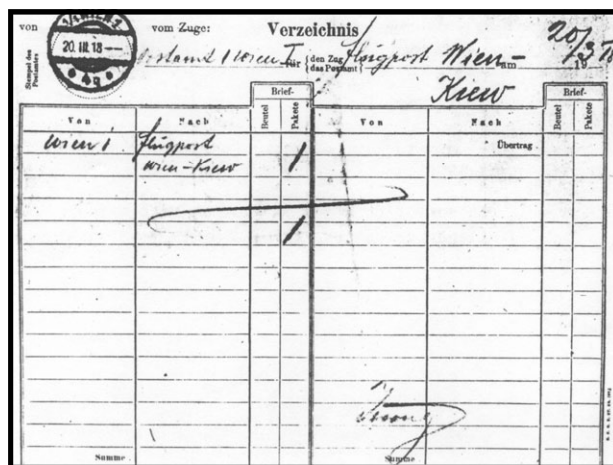


Figure 3. The first airmail flight ledger, dated 20 March 1918, lists only one packet of letters as being carried from Vienna to Kyiv.

pilot was forced to set down his craft in a Ukrainian wheat field so bountiful that the stalks were higher than the plane! The pilot telephoned in his predicament, but it took an entire platoon of men to locate him and his craft.

The air route generally followed an old stagecoach highway from Vienna to Cracow and on to Lemberg. Locales where the road crossed railroad tracks served as orientation points. The aircraft used for making the runs were single-engine, unarmed, 165 and 200 horsepower biplanes that were capable of flying 120 km/hour while transporting 200 kg of mail. There were 22 aircraft in the airmail fleet, which was made up of several model types: the Hansa-Brandenburg C1 (most of the aircraft), the Oeffag C2, and the Knoller-Albatros B1.

The manpower allocated to this mail service consisted of 14 non-commissioned officers, 16 observation officers, and ground and maintenance staff with spare engines at each landing site.

Flights went in both directions daily and each plane was employed on one particular leg only, going back and forth over just this one section.

Each flight from Vienna to Kyiv or in the opposite direction had to be completed during daylight hours, since there were no facilities for night flying and no navigational aids. As each plane came into sight, the pre-heated engine of the plane for the next leg was started with the crew of two, pilot and observer, already on board. The crew's outfits consisted of warm clothing, leather jackets, and thick goggles. Mail bags were quickly transferred and signed for by the pilot against a bill of lading. Although passengers were not permitted, an occasional VIP or press reporter was carried.

A manual entitled "Instructions for Airmail Pilots" was prepared, which dealt with the handling of mails. In case of a forced landing, the pilot was responsible for insuring that the mail



Figure A



Figure B



Figure C

Commemorating the Vienna-Kyiv Line on Stamps

The Austrian Postal Administration has commemorated the first regular international airmail service on two occasions. The first was a stamp produced for the philatelic exposition "Luposta Wien 1961," which showed the Brandenburg aircraft used in making the first airmail run (A).

A more recent stamp recalling the Vienna-Kyiv service was released in 1989 for "Postage Stamp Day." Depicted was the take off of the first flight from Vienna's Aspern airport on 20 March 1918 (B). The stamp vignette is modeled on the photo of the first flight (Figure 1) with several figures added to the foreground by the artist designer.

Mention should also be made of another commemoration of this international mail service. In 1993, just two years after regaining its independence and 75 years after the Vienna-Kyiv route was inaugurated, Ukraine issued a stamp (part of a two-stamp set) depicting the Brandenburg aircraft used on the first flight to Kyiv (C). Interestingly, this stamp set was prepared at the Austrian State Printing Office in Vienna, because Ukraine would not acquire the printing facilities to produce its own stamps for another year.

was forwarded without delay and all pilots held a special Post Office Certificate.

Special Stamps and Postmarks

The mailing fees set out in the Austrian “Order No. 15” that established the first airmail service were in three parts:

1. The normal rate of 10 h[eller] for a postcard or 15 h for a letter. This charge was paid by regular definitive stamps.
2. A conveyance (handling) charge of 1 K[rone] per item.
3. An airmail rate of 1.5 K for each 20 grams of weight and for each increment of the route, e.g., a typical letter Vienna-Cracow would require 1.5 K; Vienna-Lemberg would add 3 K.

These last two charges were paid for by special airmail stamps, which the post office created using old stamp plates to print a new set of three stamps but with new colors. These stamps were then overprinted with the word “FLUGPOST” (airmail) and some of them surcharged with new values: the 2 K violet stamps were revalued to 1.5 K and the 3 K yellow to 2.5 K; the 4 K gray’s value was left unchanged. These stamps, made on light gray paper, became available on 30 March (Figure 4).

Official and military correspondence was sent free of charge. All such letters posted in Cracow or Lemberg received the following handstamp: “K. u K. Fliegerkurierlinie Wien-Kyiv Flugstation Krakau (or Lemberg)” (K. u K.= Imperial and Royal; Air Courier Route Vienna-Kyiv Flight Station Cracow (or Lemberg)). These postmarks also served as receiving markings at these two cities and were in use from 20 March to the end of October 1918. Letters with these official markings are quite scarce and valuable (Figure 5).

“Post and Telegraph Order No. 15” designated Vienna, Cracow, and Lemberg as arrival delivery sites; only the main post offices—Wien 1, Krakau 1, and Lemberg 1 respectively—were authorized to accept mail for air delivery. The stamps were cancelled with ordinary round

handstamps of the post office of origin. Additionally, a special round “Flugpost” postmark had to appear on the front of the cover, usually next to the cancelled postage stamps, to indicate that air delivery was required. These postmarks were also used to backstamp incoming airmail (Figure 6).

During the first two months of operation, most of the mails being sent between Vienna, Cracow, and Lemberg were of a philatelic nature, that is they were frequently overfranked to show all three stamps of the set. On 1 June, after the flood of philatelic mail had dropped off, the airmail service was extended to other major towns in the empire, 12 in Austria and 20 in Hungary. All such mail was delivered by train on a priority basis from these outlying post offices to the central post offices in Vienna, Cracow, or Lemberg. From there it was forwarded to its destination through the normal way reserved for airmail. Such letters, to or from outlying locales, are not easy to come by and command a premium (Figure 7).

All airmail delivered to Vienna was taken directly from the airfield to “Wien Telegraphenzentralstation P”, which served as the main distribution point for Vienna’s postal system. This central post office distributed the mail by means of pneumatic tubes to various terminals within the city. Attending postal clerks numbered all airmail letters consecutively, usually in the lower left corner,



Figure 4. Austria’s first airmail stamps, created especially for the Vienna-Cracow-Lemberg-Kyiv route.

at the time of mailing.

Mail to Kyiv

The carrying of private airmail to Kyiv was allowed by the end of June 1918. However, the leg between Lemberg and Kyiv was not extensively used for private correspondence. In Kyiv, all of the mail was handled by Field Post No. 258, which used exclusively Austrian field post stamps for prepayment of fees on private airmail going out of the city, and the cancellation “K. u K. Etappen P. O. No. 258” (Imperial and Royal Communications Base No. 258) instead of an ordinary handstamp. Letters originating in Kyiv and franked with field post stamps are

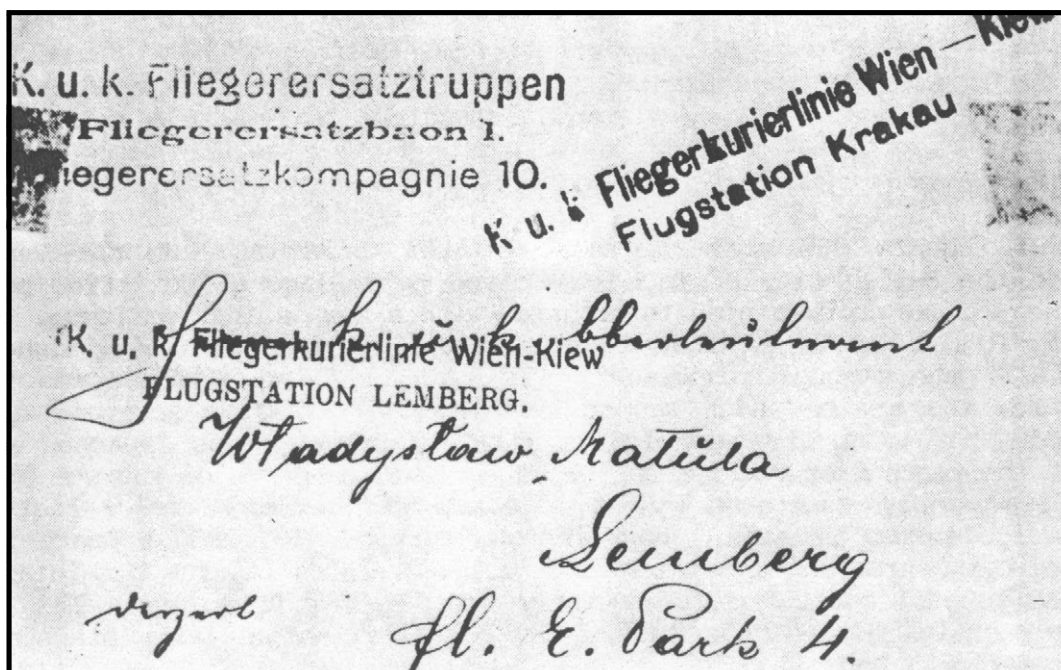


Figure 5.
Official military letter from Cracow to Lemberg dated 23 March 1918.

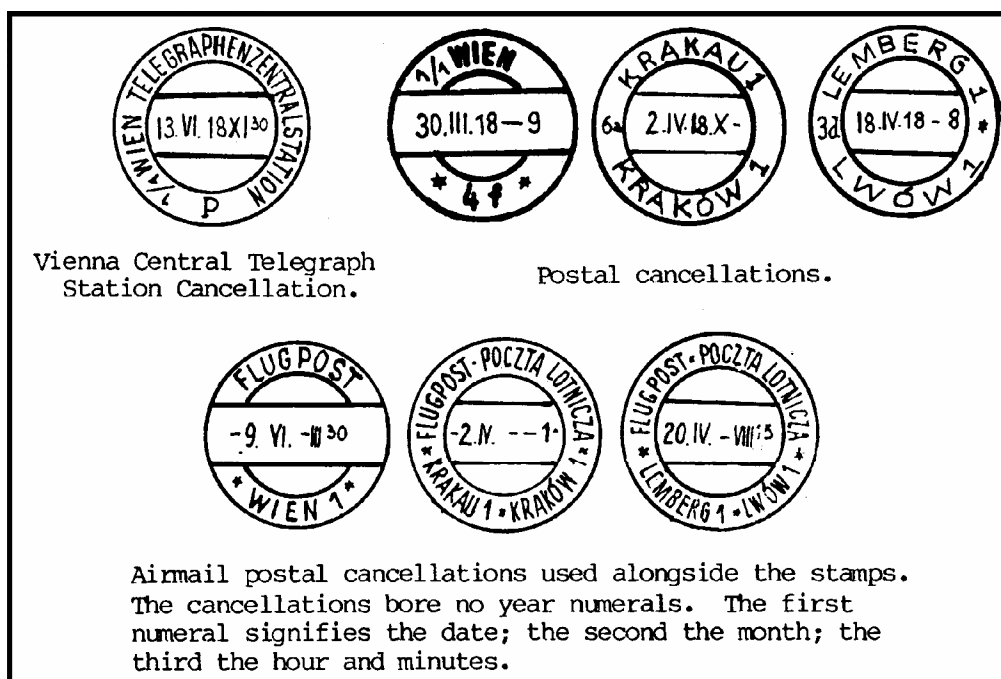


Figure 6.
Examples of the various types of cancellations that appeared on letters to and from Vienna, Cracow, or Lemberg.

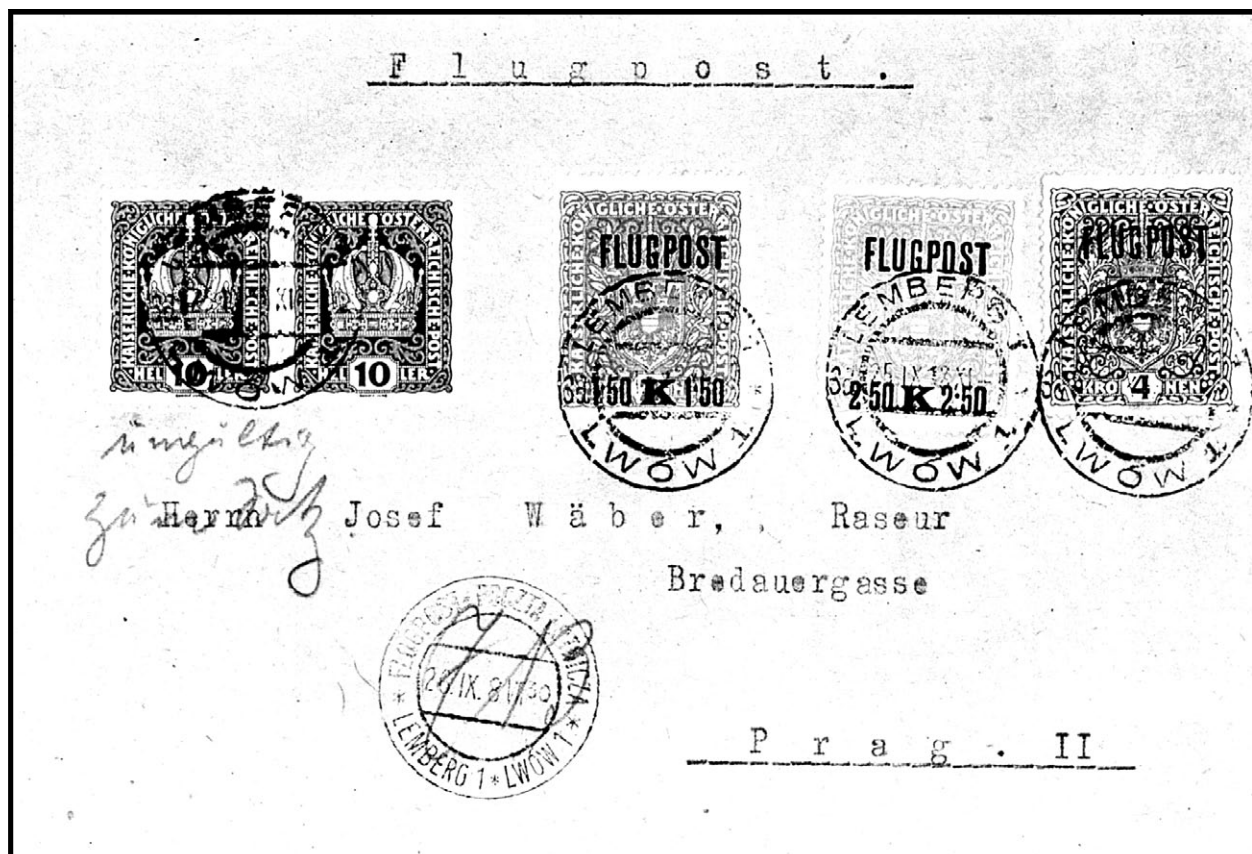


Figure 7.
A rare letter mailed from Lemberg to Prague on 26 September 1918.
Airmailed to Vienna, the cover was then forwarded via train.



Figure 8.
First flight cover from the establishment of the regular civilian Vienna to Lemberg service, 31 March 1918.

considered philatelic rarities and only Kyiv to Vienna examples are known, none from Kyiv to Lemberg or from Kyiv to Cracow. No special Ukrainian airmail stamps or cancels were ever produced.

Air Service Milestones

As previously mentioned, the first regularly scheduled flight from Vienna via Cracow and Lemberg to Kyiv took place on 31 March 1918. The majority of the letters on this flight bear 30 March Vienna cancellations and 31 March airmail postmarks (Figure 8). This first flight carried 184 covers from Vienna to Cracow and 264 covers Vienna to Lemberg. The official mail to Kyiv is unrecorded. The first return flight to Vienna took place on 3 April 1918 (Figure 9). A total of 103 pieces of mail were carried Lemberg to Vienna and 81 from Cracow to Vienna. Soon daily flights began to leave both Vienna and Kyiv heading in opposite directions. In the first 90 days of operation, 80 successful one-day flights were made from Vienna to Kyiv. On the other days, bad weather prevented take off or the completion of the entire journey.

Regular flights of the Vienna-Kyiv line formally ended on 8 October 1918 but the stamps remained valid until the 15th of October (Figure 10), so that can be considered the last day of the airmail service. The war was drawing to a close and the flight schedule could no longer be maintained. Nevertheless, occasional flights between the cities continued. Letters bearing postmarks with dates between 20 March and 31 March 1918, that is before the inauguration of regular mail service, or with dates after 15 October, are extremely scarce but do exist.

During the period of airmail service the following quantities of items are known to have been carried between the cities:

Vienna-Cracow	6,488 items
Vienna-Lemberg	9,428 items
Cracow-Vienna	8,332 items
Lemberg-Vienna	11,038 items

So, about 20 percent more mail was delivered to Vienna than left the capital.

The amount of mail between Vienna and Kyiv certainly did not reach the levels quoted above. However, this author was not able to locate any official tallies of quantities to or from the Ukrainian capital. There could be several reasons for this. The Austrian postal service may have felt it was only necessary to keep track of domestic use of the new airmail service (between

Vienna, Cracow, and Lemberg). Since mails to Kyiv were travelling to another country, there may have been less concern by postal personnel to keep thorough records. On the other hand, just the opposite could be true. Because so much of the post between these capitals was likely of an important nature (official or military and not civilian), perhaps counts were deliberately withheld for security reasons. The latter scenario may be the more likely.

An Extension of the Line

On 4 July 1918 the airmail service was extended to Budapest from Vienna. This service had a direct connection to the Vienna-Kyiv route. The intention was to create a second service to Ukraine via a "southern route" from Vienna to Budapest, through Arad and Bucharest, with Odesa as the final destination (Figure 2). This second line was never established, but the Vienna-Budapest leg operated for a short while—until 23 July 1918.

Hungarian airmail stamps were created for this service by overprinting two values of stamps then in use with the words "REPULO POSTA" (air mail). The Hungarian rates were a bit more complicated than those in the Austrian half of the empire and will not be elaborated upon here.

Some published reports stating that the link to Hungary closed because of lack of use are not creditable. The numbers speak for themselves:

Budapest-Vienna and other	
Austrian destinations	6,247 items
Budapest-Cracow	405 items
Budapest-Lemberg	192 items
Budapest-Kyiv	a few items
Vienna-Budapest	1,845 items.

In reality, the shutdown was caused by a couple of unfortunate plane crashes, the first on 13 July and the second on 21 July, both of which saw the two-man crews killed.

Epilog

The pioneering Vienna-Cracow-Lemberg-Kyiv airmail line gave birth to the airmail service that we today take for granted. In as much as it traversed Austrian, Czech, Polish, and Ukrainian territories, and briefly also Hungarian, it is of interest to philatelists who collect any of these countries.



Figure 9.

The only flown card from Kyiv to Vienna on 3 April 1918, the first return flight of the civilian service.
The 21 March date on the Kyiv cancel is of the Old Style calendar, which differed from western Europe by 13 days.



Figure 10.

Last flight cover, 15 October 1918, Lemberg to Vienna.
This item was only flown as far as Cracow and then forwarded to Vienna by train.

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A KYIV-BERLIN AIRMAIL CONNECTION IN WORLD WAR 1

by Inger Kuzych

It was not just Austrian forces who set up airmail flights between their country and Ukraine, the German army too had to keep in touch with headquarters back home. In this case, however, the flights between Ukraine and Germany were ad hoc and no special airmail stamps or markings were applied to the items flown.

Apparently, soldier's letters and cards were also permitted on flights between Kyiv and Berlin; Figure 1 is an example such airmail. The item was sent to a Mrs. D. Wagner in Berlin by her husband, a doctor, serving in the N.O. Heeresgruppe Eichhorn stationed in Kyiv. According to German war records, this group was formed at the end of March-early April 1918 and was transferred to the Ukrainian capital on 1 June 1918. The stampless cover displays two circular markings: a black field post date cancel indicating 23 July 1918 and a violet letter stamp (Brief-Stempel) of the press unit office of Heeresgruppe Eichhorn. In order to highlight that this mail was to be flown by air, the "Flugpost" notation in the upper left corner of the cover is underlined with a bright orange crayon.

I am fairly certain that I have been able to work out the route that this letter followed. Heading east, there would have been five legs to the journey; the first three--to Proskuriv (290 km), to Lemberg (220 km), and to Krakow (300 km) would have overlapped the Austrian airmail route. From Krakow, the German flights would have headed northwest to Breslau (present-day Wroclow, 240 km) and then on to Berlin (another 300 km). Total distance about 1350 km or some 150 km further than the Kyiv-to-Vienna route organized by the Austrians.

A copy of another item used by the German military airmail service in Ukraine was provided to me by Mr. Peter Cybaniak of Great Britain. Figure 2 shows a label with an oval frame enclosing what appears to be the crown of the Holy Roman Empire and the words "Luftverkehrs-Bezirk Kiew" (Air Transport District Kyiv). It would be interesting to find out if any of our members have mail showing this label used in some fashion.

Any additional information that can be provided about airmail services between Germany and Ukraine during the First World War would be most welcome. I can be reached at: P.O. Box 3, Springfield, VA 22150 or by e-mail at: ingert@starpower.net



Figure 2.
German label of the Air transport District in Kyiv.

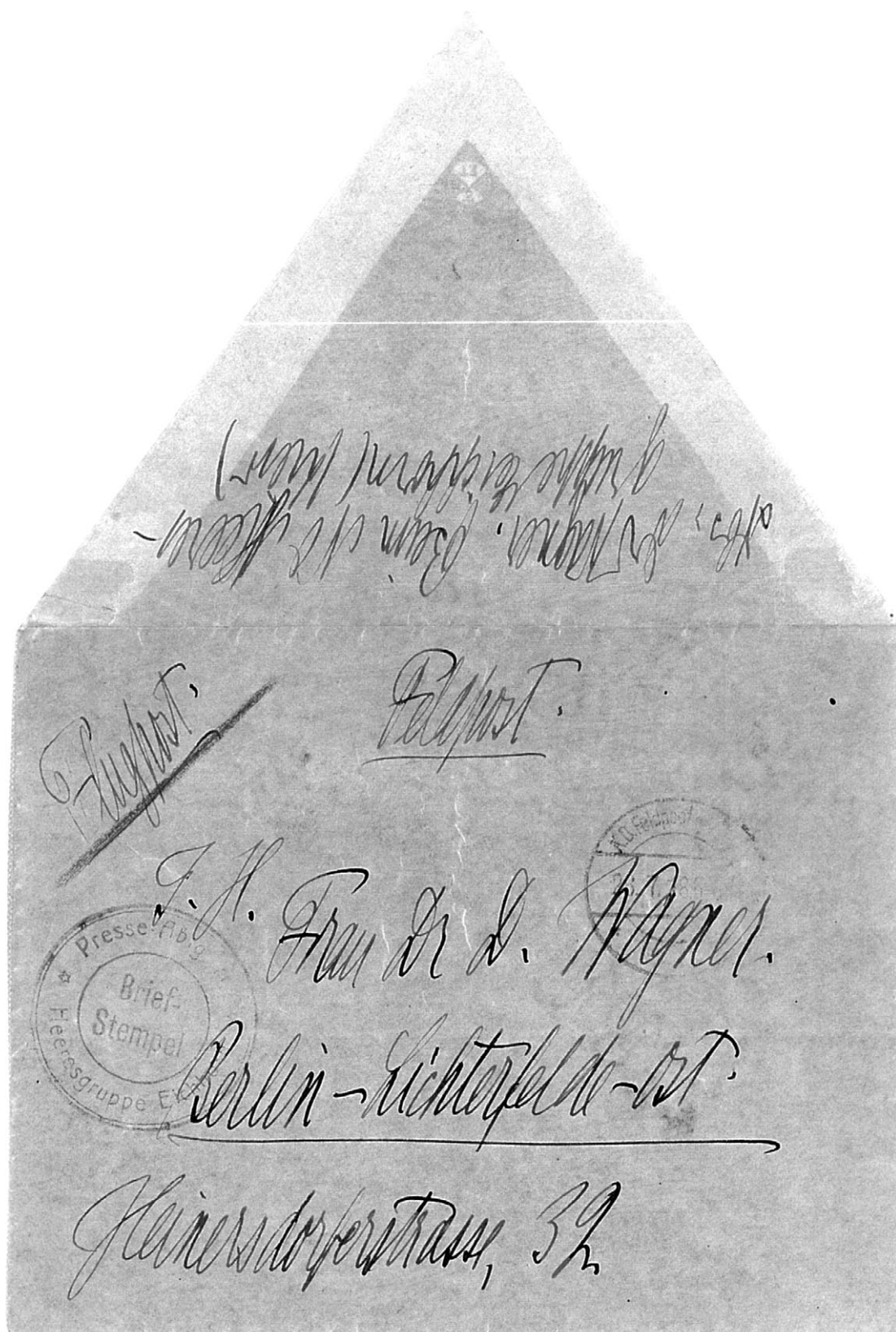


Figure 1.
Free franked air mail letter sent from Kyiv to Berlin in July of 1918.

TOWARDS STALINGRAD (August-September 1942)

The Romanian OPM 109 of Lemberg (Lviv)

by Dan Grecu

This is an expanded and updated variant of an article by Dan Grecu of Deva, Romania, originally published in Romanian Postal History Bulletin No. 22, April 1997.

At the conclusion of the Odesa military operations in October of 1941 the majority of Romanian troops were withdrawn to Romania or Transnistria. Only a few units continued their offensive towards Crimea and Caucasus. However in the summer of 1942 Antonescu promised Hitler to bring parts of the Romanian Army back to the front to support the German military effort in the Don's bend and Stalingrad areas.

Some of the troops were transported to the front by railway, through German occupied Ukraine, between August and September of 1942. This particular situation led to some very interesting and little known military postal items.

The first unit to leave was the 5th Army Corps Headquarters on 7.8.1942. The point of departure was Iași in Romania and the route went via Cernăuți, Lemberg (present day Lviv), Dnipropetrovsk, Stalino. Supplies to these troops were initially supplied by the Romanians in Cernăuți where the 8th Infantry Division organized a huge supply center and then by the Germans in Lemberg and in another of the stations along the railway line. Probably the last unit to reach Stalino was the 7th Infantry Division on 2.10.1942.

The following, taken from the book *The Diary of General Sănătescu* 1993, Bucurest, gives an example of the route that the 4th Army Corps took. On 9.9.1942 the HQ and units directly subordinated to the 4th Army Corps HQ left Iași, passed through Pașcani and then up to Cernăuți; from Cernăuți on 10.9.1942 to Sniatyn (the first place in the General Gouvernement when the German authorities took over transportation), then Kolomyia; 11.9.1942 up to Lemberg (where the troops used the Red Cross canteen facilities) (Figure. 4); 12.9.1942 up to Ternopil; 13 September: in Kazatyn, up to Fastov (60 km east of Kyiv); 14 September from Fastov to the south; 15 September at Baglej, then Dnipropetrovsk over the Dniro river; 17 September: arrival in Stalino (where a Romanian Red Cross hospital was located) together with the majority of the subordinated 11th, 14th and 15th Infantry Divisions.

It is obvious that soldiers sent mail using the postal facilities at the different "stations" during the route. We can therefore see items sent through the Romanian Fieldpost or the German civilian post of the towns of the General Gouvernement and Ukraine. Three such "stations" are known to date:

I. LEMBERG (General Gouvernement)

Here was located (probably at the railway station) a Romanian Field Post Office with the serial number 109 (*Oficiul Poștal Militar Nr. 109*, abbreviated as OPM 109). Thus far, this is the only known Field Post Office located outside of the operational zone of the Romanian Army.

It is opportune to take a closer look at this OPM 109, which was first reported to readers of *Ukrainian Philatelist* by Mr. Krzysztof Ceremuga (see UP-84).

The OPM 109 wasn't assigned to a specific military unit – it was a stage (rear) fieldpost office, with an initial fixed location in Lemberg. This is confirmed by the lack of any units' military marking and by the lack of any military censor marking (of the type POSTA MILITARA / CENZURAT, which existed at all normal fieldpost offices).

I have compiled in Table 1 all items known to me that were sent from this OPM 109. To those of my collection, I have added three items initially in Mr. Mircea Dragotescu's collection and those reported in Mr. Ceremuga's article in *Ukrainian Philatelist* No. 84 (items No. 4, 6, 9, noted as UP-84 in the table), and one item, No. 5, reported by Mr. Adrian Matache in the Romanian *Buletinul CSD* of Bucharest, No. 8, May 1995.

The columns of the table represent:

1. the date of writing (extracted from the text)
2. the date of sorting and canceling at OPM 109
3. the support used (IL = illustrated postcard, BPC = bilingual German/Polish postcard; CPC = Romanian civilian stationery postcard; FMPC = Romanian Free Military Postcard)
4. the fee, if any (*Lei* in Romanian stamps or *Reichspfennigs* in General Gouvernement stamps)
5. presence or absence of the 4th Guiding Red Cross Center marking

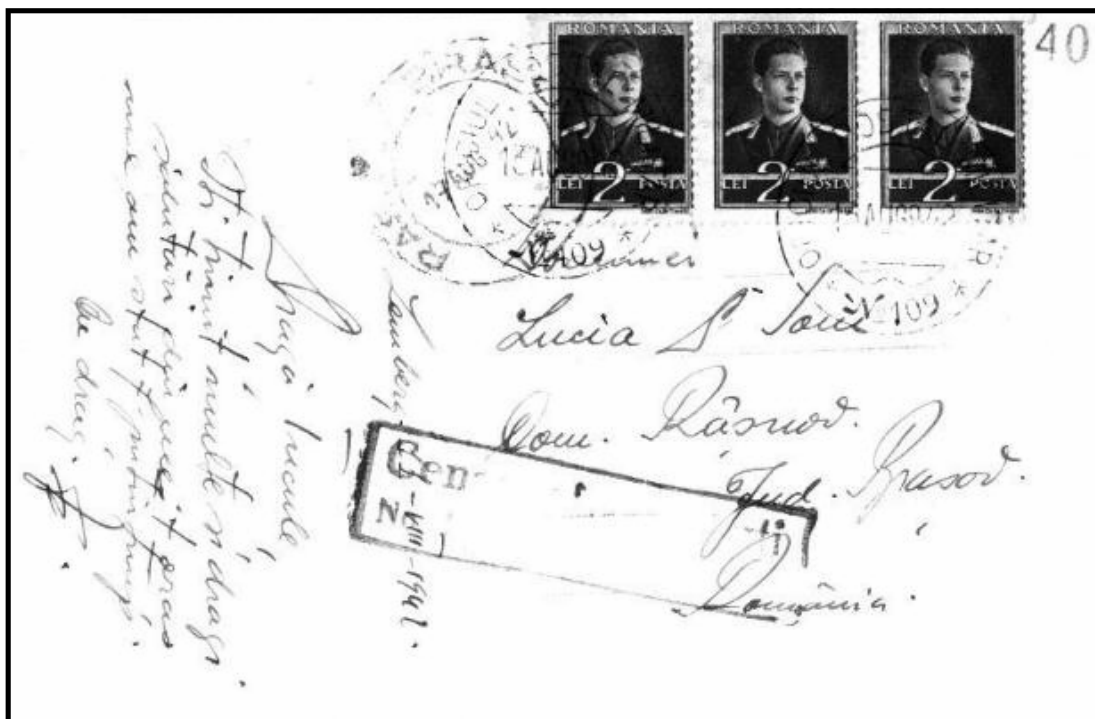


Figure 1
Photo-postcard (LEMBERG, Elizabeth-Kirche), franked with 6 Lei stamps, written in 11.8.1942 and posted (directly ?) to OPM 109. Cancelled on 13.8.1942.
The location Lemberg from the text wasn't obliterated by the censorship in Cernăuți.

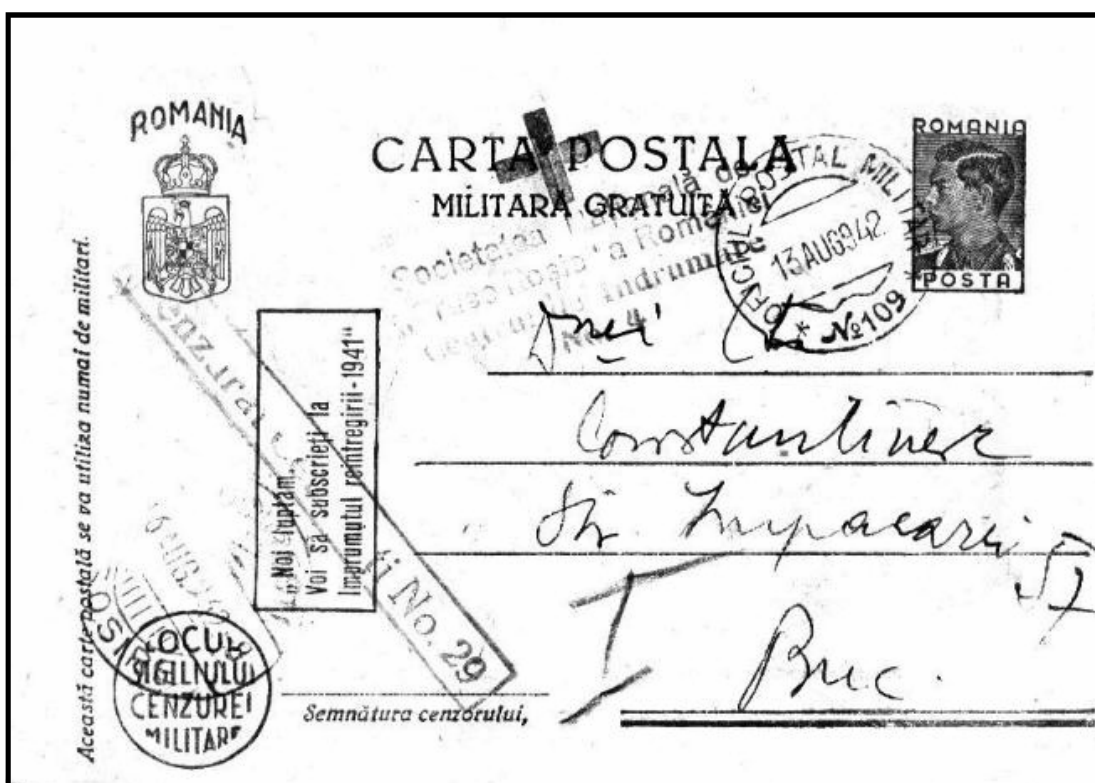


Figure 2
Free military postcard, written on 12.8.1942, sent from OPM 109 a day later, with the Guidance Center No. 4 marking.
On the back, the location Lemberg was obliterated by the censor in Cernăuți.

6. presence or absence of the Cernăuți censoring, with the censor number if visible
7. place and date of arrival;
8. references (the figures are from the present article).

the OPM 109 date 12.8.1942, but this have yet to be confirmed. Until that, we can consider 13.8.1942 as (one of) the first day(s) of functioning of OPM 109 as stage field post office for the transiting Romanian troops enroot to

Table 1

No.	Date in text	Date in OPM cancel	Support	Fee*	RC No. 4	Censor	Arrival	Ref.
1	11.8.42	13.8.42	IL	6 Lei	-	+ (?)	Râșnov, 17.8.42	Fig. 1
2	12.8.42	13.8.42	FMPC	—	+	+ (29)	București, 16.8.42	Fig. 2
3	12.8.42	18.8.42	IL	8 Lei	+	+ (19)	București, 17.8.42	Fig. 3
4	13.8.42	13.8.42	IL	—	+	+ (2)	București, ?	UP-84
5	21.8.42	26.8.42	BPC	12 Rpf	+	+ (25)	Fălticeni, 31.8.42	CSD
6	?	1.9.42	IL	6 Lei	-	—	Lugoj, ?	UP-84
7	12.9.42	11.9.42	CPC	5 Lei	-	+ (?)	Herța, 19.9.42	Fig. 4
8	19.9.42	18.9.42	BPC	12 Rpf	+	+ (14)	București?	Fig. 5
9	13.12.42	14.12.42	IL	—	+	+ (29)	București?	UP-84

**I cannot find a rule for the presence or absence of stamps. Fieldpost mail was free of taxes if sent via the Romanian postal system, but it was possible that either mail sent from Lemberg hadn't been acknowledged yet or that the regulations weren't known by the soldiers in those early days of their journey. This situation is not exceptional, and the collector can find all possible combinations of military and civilian postcards and stamps used for Romanian fieldpost mail during WW2. Therefore, it is not necessary to always look for logical explanations or for regulations when such oddities occur.*

The OPM 109 was short lived and the limits of use known so far from postal history items are 13 August – 14 December 1942.

If one compares historical data (if the first headquarters left Iași on 7.8.1942, that means it reached Lemberg on 9-10.8.1942 with some of the assigned units arriving in Lemberg shortly after 10.8.1942) with the first dates shown in Table 1, we can conclude that the pieces of mail dated 11-13.8.1942 were among the first ever written by Romanian service men from Lemberg. However, earlier dates of 9-10 August could be theoretically found; and yes, these would be viewed as rarities.

Further on, we see that all the items written between 11-13 of August were stamped by OPM 109 only on 13.8.1942. I have in my files an item reported by Mr. Horst Scherrer of Germany, with

Stalingrad. That doesn't necessarily mean that it is also the first day of use of OPM 109 in general, but this is quite probable (as the only reason why the OPM 109 was established in Lemberg was this transit to the front and before August 1942 there wasn't any Romanian military presence in Lemberg, as far as I know).

This transportation to the front ended towards October 1942 (if the historical data is correct; theoretically the last unit to pass through Lemberg to the front was the 7th Infantry Division, around 26.9.1942). As we can see in the table, the latest known day of use is 18.9.1942 (so far). But OPM 109 continued to function after the end of the Romanian troops' transportation to Stalingrad, as item No. 9, cancelled on 14.12.1942, shows us. The OPM 109 remained operational between October – December 1942 as a stage (rear) fieldpost office, serving all the Romanian military personnel transiting Lemberg, but with a much reduced activity. Recent Romanian bibliography¹ gives OPM 109 as being relocated between December 1942 and January 1943 to Znamenka; if this is true, the move from Lemberg to Znamenka took place in late December 1942. Anyway, from early 1943 the military mail from Lemberg doesn't bear any OPM marking (see Figure 8, sent from Lemberg, but not cancelled by OPM 109, only by the Red

¹ Călin Marinescu. *Istoricul Poștei Militare Române*, vol. II, Bucharest, 2001, page 164.

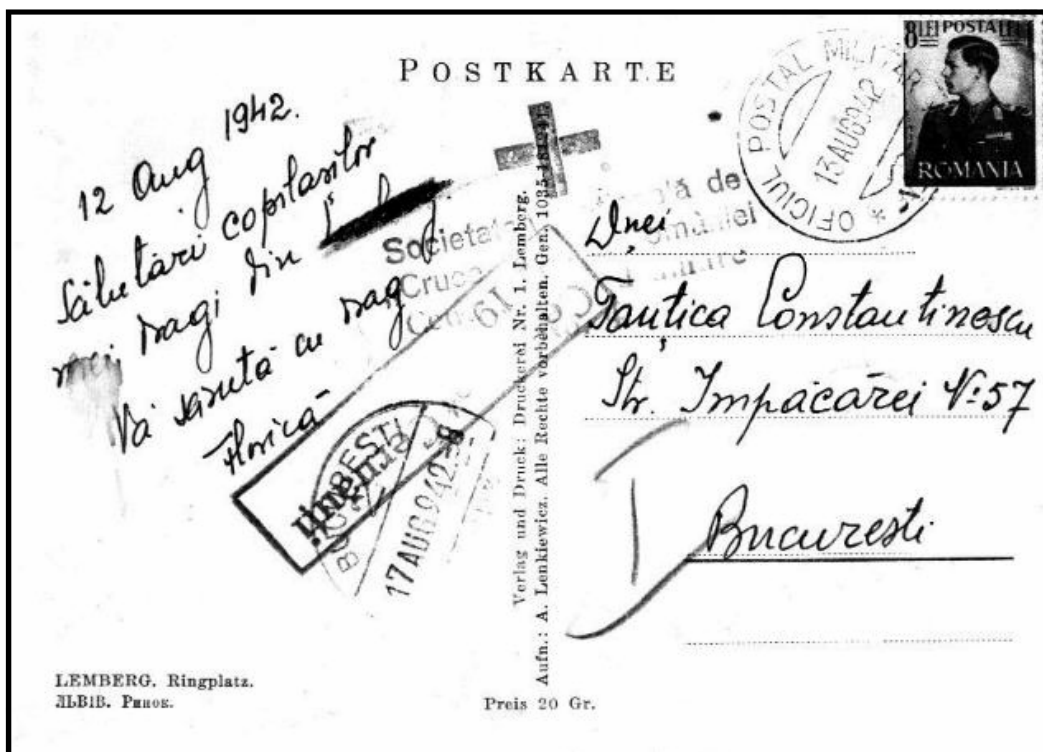


Figure 3
An illustrated postcard (LEMBERG. Market) from the same sender as in Figure 2.
The text reads as 'Greetings to my dear children, from Lemberg', with the name obliterated by censor.

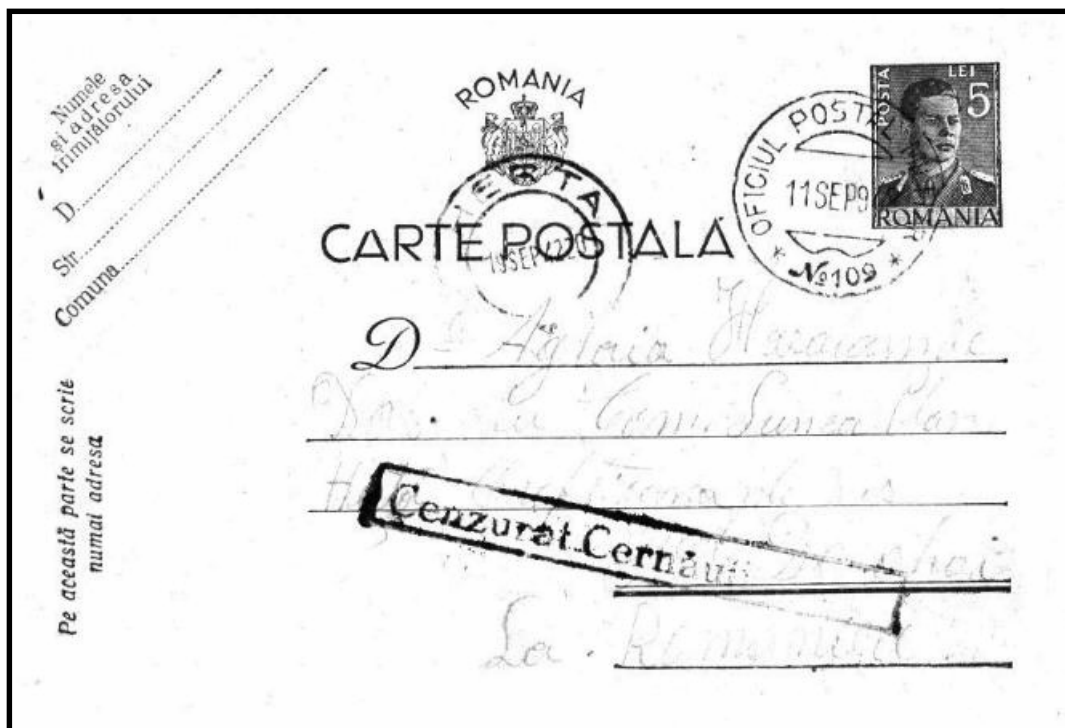


Figure 4
Civilian 5 Lei stationery item, written by a soldier of the 14th Infantry Division (4th Army Corps) on 12.9.1942, cancelled by OPM 109 on 11.9.1942 (this oddity is explained as follows: it was a habit among Romanian soldiers to post-date their mail with one day, in order to correspond with the date of the next mail expedition, but in this case the mail left the OPM 109 the same day it was written) and without any Red Cross marking. The information matches perfectly with historical data (see Sănătescu's diary); the units assigned to 4th Army Corps indeed passed by Lemberg on 11.9.1942. The location indication in the text was obliterated by the censor.

Cross Guidance Center.

There is one other element of interest to consider, which is common to many of these items: the presence of a red 4-line marking, reading *Societatea Națională de / Cruce Roșie a României / Centrul de Îndrumare / No. 4* (*The Romanian Red Cross Society, Guidance Center No. 4*). We know from history books that the Romanians established a Red Cross canteen in the Lemberg railway station. It is therefore logical that this *Guidance Center* was related to those Red Cross facilities; so we can assume that it was also located at the railway station. Although it is not easy to speculate on its role; here are two presumptions:

1. it gave mail free franking privilege. This is sustained by items Nos. 2, 4, 5, 8, and 9 (we can say that General Gouvernement franking was invalid from the Romanian point of view), but not by item No. 3, and I personally don't think it is the right explanation;
2. it was in fact a transiting center, not only for persons, but also for Romanian military mail which was put in a letterbox in Lemberg. Probably all Romanian mail extracted from Lemberg letterboxes was centralized to this Guidance Center, which handed it to the OPM 109 for further sending to Romania.

Here is an example that supports the second explanation: item No. 5 (not illustrated here) is a bilingual postcard with a Hitler-12 Rpf franking, sent by a soldier of 6th Infantry Division, cancelled LEMBERG on 21.8.1942 and taken over by OPM 109 on 26.8.1942. The postcard also bears the red Guidance Center's postmark; censored in Cernăuți, arrival postmark of Fălticeni on 31.8.1942. So, a piece of mail put into a letterbox, sorted and postmarked by the German postal service and, through an as yet unexplained procedure, recovered for further sorting by the Romanian Fieldpost service (namely OPM 109). One can only suppose that the German postal staff in Lemberg had special instructions to collect Romanian mail and hand it to the Red Cross Center which finally delivered it to OPM 109 for forward transport to Romania. The initial "collecting" could have happened before (Nos. 2, 3, 4, 8) or after (No. 5) the mail was canceled in the respective Lemberg post office. This is only a supposition and it will be interesting to see if further information validates it.

The lack of this *Guidance Center* marking could suggest that the mail was handed over directly to the OPM 109 (see items Nos. 1 and 7).

Item No. 6 seems to be not circulated (not forwarded from OPM 109), as it was not possible to reach its destination without any censorship or other markings!

One can see both military and civilian postcards mailed from OPM 109, franked with Romanian stamps, General Gouvernement stamps, or unfranked, but unlike the usual fieldpost mail no military censorship marks were used. It is important to note that these items were sent uncensored and carried by the Romanian postal service by railway from Lemberg to Cernăuți, with the first censoring taking place there by the civilian censor office (as Cernăuți was a transit office for all mail coming from Lemberg). After censoring the mail was delivered to the addressee, always by railway. This is the only situation when mail from a field post office was handled as usual 'internal' mail (i.e. censored by a civilian censoring office in Cernăuți) and not as fieldpost mail (which was always censored at departure by the military censorship), supporting the idea of a staging (rear) OPM 109.

The censoring process limited itself to removing the name Lemberg from the text of the mails. This was the case with items Nos. 2, 3, 4 and 7. However item No. 1 bears the full unobliterated text: *Lemberg 11-VIII-1942. My Dear Țucu, I send you many greetings from this city, where I stayed only for a short time.*

I have seen only one example when mail was carried by the German Postal Service (canceled with a LEMBERG marking, and then handled as external mail and censored in Vienna and Bucharest). Did this happen because of the inattention of the postman in the Lemberg Post Office who did not notice that it was from a Romanian soldier? If yes, this is an exception to the rule.

II. TARNOPOL (General Gouvernement).

As there were no more Romanian postal facilities from this time on (OPM 109 was in Lemberg), all the mail was carried by the German post and was handled as external mail (censored by the foreign censorship in Bucharest and Vienna). For example see Figure 6: a bilingual postcard franked 12 Rpf, and canceled TARNOPOL / DISTR.GALIZIEN (District of Galizia) 8.9.1942, censored by the Germans in Vienna (red mechanical postmark) and by the Romanians in Bucharest (censor No. 75) with a final arrival date of 25.9.1942. The sender, a German native from Romania, from the 40th Infantry Regiment (9th Infantry Division, OPM 107) writes from Lemberg on 6 September: *we'll*



Figure 5

A bilingual postcard, franked 12 RPf, written on 19.9.1942 and cancelled by OPM 109 on 18.9.1942 (the same explanation as in Figure 4), with a poor Red Cross marking. Without any indication on the sender's location.



Figure 6

Bilingual postcard, franked 12 RPf, written in Lemberg on 6.9.1942 and posted in Tarnopol two days later. Sent as external mail.

stay here a day for rest and then we will go further on. This is a nice city, unfortunately it is very badly damaged. This is further evidence of the movement towards the East: the postcard was written in Lemberg and posted in Tarnopol 2 days later.

III. ZNAMENKA (Ukraine)

This is a railway station 40 km north-east of Kirovohrad and about 150 km west of Dnipropetrovsk. See Figure 7: a Romanian reduced-rate military postcard written on 27 August 1942 by a serviceman of the 2nd Armored Regiment of the 1st Armored Division, OPM 187, and canceled with a modified (neutral) Soviet postmark (the place name was removed from the cancel) on the same day. The postcard also bears a rare red round marking reading **ROMÂNIA / C-tul Militar al st. c.f.r....** (*Romania, the Military Commander of the Romanian railway station...*). The mail was carried by the German Post from Ukraine, censored in Vienna (red mechanical postmark) and Bucharest (mechanical postmark and censor No. 119), arriving on 16.9.1942. The explanation of the round marking can be deciphered from reading the text of a similar item from the Horst Scherrer collection: *we shall go further on... I take advantage of the present situation to send you a few lines: finding somewhere far away a Romanian station*

commander - in Snamenca. It is curious that the second item is very similar to the first – written on 26 August, cancelled on 27 August; probably it was also written by a serviceman from the Armored Division unit which arrived in Stalino on 29 August (see Table 2); so the historical data is again perfectly confirmed by the pieces of mail.

As stated previously, from (late?) December 1942 the OPM 109 seems to have been moved from Lemberg to Znamenka. No item is known from this location, which was short lived, and as of 1.2.1943 the OPM 109 appeared in the official documents as being disbanded in Znamenka. This is the end of OPM 109 and of our story.

There were also other units transported to Stalingrad on the ‘Southern Route’, through Nikolaev (Mykolaiv)-Rostow, but these are not the subject of the present article. Further, to the Romanian fieldpost collector these items do not look particularly unusual as they were always sent through either the Romanian or German fieldpost facilities in the Romanian operational area.

In Table 2 below, units transported to Stalingrad on this “Northern Route”, Cernăuți to Stalino in 1942, with their assigned OPMs, are identified .

Table 2

5 th Infantry Division	OPM 39 (departed Romania on 11 August?)
6th Infantry Division	OPM 140
7th Infantry Division	OPM 113 (arrived Stalin, 2 October)
9th Infantry Division	OPM 107
11th Infantry Division	OPM 136
13th Infantry Division	OPM 121
14th Infantry Division	OPM 24
15th Infantry Division	OPM 51 (arrived in Stalino, 2 October)
7th Cavalry Division	OPM 185
1st Armored Division	OPM 187 (arrived Stalino, 29 August)
2nd Army Corps ?	OPM 139
4th Army Corps	OPM 43 (transport between 9-17 September) see text
5th Army Corps	OPM 156 (the first unit to leave, on 7 August)



Figure 7
Reduced-rate military postcard, written on 27.8.1942 in Znamenka and sent the next day from the Romanian railway commander.

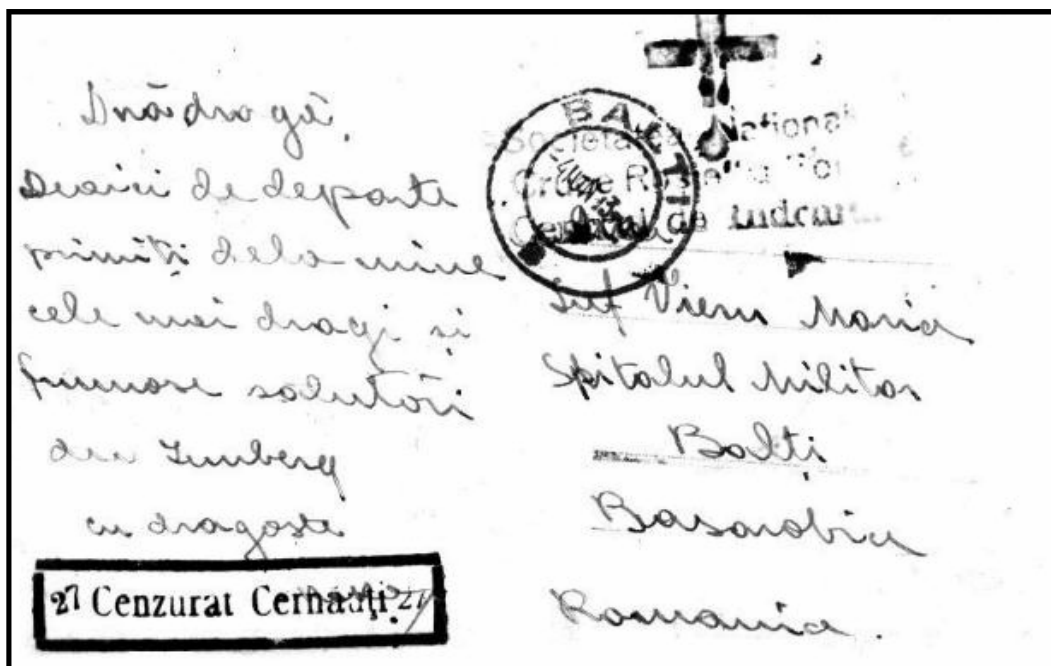


Figure 8
Photo-postcard (LEMBERG. Totalansicht), sent from here but cancelled only with the Red Cross marking, without any OPM cancel. Censored in Cernăuți by censor No. 27 and arrived at a Military Hospital in Bălți, Bessarabia on 4.6.1943.

CLASSIC UKRAINIAN TRIDENT ISSUES: AN OVERVIEW

Chapter 1: Classification and Listing

by Alexander Epstein

The listing of the Ukrainian tridents of 1918-1919 in modern catalogues, both general and special, is based generally on the pioneer research conducted in the twenties and thirties of the last century by German, Austrian and other philatelists from the U.P.V. (Ukraine Philatelistischen Verband / Ukrainian Philatelic Society) specializing on collecting these stamps, first of all by O-E. Peters, E. Arnold, H. Köhler, Dr. Seefeldner, G. Stohman, E. Vyrovyy, Dr. R. Seichter, etc.

According to this classification, the trident overprints are listed according to the postal districts that supposedly issued them. The listings were, and are, presently divided into six such districts: Katerynoslav, Kharkiv, Kyiv, Odesa, Poltava, and Podilia. Further, the tridents are divided into the so-called general or regional issues effected properly by the postal district administrations, and local issues made in some localities that were under the jurisdiction of the postal districts, the latter being listed either separately or under the corresponding district. These principles, adopted first by the Senf and Michel catalogs, were then retained in the well-known specialized Ukraine stamp catalogs and monographs compiled by R. Seichter [1] and C. Roberts (part II in common with R. Seichter) [2] as well as in the latest work by P. Bylen [3].

There were also some other groups of collectors that tried to follow their own way, such as C. Svenson [4], who, however, also held to the listing according to the postal districts. The same concerns A. Sapozhnikov and B. Babitski, philatelists from Soviet Ukraine, who in the mid-twenties compiled the Ukraine part of the series of stamp catalogs under the editorship of F. Chuchin, published in Moscow [5], as well as the listings in the standard stamp catalogues of Yvert & Tellier and Stanley Gibbons. All these listings differed from that of the U.P.V. mainly by the numbering and identification of tridents, particularly of Podilia tridents. For instance, the Stanley Gibbons catalog adds Chernihiv to the main listing, the Yvert & Tellier catalog designates Podilia Ia as Vinnytsia trident etc. Indeed, the attempts of revision and simplification of the U.P.V. classification for the Podilia tridents are taken up to the present, e.g. by I. Kuzych [6].

The main shortcoming of the studies mentioned above is that almost no official documents concerning the trident issues were available to students. The compilers of the Chuchin catalog were probably an exception, but evidently they had not bothered to familiarize themselves with available postal documents, although they had the opportunity. Only since the last years of 'perestroyka' in the former USSR, philatelic students in Ukraine, V. Mohilnyi [7], A. Ivakhno [8, 9] and G. Andrieshin [9, 10] among them, got access to the archives and found documents that shed new light on the circumstances connected with the trident stamp issues.

As established from these documents, it was the post/telegraph offices of the province centers, rather than postal (or, more specifically, postal/telegraphic) districts, that were charged by the Ukrainian Main Postal/Telegraphic Administration with overprinting the Imperial Arms stamps with tridents. As a matter of fact, there was no Poltava Postal/Telegraphic district in Ukraine in 1918, and the post/telegraph offices of Poltava Province were administered by the Katerynoslav Postal/Telegraphic District. There was also no Podilia Postal/Telegraphic District but an administration with the district rights that governed the post offices in Podilia Province, which had been subordinated earlier (till February 1918) to the Kishinev Postal/Telegraphic District).

On the other hand, there were the following province centers within the borders of the Ukrainian State in 1918 which, with some exceptions, gave name to their provinces: Kyiv, Chernihiv and Zhytomyr (Volyn Province) in the Kyiv Postal/Telegraphic District; Kharkiv in the Kharkiv Postal/Telegraphic District; Katerynoslav and Poltava in the Katerynoslav Postal/Telegraphic District; Odesa (Kherson Province) in the Odesa Postal/Telegraphic District; and Kamianets (Podilia Province) in the Podilia Postal/Telegraphic Administration. Overprinting of the stamps took place just in these towns, with the exception of Kamianets, which was replaced by Zhmerynka.

A few parts of some provinces, whose centers found themselves outside Ukraine, were supplied with stamps from the centers of

neighboring provinces. So, parts of Minsk Province were supplied from Kyiv and Zhytomyr, Mohiliv Province from Chernihiv, Kursk and Voronezh Provinces from Kharkiv, Tavria Province from Odesa, Bessarabia Province from Zhmerynka.

It should be mentioned also that only postal stationary cards were initially planned for overprinting/surcharging. The corresponding circular from the Head of the Katerynoslav Postal/Telegraphic District, No 21307/55 of July 4, 1918, distributed to all post/telegraph offices and branches of the district (similar circulars were issued also by Heads of other postal/telegraphic districts, e.g. that of Odesa [9], read [8]:

“According to the order of the Main Postal/Telegraphic Administration, I order to stop selling after receiving this circular the 5-kop postal stationery cards of Russian manufacture available at the office or branch.

Every post and post/telegraph branch has to send the remainders of the above-mentioned postcards with the first mail to those overbearing offices where they order against money postage stamps and postal stationery to supplement their stocks, and every post/telegraph office has to send at once to the **province center office** (stressed by me, A.E.) for overprinting all the 5-kop postcards, both available at the office by the day of receiving this order and received from the branches”.

An earlier circular, No 6610 of June 25, 1918 [8, 9], specified the said above reporting that some time afterwards the Kyiv Post Office would release for sale postcards overprinted by “the Ukrainian coat-of-arms and figure 10”.

Concerning Russian postal stationary cards of other face values (3 and 4 k, single and double), they were ordered by similar circulars to be overprinted in the same order somewhat later, namely in the first part of September 1918.

Other kinds of postal stationery, such as stamped envelopes and letter-cards, were officially overprinted considerably later, probably in December 1918, and only in Kyiv, where stocks had been drawn up from the whole of Ukraine. No documents concerning these items have yet been found in the archives. True, postal stationery (postcards, envelopes, letter-cards, wrappers, money cards) are also found overprinted with the tridents destined for stamps in Kyiv, Chernihiv, Kharkiv, Odesa, Poltava, and Zhmerynka, but their legal status and the time of

overprinting is not yet ascertained. Probably, these were the remainders not sent to Kyiv in due time.

As to stamps, the order for overprinting them came on August 12 to all Postal/Telegraph District Administrations of Ukraine. The corresponding circular sent by telegraph to Odesa read [10, 11]:

“From Kyiv 611/A B03 12/8 1736 Copies to Kyiv, Kharkiv, Katerynoslav, Kamianets Podilskyi. There was delivered to Ukraine from other states a great quantity of stamps of Russian issues that found themselves in private hands. Therefore, I order to see at once that the stamps of Russian issues would be overprinted by the Ukrainian coat-of-arms upon the pattern of the postal stationery cards but without any inscription. This overprint should be applied (to) the stamps in the place where the Russian coat-of-arms is located. To achieve this, I order **all province center and Zhmerynka (post telegraph) offices** (stressed by me – A.E.) to apply to their stamps the above-mentioned overprint. Every local office shall reserve for itself a stock of stamps (for) two weeks and send the remainder to the offices that supply them with the stamps, i.e. to the province center and Zhmerynka offices. The province center and Zhmerynka offices are to apply the above-mentioned overprint to these stamps and return them to where the stamps have been received. The local offices having received the overprinted stamps shall send them to the proper (post or post/telegraph) branches. After receiving the overprinted stamps, the branches shall return their unoverprinted stamps to the offices, which supplied them with the stamps. I order to carry out the overprinting in such a manner that it would be finished by September 1, and after this term all stamps of the Russian issue without the overprint are to be considered invalid. Announcements about all the above-said are to be posted up at the offices and displayed prominently. During the period of overprinting the stamps, postal stationery cards should be overprinted within the limits of actual need only. No. 2095”.

Actually, the process of overprinting was not finished by this date and the term was prolonged twice, finally to October 15, after which unoverprinted stamps became invalid for postage.

Although the above-cited circular was dated August 12, it is very probable that the stamps began to be overprinted in Kyiv still earlier, as

was the case with postal stationary cards. The earliest known cancellation on a trident stamp is 30 July 1918 at some post office or branch in Kyiv Province on a 3-kop stamp with Kyiv I trident (Fig. 1). If there was no adjustment error of the canceller, one may suppose that overprinted stamps were released first in Kyiv by the end of July 1918.



Figure 1

The so-called local issues present a special problem. Based on the circular cited-above, V. Mohylnyi [7] considers local issues illegal. Also, C. Svenson [4] regarded them, with minor exceptions, as postal forgeries. However, genuinely used money transfer order and parcel cards found franked with stamps of these local issues evidence to the fact of normal postal use, at least, of most of them, although some might actually be postal forgeries. The reasons for the appearance of such issues can be different; probably there existed even official permissions not yet found in the archives.

Various local trident overprints may have different status. Some are found with postmarks of not only the post/telegraph office that issued them but also of the offices or branches subordinated to that office. This concerns, at least, the Sarny II trident issue. Others are known used solely by the post/telegraph office or branch that overprinted them. In this connection, some

bewilderment is called forth by the issues of post/telegraph sub-offices in some large towns (e.g. Kharkiv).

The classification and listing of trident overprints on stamps and postal stationery proposed hereunder is based on the facts cited above. The division according to the post/telegraph districts is retained, but the main stress is laid on the post/telegraph office (or branch in the case of local tridents) that overprinted them for use within the corresponding province borders. The latter did not exclude supplying neighboring provinces with overprinted stamps and postal stationery, as did, for instance, the Kyiv Main Post/Telegraph Office for Volyn Province, etc. An important feature of this classification is that the tridents of Chernihiv and Zhytomyr are considered regional rather than local issues. To avoid any confusion, the overprint type designations for stamps are those commonly used, e.g., in the Seichter catalog and modern editions of the Michel catalogue, although some need to be revised from the factual point of view (e.g., those of sub-types of the Odesa handstamp overprints). Since there is no generally adopted system of designations for postal stationery overprints, a system similar to that for stamps, but with the letter "S" added for the special postal stationery overprints, is used in the listing proposed.

I. Kyiv Postal/Telegraphic District

1. Kyiv Province (including parts of Minsk Province):
 - A. Regional issues: Kyiv I (many sub-types in bright violet), II (8 subtypes in bright violet, blue and black), III, SI, SII (in bright violet), SIII and SIV.
 - B. Local issues: Nova Pryluka, Zibuliv
 - C. Postal forgeries: probably Kyiv IIIC, Kyiv A to D (Seichter)
 - D. Trial overprints postally used: Kyiv E (Seichter)
2. Chernihiv Province (including parts of Mohiliv Province):
 - A. Regional issues: Chernihiv I (Kyiv I in gray- or dull black), II (Kyiv SII without the 10 kop surcharge), SII in blue and black (?)
 - B. Local issues: Baturyn, Homel, Novobilitsia I and II, Novozibkiv, Zlinka.
3. Volyn Province (including parts of Minsk Province):
 - A. Regional issues: Zhytomyr I (Kyiv I in dull violet, probably also gray-green), III
 - B. Local issues:
 - a. District issues: Sarny II, probably some more of those listed under "b"
 - b. Post office or branch issues: Barashi, Beresno, Fasova, Kuniv, Narodichi, Ovruch, Pliskovo, Pochaiv, Sarny I, Sinyavka, Velyki Dederkali, Toporishche, Zvenihorodka
 - C. Postal forgeries: probably Zhytomyr II

II. Kharkiv Postal/Telegraphic District

1. Kharkiv Province (including parts of Kursk and Voronezh Provinces):
 - A. Regional issues: Kharkiv I to III (all with sub-types), SI
 - B. Local issues: Kharkiv IV to VII
 - C. Postal forgeries: probably Lyubotin or Kharkiv VIII (Seichter) and Kharkiv single handstamp overprints (Svenson, early Michel catalogs)

III. Katerynoslav Postal Telegraphic District

1. Katerynoslav Province:
 - A. Regional issues: Katerynoslav I and II, SI and SII (both with sub-types)
 - B. Local issues: possibly Liubimovski Post (Chuchin catalog)
 - C. Postal forgeries: probably Katerynoslav single handstamp overprint (Seichter)
2. Poltava Province:
 - A. Regional issues: Poltava I (subtypes) and II, SI and SII.
 - B. Local issues: Hanebne, Konstantinohrad

IV. Odesa Postal/Telegraphic District

1. Kherson Province (incl. parts of Tavria Province):
 - A. Regional issues: Odesa I to IV, V and VI (both latter with 4 and 2 sub-types, respectively), SI and SII (both with sub-types)
 - B. Local issues: Lyubashivka, Velyki Tokmak, probably Ochakiv
 - C. Postal forgeries: probably Odesa I as handstamp, Odesa IVC (Roberts), etc.

V. Podilia Postal/Telegraphic Administration

1. Podilia Province (including parts of Bessarabia Province):
 - A. Regional issues: Podilia I to XVI (almost all with sub-types), SI.
 - B. Local issues: Beresivka, Nemiya, probably also Nemercha (Podilia IIIaa) and some other subtypes from I to XVI
 - C. Postal forgeries: the so-called 'Vinnytsia-Popov' type

VI. Issues of unidentified origin having had postal use, e.g. the so-called Kherson local issue

VII. Bogus issues originating in the period under consideration, e.g. Bakhmut, probably also the so called Homel-Townsend types

The particular tridents will be discussed in detail in the subsequent chapters.

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AN INTERESTING COIN COLLECTION

by Ivan Nizovets
translated by Jaroslav Popadiuk

It is difficult to tell who exactly in the higher echelons of authority in Ukraine enjoys collecting the numerous anniversary coins, but I must thank him for not forgetting those ordinary collectors who, in the current environment, gain satisfaction from collecting small change coins.

Not having the opportunity to even glance at the expensive collectable hryven coins leads one to focus attention on small change coins. The monetary unit of Ukraine is the hryvnia which is divided into one hundred kopecks. Since the original minting of coins in 1992 it has emerged that there are a number of varieties in circulation, specifically: ten coins of 50 kopeck value, nine of 25 kopeck value and sixteen coins of 10 kopeck value. I acquired the coins directly from general circulation. It is important to emphasise that among each face value there are no two identical coins!

As I had always thought a country required its coins to be minted identically, my understandable first impression was that the majority of these coins are counterfeit. However, after further analysis and determination of their authenticity, it became quite clear that my conclusion was incorrect. The coins can be divided into twelve groups according to the technical quality of the stamping process, details of which are provided below.

Generally speaking, it seems that in Ukraine there is no adherence to elementary orderliness in the process of minting small coins. Considering that they were minted in 1992, reminted in 1994 and then again in 1996, it appears that the National Bank of Ukraine (NBU) was already aware of discrepancies in the coins during the period of the introduction of the new national currency. This is confirmed by information in its own press release “New Currency: What Does it Look Like?” which was published in the government newspaper “Uryadovyi Kurier” No. 165 dated 3 September 1996 and states the following: “In case of the absence of protective elements on bank notes or coins or if they do not meet specified standards the bank note must be brought to the attention of the National Bank of Ukraine or the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine.”

At the time I could not understand such reasoning: if it is not necessary to present to the appropriate authorities a **coin** which fails to meet specified standards, why on earth is it deemed necessary to present a **bank note**?

In any case there will exist for many years small, silent circular witnesses to the fact that our country lacked an orderly process even in the minting of coins. We still have no orderly process. Such are our times – reforms without responsibility.

By the way, it is only as an amateur collector that I am aware of the situation concerning our coins. As a citizen of Ukraine I have received no official information which, if it exists, has not been publicised in the mass media (although we know about the minting of 1 kopeck coins in 1996, 2000 and 2001).

It should also be noted that after my letter to the NBU there was a significant reduction the number of “non-standard” coins in circulation. Collectors take note! I now present some details for numismatists.

Groups of coins and their obverse and reverse characteristic features.

Group 1 – “Introductory”: Represented by coins from the period of the introduction of the hryvnia (coins from this era were put aside by the author).

Group 2 – “Corrected”: On the obverse the ends of the upper oak leaves are fashioned symmetrically.

Group 3 – “Trial”: Very fine berries on the reverse.

Group 4 – “Rough”: Reverse is “counterfeit-like” variant.

Group 5 – “Detailed”: Very thoroughly stamped seeds on the obverse.

Group 6 – “Intermediate”: Has modified obverse.

Group 7 – “Mixed”: Has rather odd combination of obverse and reverse.

Group 8 – “Handicraft”: Intermediate variant between groups 7 and 9.

Group 9 – “Counterfeit-like”: Stamping on the reverse is distinguished by its poor execution.

Group 10 – “Counterfeit”: Reverse is similar to groups 1, 2, 5, 7 and 11 but with some differences.

Group 11 – “Compromise”: Uses reverse of Group 1 on a “specimen” obverse.

Group 12 – “Specimen”: Coins of future years mintage.

Groups 1, 6, 9 and 12 are complete, having full sets of coins in 10, 25 and 50 kopeck values.

Several groups are incomplete: Groups 3 and 11 are represented by 10 and 25 kopeck coins, Group 7 by 10 and 50 kopeck coins, Group 8 by a 50 kopeck coin and Groups 2, 4, 5 and 10 are all represented by 10 kopeck coins. The incomplete groups “hint” at the likely existence within them of coins with missing face values. Coins from Groups 1 and 12 are easy to find as they are sufficiently widespread. Coins from the other groups are found less frequently.

Common characteristic obverse features according to groups

(except for the 50 kopeck coin in Group 1 which is included here only to signify the introductory period of the hryvnia. From its technical execution it completely corresponds to Group 12. It is the one coin which having been issued with the introduction of the hryvnia was also reproduced in following years).

Groups 1 – 5: The central element is a wide and sharply defined trident.

Groups 6 – 8: The trident is wide and bluntly shaped.

Groups 9 – 12: The trident is narrow and sharply defined.

Groups 1 – 8: Oak leaves are convex.

Groups 9 – 12: Oak leaves are in relief.

Groups 1 – 8: Awns emerge directly from the ears of wheat.

Groups 9 – 12: There is a space before the awns emerge from the ears.

Groups 1 – 5 and 9 – 12: The lower oak leaf is placed over the top leaf.

Groups 6 – 8: The leaves are divided by a very pronounced line. As well, the 50 kopeck coin in Group 7 has its own version of this feature on its obverse, the result of defective stamping: between the oak leaves on the right the dividing line is practically absent. This defect is reproduced on the obverse of the 50 kopeck coin in Group 8.



Basic designs of the 10, 25, and 50-kopeck small change coins currently in circulation in Ukraine.

Characteristic features on the reverse of the 50 kopeck coins.

Coins in Groups 9 and 12 have various types of edges. The coin in group 12 with fine edging is identical to the coin in Group 1.

In Groups 6, 7 and 12 near the second letter “k” in “kopyok” there are five berries in a cluster whereas in Groups 8 and 9 there are four berries in a cluster.

In Groups 7 and 8 the obverse is stamped as per the 25 kopeck coin from Group 6.

Characteristic features on the reverse of the 25 kopeck coin.

Coins in Groups 1 and 12 differ in their edging. In Groups 1, 9 and 11 the berries are large whereas in Groups 3, 6 and 12 they are small.

Group 9 is also entitled to be labeled “counterfeit-like”- the berries are large with a point in the middle of each berry in the cluster. As well, in the cluster above the digit “2” three berries are located on the left, one on the right and another is joined to the ornamental leaf whereas on all other coins there are three berries on the left and two on the right which are separated from the ornamentation.

Characteristic features on the reverse of the 10 kopeck coins.

Coins in Groups 6, 9, 10 and 12 have various types of edges.

Coins in Groups 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10 and 11 have larger berries and the cluster above the digit “0” is located closer to the “0” than in the other groups.

In Groups 1, 2, 5, 7, 10 and 11 under the first letter “o” in “kopyok” there are four berries per cluster.

In Groups 3, 6 and 12 there are also four berries per cluster but they are placed differently.

In Groups 4 and 9 there are five berries per cluster.

In Groups 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11 and 12 on the left of the first “k” there are four berries per cluster but in Groups 4 and 9 there are six berries per cluster.

In Groups 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11 and 12 under the second “o” there are four berries per cluster but in Groups 4 and 9 there are five berries per cluster.

In Groups 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11 and 12 on the right of the second “k” there are four berries per cluster but in Groups 4 and 9 there are six berries per cluster.

In Group 10 the lower portion of the cluster of six berries located to the right of the digit “0” is placed closer to the ornamentation than in the comparable Groups 1, 2, 5, 7 and 11.

To summarize according to stamping: the 50 kopeck coins have three types of obverse and two types of reverse, the 25 kopeck coins have three types of obverse and three types of reverse and the 10 kopeck coins have five types of obverse and five types of reverse.

I stress that the number of examples referred to in this article is not exhaustive: somewhere there may well be 50 kopeck coins in Groups 2, 3, 4, 5, 10 and 11, 25 kopeck coins in Groups 2, 4, 5, 7, 8 and 10 and 10 kopeck coins in Group 8, all displaying the technical execution characteristic of their particular groups.

Finally, it should be noted that no research was conducted into the metal used nor was there any verification of the size and weight of the respective coins.

Editor - the author is a resident of Mariupol, Ukraine. He submitted color illustrations of many of the above mentioned coins, however, due to technical problems these illustrations were unable to be provided within this article. The editor has provided basic illustrations of the 10, 25, and 50 kopeck coins to serve as an identifying measure. The author's original Ukrainian text has been provided on the following pages.

Цікава колекція

Іван Нізовець

Я не знаю, хто саме з вищих ешелонів сучасної влади полюбляє колекціонувати численні ювілейні гривні, але хочу подякувати за те, що там, нагорі, не забувають про простих колекціонерів. Тих, хто в сучасних умовах вдовольняється колекціонуванням копійчок.

Не маючи можливості хоча б оком кинути на дорогі колекційні гривні доводиться гострити зір на дрібноті. І ось що виявляється: серед металевих грошей 1992 року карбування одночасно присутні в обороті десять півгривень, дев'ять чвертьгривневиків та шістнадцять десюльчиків. Ці монети, я, каюсь, тимчасово вилучив з обігу. Варто підкреслити – серед кожного номіналу немає двох однакових монет!

Я чомусь завжди вважав, що державі потрібно карбувати монети схожі одна на одну як дві краплини води, тому, цілком зрозумілою здалась перша думка, що більшість з цих монет є фальшивими. Але подальше вивчення матеріалу досить прозоро натякнуло на хибність такого висновку. За технікою використаних штемпелів всі монети можна розбити на дванадцять груп (детальна інформація надається нижче).

Взагалі якось виходить так, що в державі не дотримуються елементарного порядку в карбуванні дрібної монети. А якщо зважити на те, що монети карбувались у 1992 році, підкарбовувались у 1994, докарбовувались у 1996, то, значить, НБУ під час впровадження гривні вже знав про існуючі розбіжності в дрібних монетах, коли друкував інформацію своєї прес-служби “Нові гроші: які вони є?” в “Урядовому кур’єрі” № 165 від 3 вересня 1996 року.

І це підтверджується кінцівкою тієї інформації: “У разі відсутності на банкноті чи монеті захисних елементів або їх невідповідності вказаним вимогам банкноту слід пред’явити в установу Національного банку або Міністерства внутрішніх справ України”. Тоді мені це здавалось просто незрозумілим: якщо, наприклад, *монета* не буде відповідати вказаним вимогам, то навіщо у відповідні установи треба пред’являти *банкноту*?

Як би там не було, існують німі, маленькі і кругленькі свідки, які будуть свідчити і через роки, що навіть в такій справі як карбування грошей, в нашій країні порядку не було. Тобто зараз немає. Час такий. Реформи. Безвідповідальність. До речі, про ситуацію з цими монетами я знаю тільки як колекціонер-аматор, а як громадянин України знаходжусь у невідомості. Тобто офіційна інформація, якщо така взагалі існує, не поширювалась у засобах масової інформації (відомо про карбування монет вартістю в одну копійку у 1996, 2000 та 2001 роках).

Слід також відмітити тенденцію до різкого скорочення кількості “ненормативних монет” після листа до НБУ з описом цієї ситуації. Хлопці-колекціонери, поспішайте! А тепер родзинки для нумізматів. Подивиться, панове, колекція того вартя.

Групи монет та характерні ознаки аверсів та реверсів монет.

- Група 1 – “впроваджувальна”: представлена монетами часу впровадженні гривні (були свого часу відкладені автором).
- Група 2 – “виправлена”: на аверсі верхні кінцівки дубових листків зроблено симетричними.
- Група 3 – “пробна”: реверс з дрібними ягодами.
- Група 4 – “хуліганська”: варіант “фальшивомонетницького” реверсу.
- Група 5 – “деталізована”: дбайливо викарбувані зернятка на аверсі.
- Група 6 – “проміжна”: із зміною аверсу.
- Група 7 – “змішана”: з дивними сумішами аверсів та реверсів.
- Група 8 – “кустарна” – проміжний варіант між 7 та 9.
- Група 9 – “фальшивомонетницька”: штемпелі реверсів відрізняються своєю нахабністю.
- Група 10 – “підроблена”: реверс схожий на реверси груп 1, 2, 5, 7, 11 але відрізняється.
- Група 11 – “компромісна”: використання реверсу групи 1 на “зразковому” аверсі.
- Група 12 – “зразкова” для монет наступних років карбування.

Чотири повних групи 1, 6, 9, 12, в яких є монети в півгривні, чвертьгривні та десять копійок, три неповних: 3, 11 представлені чвертьгривневиками та десюльчиками і 7 з півгривнею та десюльчиком, в групі 8 одна півгривня, а групах 2, 4, 5, 10 представлені монетками в десять копійок. Неповні групи “натякають” на ймовірне існування в них відсутніх номіналів монет.

Монети груп 1 та 12 кожен може легко знайти безпосередньо в своєму гаманці – вони достатньо поширені. Монети інших груп зустрічаються рідше.

Характерні загальні ознаки аверсів по групах (крім півгривні в групі 1, яка занесена до цієї групи тільки за ознакою часу впровадження гривні, хоча за технікою виконання повністю відповідає групі 12 – це єдина монета, яка, з’явившись при впровадженні гривні, також повторюється в монетах наступних років):

В групах 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 – центральний елемент Тризуба широкий, гострий; 6, 7, 8 – центральний елемент Тризуба широкий, затуплений; 9, 10, 11, 12 – центральний елемент Тризуба вузький, гострий.

В групах 1 – 8: дубові листки опуклі, 9 – 12: листки рельєфні.

В групах 1 – 8: остюки виходять прямо з колосків, 9 – 12: остюки виходять з колосків через проміжок.

В групах 1 – 5, 9 – 12: нижчий дубовий листок розміщується понад верхнім, 6 – 8: листки розділені поглибленою лінією. До того, півгривня в групі 7 має свій різновид по аверсу з дефектом штемпеля: між правими дубовими листками розділяюча лінія практично відсутня. Цей дефект повторюється на аверсі півгривні в групі 8.

Характерні ознаки реверсів півгривневиків:

Монети в групах 9 та 12 мають різновиди по гуртах. Монета в групі 12 тотожна монеті в групі 1.

Біля останньої літери “к” в слові “копійок” у монет груп 6, 7, 12 – п’ять ягід в гроні, 8, 9 – чотири ягоди в гроні.

В групах 7 та 8 аверс зі штемпеля чвертки групи 6.

Характерні ознаки реверсів чверток:

Монети у групах 1, 12 відрізняються по гурту. В 1, 9, 11 – ягоди великі, 3, 6 та 12 – ягоди дрібні. А 9 група дає всі підстави називати групу “фальшивомонетницькою” – ягоди великі з пятакою посередині кожної ягоди по гронах, крім того в гроні над цифрою “2” розміщено три ягоди зліва, одна справа та ще одна об’єднана з листом орнаменту, хоча на всіх інших монетах три ягоди зліва і дві справа окремо від орнаменту.

Характерні ознаки реверсів десюльчиків:

Монети в групах 6, 9, 10 та 12 мають різновиди по гурту. На монетах груп 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 11 ягоди більші, і грона над цифрою “0” розміщено ближче до цієї цифри ніж в інших групах.

Під першою літерою “о” в слові “копійок” у монет груп 1, 2, 5, 7, 10, 11 чотири ягоди в гроні, у 3, 6, та 12 також чотири, але розміщені інакше, а у 4, 9 – по п’ять ягід в гроні.

Зліва від першої літери “к” у 1 – 3, 5 – 7, 10 – 12 по чотири ягоди в гроні, а у 4, 9 – по шість ягід в гроні.

Під другою літерою “о” у 1 – 3, 5 – 7, 10 – 12 по чотири ягоди в гроні, а у 4, 9 – по п’ять ягід в гроні.

Справа від другої літери “к” у 1 – 3, 5 – 7, 10 – 12 по чотири ягоди в гроні, а у 4, 9 – по шість ягід в гроні.

В групі 10 нижній край грона з шести ягід справа від цифри “0” розміщено ближче до орнаменту ніж в схожих до неї групах 1, 2, 5, 7, 11.

Підсумок по використаним штемпелям: півгривневика – *три зразки аверсів та два реверсів*, чвертки – *три зразки аверсів та три реверсів*, десюльчики – *п’ять зразків аверсів та п’ять реверсів*. Повторимо, що кількість приведених зразків монет далеко не є вичерпною: можливо десь існують півгривневика груп 2 – 5, 10, 11, чвертки в групах 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10 і десюльчики в групі 8 із технікою виконання своїх груп.

Наостанок слід додати, що в цій статті не приводяться дані по металу та не перевірялись розміри та вага монет.

THE USE OF FRANKING STAMPS ON CORRESPONDENCE

by Oleksandr Alin
translated by Jaroslav Popadiuk

Under the conditions of the market economy the Ukrainian state postal communications firm *Ukrposhta* is seeking ways to expand the range of services it can provide to its clients. One function of the postal service is the acceptance and carriage of correspondence bearing the imprint (franking stamp) of a marking machine (Figs. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5). As well, the following is permitted under *Regulations for the Provision of Postal Communications Services* (approved by Resolution No. 1515 of the Cabinet Ministers of Ukraine dated 04.10.2000):

“Paragraph 25: Legal entities and physical persons may pay for the forwarding of correspondence by the state communications firm (the national carrier) by using marking machines which must be registered in accordance with the objectives of the post office at which they are in service.

The use of marking machines is permitted only after the conclusion of an agreement which conforms to the objectives of the post office and the payment in advance by the holder of the machine of the postage due for the carriage of the correspondence.”

Instructions for the correct use of marking machines were approved by Order No. 81 of the State Communications and Information Committee of Ukraine dated 25.05.2000. It is also important to note that the advance payment of postage should be made by the holder of the marking machine irrespective of the quantity of mail to be sent. Examples of some franking stamps used by legal entities are depicted in Figs. 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10. The franking stamps of these machines do not bear the imprint of a registration number. The examples of franking stamps depicted in Figs. 2, 5, 11 and 12 are from more recent marking machines and have imprints of registration numbers from the series IH 000000.

Payment of postage for correspondence bearing franking stamps is assessed in accordance with the *Basic Tariffs for Essential Communications Services*, approved by Order No. 23 of the State Communications and Information Committee of Ukraine dated 07.02.2000 and registered in the Ukrainian Ministry of Justice under Registration No.

308/4529 dated 29.05.2000. Chapter 8 Clause 13 is entitled *Tariffs for Parties Despatching by Post and for the Carriage of Products of Domestic Publishing Houses*. In accordance with Clause 13 (45) payment for the basic standard letter weighing up to 20 grams is set at 0-24 hryven (Figs. 2, 13, 14, 15 and 16). These tariffs are used for the despatch of standard letters in quantities exceeding 2000 units from one sender in one transaction. Other discounts of postage, apart from those cited in Clause 13, are not provided for.

After concluding agreements with legal entities and physical persons, the oblast managements of *Ukrposhta*, in putting into practice Order No. 23, took into account the quantity of items in one transaction from one sender and gave greater discounts on postage (Fig 17).

At present it is a widespread practice to have covers imprinted with information about the agreement between a particular post office and a legal entity or physical person according to which the postage was paid (Fig. 18).

The author is grateful for the assistance received in the preparation of this article from the director of the Chernihiv Post Office V.V. Nelip and the employees of the Lviv Post Office.

References:

1. ***Regulations for the Provision of Postal Services*** approved by Resolution No. 1515 of the Cabinet Ministers of Ukraine dated 04.10.2000.
2. Instructions for the correct use of franking machines in the postal system approved by Order No.81 of the State Communications Committee of Ukraine dated 25.05.2000.
3. ***Basic Tariffs for Essential Communications Services*** approved by Order No. 23 of the State Communications Committee of Ukraine dated 07.02.2000.

The author is a member of the Association of Philatelists of Ukraine and resides in Chernihiv, Ukraine.

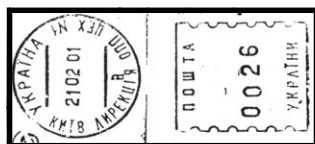


Figure 1

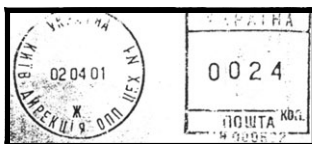


Figure 2

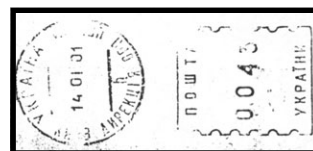


Figure 3

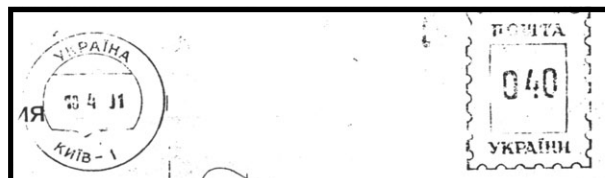


Figure 4

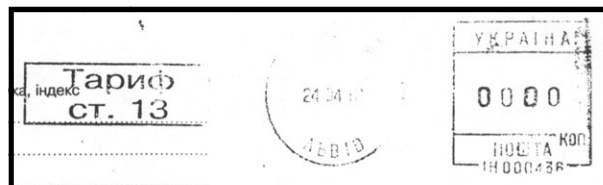


Figure 5

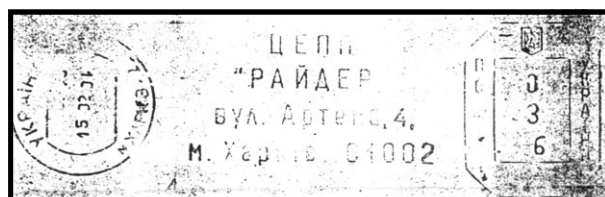


Figure 6

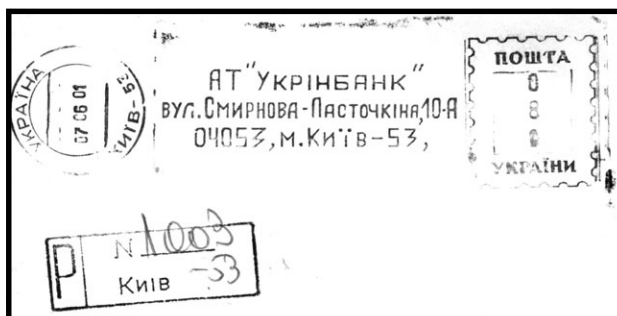


Figure 7

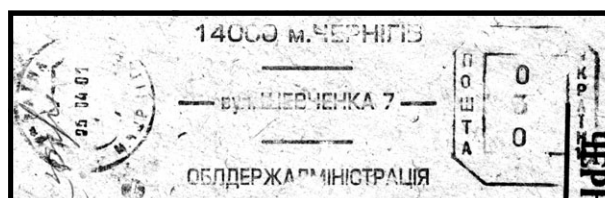


Figure 8

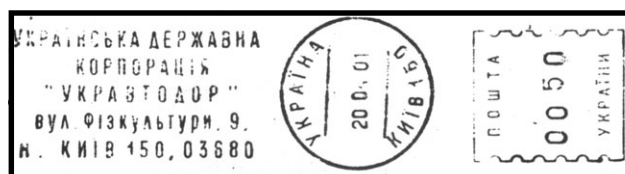


Figure 9

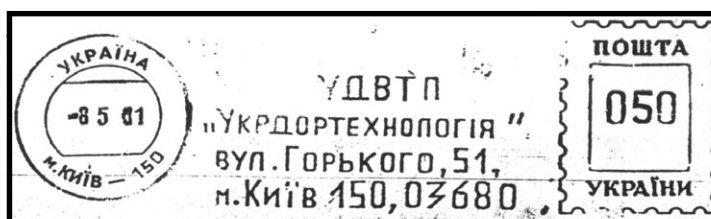


Figure 9

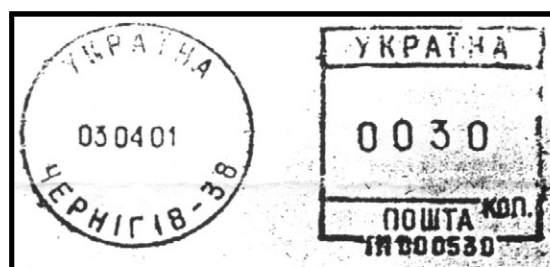


Figure 10

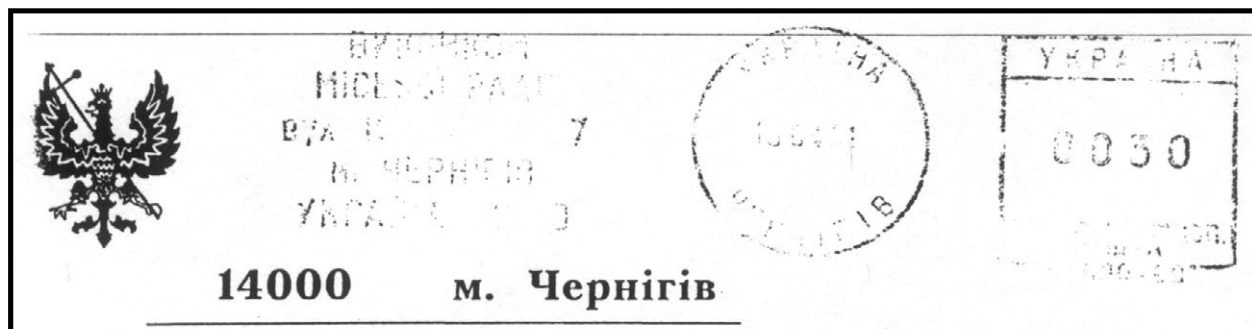


Figure 11

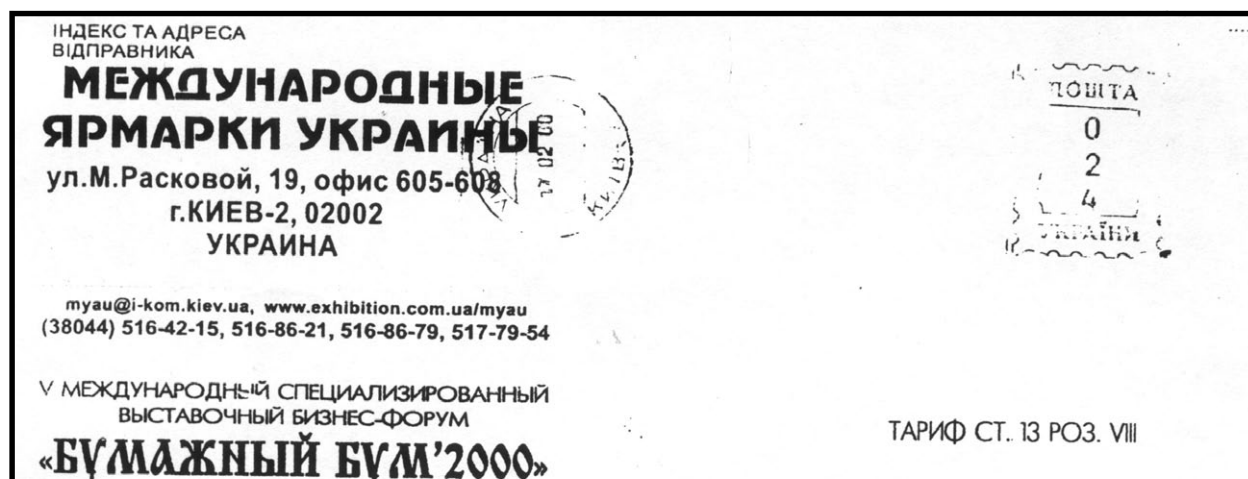


Figure 12

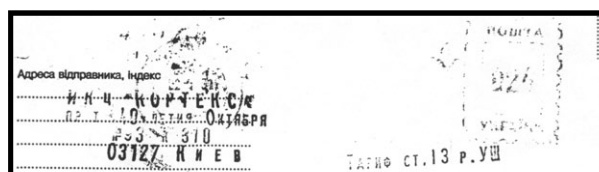


Figure 13

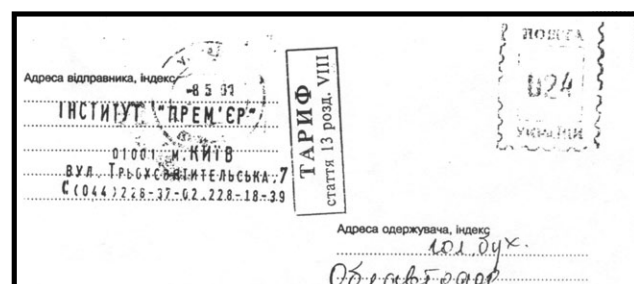


Figure 14

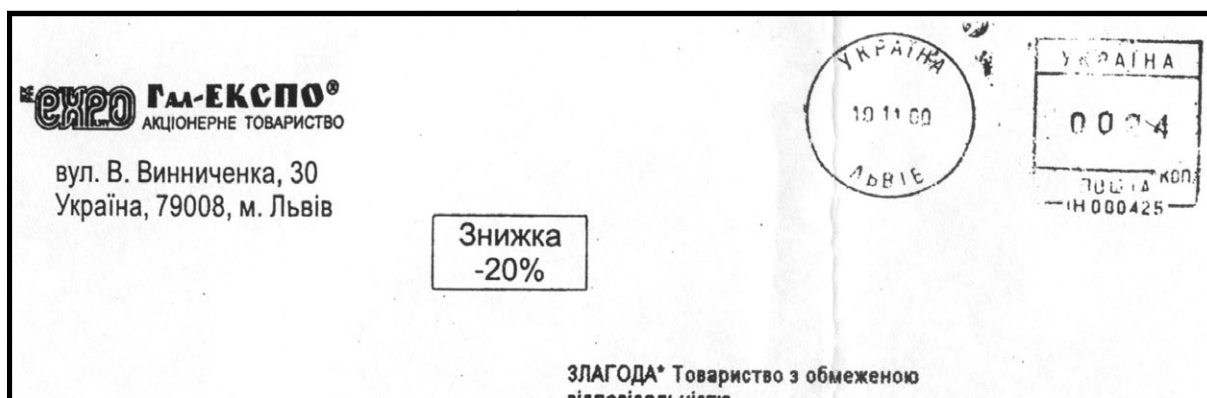


Figure 15

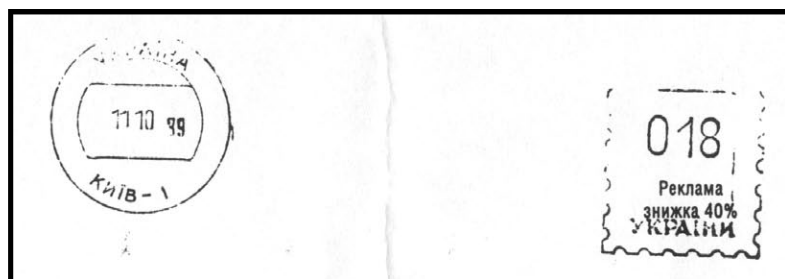


Figure 16



Figure 17

Note: illustrations have been reduced to fit onto two pages.

FLOWERS FINISH FIRST

by Inger Kuzych

The final results of the balloting for the 2001 Narbut Prize for the best-designed Ukrainian stamp of last year are in and the winner is the spectacular souvenir sheet depicting Wildflowers of Ukraine, Figure 1. With so many excellent philatelic designs released in 2000, it was expected that the voting would be very close. However, the floral souvenir sheet finished well ahead and garnered 24% of the ballots, 11 percentage points better than the second place finisher, an equally striking souvenir sheet of St. Volodymyr the Great (ca. 956 - 1015), Figure 2.

As has been the pattern in recent years, four stamp issues ended up dominating the voting. In third place, with 12% of the votes, was the Ukrainian Easter Egg (pysanky) souvenir sheet (Figure 3), while in fourth place (11%) were the 2000 stamp issues of the ongoing Ukrainian Hetmans (Cossack leaders) series, which last year depicted Hetmans Apostol (1654-1734) and Samoilovych (? - 1690), Figure 4. No other stamp release received more than 6% of the votes.

Souvenir sheets then, remain a very popular format with the voting public. This was the fourth year in a row that such a sheet finished ahead in the competition. However, unlike the previous three years, this year's winner did not depict a historic topic.

The designer of this charming and unusual floral philatelic release is Kateryna Shtanko. She will receive the \$250 Narbut Prize honorarium and a special award certificate. Ms. Shtanko is only the second female designer to win the Prize since its inception in 1993.

The Narbut Prize is now recognized as the premier philatelic art award in Ukraine. A record number of votes were received this year from Ukraine (some 55% of all participants), spurred in part by the fact that e-mail ballots were accepted for the first time. Interestingly, the Ukrainian ballots slightly favored the Ukrainian Hetmans stamps more than the floral or pysanky souvenir sheets. In voting from the rest of the world, though, the Wildflowers were by far the favorite issue.



Figure 1
Wildflowers of Ukraine souvenir sheet (reduced 75%)

This year's winning design is unusual in that it is composed of 10 stamps, considerably more than the two, three, or four typically found on most souvenir sheets. Since each stamp is valued at 30 kopiok, the total value for the sheet is 300 kopiok or 3 hryven (about 50 cents US). Only 50,000 of these sheets were printed, about the same as for most recent Ukrainian souvenir sheets. Because of its new status as the Narbut Prize winner, however, and because of its obvious beauty and collectability, it would not be surprising if this particular item becomes more highly sought after and eventually increases in value.

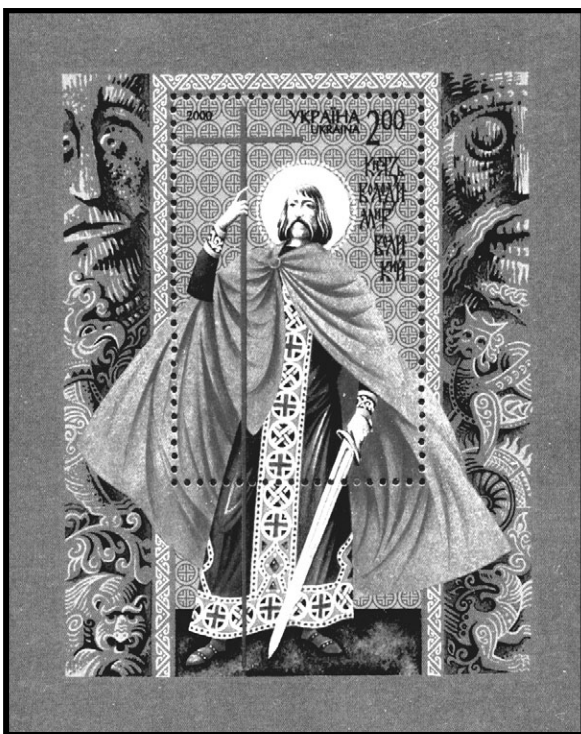


Figure 2
St. Volodymyr the Great



Figure 4a
Hetman Danylo Apostol



Figure 4b
Hetman Ivan Samoilovich

The souvenir sheet is meant to highlight the natural beauty of Ukraine, both floral and human. Flowers are often used to adorn Ukrainian women, particularly at festivals or celebrations. Six of the depicted wildflowers compose the floral wreath worn by a hazel-eyed young lady. (Such dark-colored eyes (*kari ochi*) are frequently lauded in Ukrainian song and poetry.)



Figure 3
Ukrainian Easter Eggs (reduced 75%)

Starting in the upper left, the flowers in the oversized headdress are marigolds (*chornobryvtsi*), camomile (*romashka*), hollyhocks (*malva*), and the field poppy (*mak*). The middle left stamp shows periwinkle minor (*barvinok*). This plant has a special significance at Ukrainian weddings. Wreaths of periwinkle are made for both the bride and groom. The middle right stamp displays the last flower in the headdress, the bachelor's button or cornflower (*voloshka synyia*). It is frequently used to decorate wedding wreaths.

The remaining four wildflowers making up the "field" in front of the central figure are: morning glory (*krucheni panychi*), lilies (*lileya*), peonies (*pivonia*), and bluebells (*dzvonyky*).

Readers wishing to examine all of last year's stamps (or the issues from any year) in full color, may do so online at The Ukrainian Electronic Stamp Album (www.compumart.ab.ca/vesna/menu.htm). Click on 2000 or on any other year's issues you may wish to check out.

YOUR CHANCE TO CHOOSE: A SPECIAL NARBUT PRIZE

In honor of Ukraine's 10th anniversary of independence in 2001 and the approaching first decade of Ukrainian stamp production early in 2002, Dr. Inger Kuzych, the initiator of the Narbut Prize, has decided to sponsor a special running of this prestigious award. This time, however, the Prize will go to the best Ukrainian stamp or souvenir sheet of the past ten years. The "champion" stamp design will be selected from all of the past Narbut Prize winners, making this a "Champion of Champions" competition.

The Narbut Prize has been awarded annually since 1993 for the best-designed stamp of the previous year. Below are the winners of the Narbut Prize since its inception:

- 1993a – Larysa Koren, *150th Anniversary of the Birth of Mykola Lysenko* (shared with 1993b)
 1993b – Oleh Snarskyi, *National Flag and Trident Emblem of Ukraine* (shared with 1993a).
 1994 – Yurii Lohvyn, *75th Anniversary of Ukraine's First Postage Stamps*.
 1995 – Serhii Bieliaiev, *160th Anniversary of Kyiv University* (stamp and souvenir sheet)
 1996 – Yurii Lohvyn, *Hetmans of Ukraine* series (Hetmans Sahaidachnyi, Khmelnytskyi and Mazepa).
 1997 – Serhii Bieliaiev, *150th Anniversary of the Kyiv University Astronomical Observatory* (stamp triptych).
 1998 – Volodymyr Taran and Oleksandr Kharuk, *The Founders of Kyiv* (Europa souvenir sheet).
 1999 – Volodymyr Taran, Oleksandr Kharuk, Serhii Kharuk, and Vitalii Kozachenko; *350th Anniversary of the Beginning of the Ukrainian Struggle for Freedom Under Bohdan Khmelnytskyi* (souvenir sheet).
 2000 – Oleksii Shtanko, *Yaroslav the Wise* (souvenir sheet).
 2001 – Kateryna Shtanko, *Wildflowers of Ukraine* (souvenir sheet).

The selection process for this special Narbut Prize will be the same as in past years. Votes can be sent in by regular mail (the enclosed ballot paper should be completed) or e-mail to:

Mr. Borys Fessak

1626 10th Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11215 USA



1993a - National Flag and Trident Emblem of Ukraine



1993b - 150th Anniversary of the Birth of Mykola Lysenko



1994 - 75th Anniversary of Ukraine's First Postage Stamps



1995 - 160th Anniversary of Kyiv University





1996 - Hetmans of Ukraine series
(Hetman Petro Konashevych-Sahaidachnyi)



1996 - Hetmans of Ukraine series
(Hetman Bohdan Khmelnytskyi)



1996 - Hetmans of Ukraine series
(Hetman Ivan Mazepa)



1997 - 150th Anniversary of the Kyiv University
Astronomical Observatory



1998 - The Founders of Kyiv (reduced)



1999 - 350th Anniversary of the Beginning of the Ukrainian Struggle for
Freedom Under Bohdan Khmelnytskyi (reduced)



2000 - Yaroslav the Wise (reduced)

PATRIOTIC CANCELLATIONS ON WESTERN UKRAINE COVERS

by Jerry G. Tkachuk

Many post offices in Western Ukraine, elated by the proclamation of independence, Ukrainianized cancellations on stamps at their own initiative. This resulted in various inscriptions, designs, and various stylized emblems which they deemed appropriate for the occasion. There was no formal approval or intervention by the higher postal authorities. The most frequently encountered emblems were the lion of Lviv and Halychyna (Galicia) and the trident—the national emblem of the united Ukraine.

The cover at right bears lion cancellations and is beige in color, measuring 116 x 90 mm. It is addressed to an attorney in Stanyslaviv (modern day Ivano-Frankivsk). Both Austrian stamps are cancelled with a circular “Post Office Naraiv” cancel in the Ukrainian language and the emblem of a lion inside the circle. A registration sticker “NARAJOW №. 202” is attached to the cover.



The cover at left bears trident cancellations and is also beige in color, measuring 118 x 95 mm. It was mailed to an internee camp in Kolomyia. The circular cancellation depicts a trident inside a “Post Office Kornev” cancel; inscription is in Ukrainian.

It is noteworthy that neither cover has cancellation dates on them. As a rule, these postmarks did not have datelines on them.

WORLD ASSOCIATION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF PHILATELTY

WORLD NUMBERING SYSTEM (WNS)

The World Association for the Development of Philately (WADP) is taking firm measures to stem the growing tide of illegal postage stamps. Indeed, the philatelic market has been confronted, over the past few years, with a large number of stamps being produced illegally in the name of an increasingly large number of countries. Many such stamps have been identified as illegal because they have been issued neither with the knowledge nor the authorisation of the country concerned, or they have been issued in the name of places and territories which do not qualify for the issuing of postage stamps.

The authenticity of stamps in general is being openly questioned by an increasingly large number of interested parties, both from within the philatelic industry as well as from the allied industry and stakeholders. The sale of fraudulent postage stamps not only defrauds the collectors who believe they are purchasing genuinely authorised stamps, but the postal administrations concerned suffer severe losses of legitimate philatelic and postal revenue.

The problem of illegal stamps was high on the agenda of the General Assembly of the World Association for the Development of Philately (WADP) which met on 12 June 2001 in Brussels, Belgium, on the occasion of the BELGICA 2001 World Philatelic Exhibition. Over 60 UPU member countries together with all the philatelic partner organisations (AIJP, ASCAT, IFSDA and FIP) agreed unanimously to the necessity of establishing the WADP Numbering System or WNS. This will be a comprehensive numbering system for all stamps scheduled to be issued by the postal administrations of the member countries of the Universal Postal Union on and after 1 January 2002. The main aim of the WNS is to ensure the authenticity of official UPU postage stamp issues, thereby strengthening their position on the stamp market for the mutual benefit of the posts, the collectors and the trade. The overriding concern is to guarantee the survival of philately and stamp collecting, not only as a business, but also as the "King of Hobbies".

Each postage stamp will be allocated a unique WNS Number composed of the ISO Alpha 2-letter code and a unique number. The number will be a function of the date of issue and receipt at the Universal Postal Union Headquarters. The

WNS Number is not intended to replace the current stamp numbering systems of stamp catalogues, but its aim is to serve as a complement that will allow all philatelic partners to easily recognise the legitimate issues of the postal administrations concerned. These numbers will enable collectors to recognise from their catalogues what stamps have been legally issued by a country and what stamps are fraudulent. The existence of the stamp and its number will be notified on a timely basis to the philatelic trade and industry.

It is hoped that the new practise will assist in the reduction of excessive issues produced by a certain number of postal administrations. Postal administrations will also be able to better recognise fraudulent stamps being used on mail within the postal system.

Once the system is in force the FIP will follow-up by submitting a motion to the Congress, stipulating that any stamp issued after a certain deadline must have an allocated WNS number in order to be eligible for competition in FIP exhibitions.

It is essential for the success of the WNS system that all partners of the philatelic industry give it their wholehearted support.

The UPU to date has sent out eleven circulars this year, denouncing the illegal issue of postage stamps.

UPU circulars are available in Arabic, English, French, Spanish, Portuguese and Russian. Electronic versions of English and French are available; other language versions are being made available in the future. Hard copies of all bulletins in all languages are available at the following address:

WADP Secretariat, International Bureau of the
Universal Postal Union
Case postale
3000 BERNE 15 SWITZERLAND
Tel: +41 31 350 32 15
Fax: +41 31 350 31 10/351 02 66
e-mail: maria.libera@upu.int

This article is reprinted from Flash, bulletin of the Fédération Internationale de Philatélie (FIP), No. 77, September 2001.

REVIEW ROUND-UP (3)

by John-Paul Himka

The most important publication to appear in the realm of Ukrainian philately since the last installment of Review Round-Up has been the spectacular Golden Anniversary issue of *Ukrainian Philatelist* (vol. 49, no. 2 [85], 2001). Excellent work by authors and editor alike.

I had misgivings about whether Ukrposhta's journal *Filateliiia Ukrainy* would appear regularly and on schedule every two months. I am happy to see that my misgivings were misplaced. The most useful feature of the journal is a running catalog of all Ukrainian philatelic production. Beginning with issue 2 (28) for the year 2001 the bimonthly introduced a new feature, "U nas u hostiakh", which reprints and translates material from other philatelic periodicals such as the Russian *Filateliiia*, the Ukrainian *Ukrains'kyi filatelistychnyi visnyk* and our own *Ukrainian Philatelist*. The first translation from English that appeared, however, was full of translation errors. The most interesting research articles appearing recently in *Filateliiia Ukrainy* were both published in no. 3 (29) 2001: Veslav Savin's article on Galician POW mail sent home from Russia during World War I and Oleksii Volochaiev's on the Ukrainianization of postal inscriptions in Crimea in the 1990s.

With issue 1 (29) of 2001 *Halfilvisnyk* has changed its look and contents. Gone is the glossy cover with color illustrations and gone are the detailed listings of new issues. Editor Roman Byshkevych sees no need for his journal to duplicate what's being done now in *Filateliiia Ukrainy*. Instead *Halfilvisnyk* plans to concentrate on "basic questions" such as establishing a correct Ukrainian philatelic terminology and reviewing other philatelic publications as well as auctions. In the first issue of the new *Halfilvisnyk* are a detailed review of Georg von Steiden's *Spezialkatalog Karpaten-Ukraine* (Munich: 2000) and a long article on philatelic terminology in Ukrainian, aimed primarily at eliminating Sovietisms and moving closer to diaspora vocabulary. Both articles are written by Byshkevych himself.

The premier journal of Ukrainian postal history, *Ukrains'kyi filatelistychnyi visnyk*, in issue 3 (63) of 2001 contains a long and detailed

study by Viacheslav Anholenko on Ukrainian mail abroad in the early 1920s.

Alexander Malycky has published a bibliography of publications dealing with the philately of Romanian-occupied Ukrainian territory during World War II: *Bibliohrafiia literatury pro poshtu i poshtovu istoriiu rumuns'koi zaimanshchyny Ukrainy i rumuns'ku viis'kovu prysutnist' v Ukraini pid chas Druhoi svitovoi viiny* (Calgary: 2001), 31 pp.

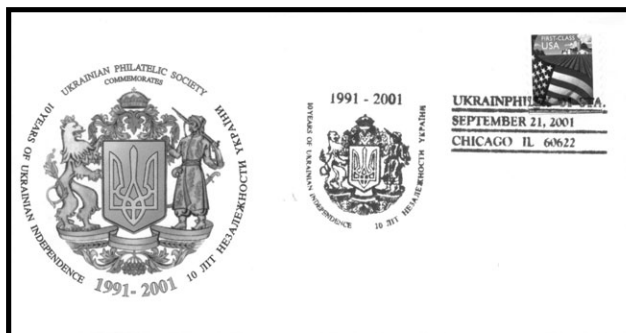
There is a new catalog of Ukrainian philatelic material for the year 2000: *Kataloh znakiv poshtovoi opłaty Ukrainy 2000* (Kyiv: Vydavnytstvo Marka Ukrainy, 2001). This is a continuation of the catalog series begun by Volodymyr Bekhtir, head of the Association of Philatelists of Ukraine. But now Marka Ukrainy, the producer of Ukraine's postage stamps, has taken over publication of the catalog. Their first effort contains the same information that has been serialized in the journal *Filateliiia Ukrainy*. Listed are stamps, first-day envelopes and cancellations, special cancellations, pre-stamped envelopes with original and definitive stamps, and postal cards. The 2000 catalog presents detailed philatelic information on the stamps without the extensive notes on the subject matter characteristic of the Bekhtir catalogs. The result is a smaller publication (only 64 pp.). The introduction and the section on stamps are bilingual, in Ukrainian and rather poor, but generally comprehensible English. Illustrations are in color.

I haven't seen it, but I've seen an advertisement for a catalog of postcards from the eastern borderlands of the former Polish Commonwealth. This would include quite a bit of territory that is now in Ukraine. The price was 40.00 USD: Maria Calikowska, Eugenia Krasinska-Kencka, Agata Pietrzak, eds., *Kresy Wschodnie dawnej Rzeczypospolitej. Katalog pocztówek* (Warsaw: Biblioteka Narodowa, 2001), 528+72 pp., ISBN 83-7009-275-6.

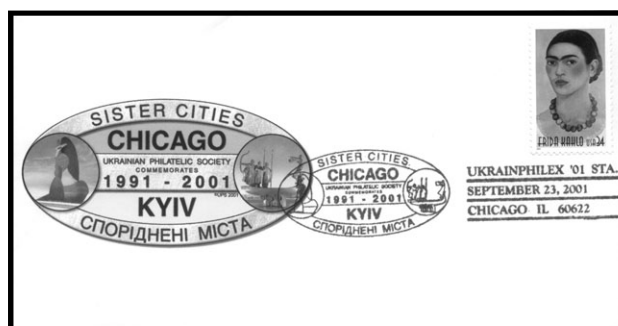
Hryhoriy Lobko's catalog *The Provisional Postage Stamps of Ukraine 1992-1995* translated by Andrew O. Martyniuk was favorably reviewed in *American Philatelist* (April 2001): 380.

SUCCESSFUL LOCAL SHOW IN CHICAGO

by Michael Ivashchenko



10 Years of Ukrainian Independence, 1991-2001



10th Anniversary of Sister Cities, Chicago-Kyiv



50th Anniversary of the Founding of the Selfreliance Ukrainian-American Federal Credit Union "Samopomich"

Ukraine collectors from Chicago staged a successful philatelic, numismatic and militaria shows – named Ukrainphilex – over the weekend 21-23 September 2001 at the Ukrainian Cultural Center.

The show commemorated three themes: the 10th Anniversary of Ukrainian Independence; the 10th Anniversary of Sister-Cities, Chicago-Kyiv; and the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the Selfreliance Ukrainian-American Federal Credit Union "Samopomich", which sponsored the show.

Three separate cachet envelopes, designed by Michael Taran, were prepared for the show. The U.S. Postal Service set up a station and provided pictorial cancellations for each day of the event.

The show had a total of 21 exhibits, ranging from a literature entry; classic issues and postal history; government-in-exile, POW and DP issues; various thematic (topical) displays; ephemera (patches and medals); and a range of non-competitive classic era exhibits.

Chicago collector, Mr. Wasyl Mudry, who passed away during the morning of September 22, was remembered and honored at a banquet that was held that evening.

A special guest during the show was Ukrainian parliamentarian, Mr. Levko Lukianenko.

Show participants and organizers

Standing (L to R): Christine Taran, Victor Taran, George Diachenko, Roman Maziak, Bohdan Pauk, Wally Basarab, Andrew Oleksiuk, Bohdan Nehaniv, Paul Oleksiuk, Borys Zayachivskyj

Sitting (L to R): Orest Horodysky, Olga Diachenko, Michael Ivashchenko, Stephen Holowatyj, Ramona Park, John Semchuk, Donald Carnahan



WASYL MUDRY: UPNS's Gentleman Philatelist

Beloved UPNS member Wasyl Mudry died of a heart attack on Saturday morning 22 September 2001, he was 78. This devoted collector had just the previous evening assisted in the setting up of a local stamp exhibit in Chicago.

Mr. Mudry was born on 15 June 1923 in the village of Lazy, in the Yaroslav region. During WWII, he was drafted into the Soviet Army, escaped, made his way to Germany and, eventually, immigrated to the United States where he settled in Chicago during the 1950s. Known for his big smile and gentle manner, he immediately became involved with Chicago's Ukrainian civic and political groups such as the *Orhanizatsia Derzhavnoho Vidrozhennia Ukrainy*, as well as the *Obiednannia Yaroslavshchyny*.

When his old friend and philatelic designer Stepan "Lubko" Rychtytskyj moved to Chicago from Germany, Mr. Mudry's philatelic interests were sparked and he joined the UPNS in 1972. One of his passions was collecting Ukrainian topicals, especially space-related Ukrainica. Along with Dr. Roman Smyk, he worked on designing and releasing colorful post cards, envelopes, and seals in honor of various Ukrainian topics including Cardinal Josyf Slipyj, Taras Shevchenko, and the Millennium of Ukrainian Christianity in 1988.

Wasył Mudry's eye for beauty was not limited to stamps and coins, but also extended to rare books and paintings and to his lovely wife Pani Olesia. The two of them were profiled in the May 1991 issue of *National Geographic* magazine (page 63) in an article on Chicago's ethnic neighborhoods.

Mr. Mudry was a major organizer of UKRAINPEX shows in Chicago, and also promoted the society at non-UPNS exhibits. From 1992 through 1995, he served the society as its secretary. He was Chicago Chapter secretary from 1986 to 1988 and again from 1991 to 1995. Never short to help others, despite his own ill health, he financially supported Ukrainian numismatists living in Poland, and philatelists in newly independent Ukraine. He had friends in the Lithuanian, Czecho-Slovak and Polish philatelic societies. A true gentleman, he will be greatly missed.

Mr. Mudry's remains were cremated and will be interned in the family plot in Ukraine. UPNS extends its condolences to his widow, Pani Oleksandra and to his sons Roman and Oleh-Bohdan.

(Information supplied by Bohdan Pauk and Inbert Kuzych.)

CHORNOBYL CANCELLATIONS

by George D. Fedyk



UPNS member Peter Cybaniak recently forwarded a copy of a Soviet Russian stamp that bears a circular date stamp from Chornobyl (Chernobyl in Russian) dated 2-10-21. Chornobyl is situated near the town of Prypiat, some 100 km north of Kyiv.

This is quite an interesting piece of philatelic history for as we know, Chornobyl was the site of the world's worst nuclear accident on 26.4.1986. Since the explosion, the nuclear power plant at Chornobyl, and the town of Prypiat, have been deserted due to radiation.

Ten years after the accident, Ukraine Post commemorated this tragic event by issuing a postage stamp and two postmarks, one a first day of issue cancel at the Kyiv-1 post office, the other a commemorative pictorial postmark in the city of Slavutych (pictured above). Only founded in 1987 for the workers of the Chornobyl Nuclear Power Station who had been evacuated from Prypiat and Chornobyl, Slavutych was granted city status in 1988. The new city is located on the left bank of the Dnipro River at the mouth of the Desna River, 50 km from Chornobyl. The 26.4.1996 commemorative pictorial postmark appeared in both blue and black colors.



СОЮЗ УКРАЇНСЬКИХ ФІЛАТЕЛІСТІВ І НУМІЗМАТИКІВ
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