

## ЗАКАЗНОЕ – Registration in czarist Russia

In 1872 the **registered letter (заказное)** replaced the insured letter (страховое) in the Russian Empire. This collection gives a survey of the registration within Russia and in Russian post offices abroad up to 1918.

Up to 1898 there were no labels or marks used to identify registered items sent within Russia. On the cover only registration number and weight were noted.

Insured mail abroad existed since 1845 and was organized by bilateral conventions. Rates and handling were unified with the foundation of the GPU / UPU in 1875. To make registered mail identifiable for foreign postal administrations different postmarks were used up to 1898.

In 1899 throughout Russia registration labels came into use. This was the start of several measures to make registered mail within Russia and abroad more safe and more convenient for the customer. Such economical ways of registration have been the use of numerator postmarks, machine registration, or the use of « 3 » and « R » labels for registration within Russia and abroad, respectively. This parallel system for Russia and abroad is most clearly visible in the so called « double registration » when Cyrillic and Roman registration marks or labels have been combined with each other.

During World War I the situation of the postal services deteriorated dramatically. Increasing rates reflected the decline of the rouble and the great need of the state for financial resources. In addition, the well-organized system for the characterization of registered items collapsed due to the shortage of materials - provisional rubber stamps and handwritten marks determined the picture.

The Russian registration system had some peculiarities unknown in other countries. This included self-registration in private books, registration in the letter box, but also registration in special post offices located in rural zemstvo administrations, pharmacies, shops, or hotels.

**This collection gives in its two first parts a survey of the registration up to 1898 within Russia and abroad, respectively, putting some emphasis on the rates in force. In a third part one can find the diversity of marks and labels which were used since 1899 to characterize registered mail. The situation during the First World War is described in part 4, while registration in special post offices is depicted in the last part. Due to space limitations this presentation will not deal with Acknowledgments of receipt, money letters, or cash on delivery.**

Therefore, the collection is divided as follows:

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The most remarkable items in this collection are highlighted with a **R**



1. Registration within Russia up to 1898
- 1.1. Tariff of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1872

→ 1 loth, 10 + 10 + 5 = 25 Kop.

Registration within Russia was introduced on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1872. 10 Kop. had to be paid for each loth (~13 gr.), in addition 10 Kop. registration fee, and 5 Kop. for the confirmation (receipt, Росписка). Registration rates were reduced with the GPU rate to 8 Kop. settled 1874 in Bern and further down to the UPU tariff of 7 Kop. after the 1878 Paris meeting. This last tariff was left unchanged until World War I. With few exceptions, within Russia no registration signs aside the handwritten registration number and the weight in loth were used. In general, the sender noted « заказное » on the item.



Registered cover  
from St.  
Petersburg to  
Revel, sent March  
31, 1873.



Registered postal  
stationery  
envelope from  
Moscow to St.  
Petersburg, sent  
June 12, 1874.

In principal,  
additional stamps  
on registered  
postal stationery  
were not allowed,  
but here the letter  
passed.



1. Registration within Russia up to 1898  
1.1. Tariff of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1872

→2 loth,  $2 \cdot 10 + 10 + 5 = 35$  Kop.  
→3 loth,  $3 \cdot 10 + 10 + 5 = 45$  Kop.

Заказное.

21

Въ Одесскій Окружный Судъ.

Въ г. Одессу.



Подать Господе Дмитріевъ Крановскій,  
живущій въ г. Тирасполь, на второй  
Решенной суммъ, въ свою жесть сдате  
ны Крановской. -

"Заказное"

№ 3  
Въ Подольскую Канцелярію Кранов-  
скою и Гражданскаго Вуда.

Канцеляріи и на вост  
ны Васильей Садмычан  
ской

Въ Канцеляріи



Въ Канцелярію Подольск

Top : Registered cover from Tiraspol to Odessa, sent April 18, 1874. Bottom : Registered cover from Zhitomir to the court in Kamenets – Podolskiy, sent September 5, 1873. Four color franking.



1. Registration within Russia up to 1898  
1.1. Tariff of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1872

→6 loth,  $6 \cdot 10 + 10 + 5 = 75$  Kop. (top)  
→5 loth,  $5 \cdot 10 + 10 + 5 = 65$  Kop. (bottom)

6<sup>л</sup>  
75<sup>к</sup>

Заказное.  
Въ Подольский Паламу Губовичамъ и  
Гравингачевымъ Судьямъ.

Л. П. Дворецкого Сироткина  
Васильева Гроздовскаго.

Въ духовномъ  
Ваврагачевымъ.



Въ К. Каменецъ Подольскъ.

Л. П.

Заказное

с 27

Въ Подольский Паламу  
и Гравингачевымъ Судьямъ.



5<sup>л</sup>

Въ Каменецъ-подольскъ

Отъ Губовича Сироткина  
и Гравингачевымъ Судьямъ



Top : Registered cover from Letichev to the court in Kamenets-Podolskiy sent April 18, 1873. The weight of six loth was marked on the top left. Bottom : Registered cover from Olgopol to the court in Kamenets-Podolskiy sent November 26, 1874. The weight of five loth was noted with « 5 L » on the left. Both 30 Kop. stamps are vertically laid copies.



1. Registration within Russia up to 1898

1.2. Tariff of June 19, 1875

→3 loth,  $3 \cdot 8 + 10 + 5 = 39$  Kop. (top)

→2 loth,  $2 \cdot 8 + 10 + 5 = 31$  Kop. (bottom)

This second registration rate became valid due to the foundation of the GPU and was composed of 8 Kop. for each loth, while 10 Kop. registration fee and 5 Kop. for the confirmation were unchanged. Again there are only handwritten registration numbers and weight notes.



Top : Registered cover from Yampol to Kamenets-Podolskiy sent November 23, 1878 with a weight of three loth.  
Bottom : Registered cover from the horse-drawn carriage station Zarbovetz in Podolia (see section 5.2.) to Ushchitza sent August 26, 1878. A very rare registration with this **prephilatelic two-line datestamp**.



1. Registration within Russia up to 1898
- 1.2. Tariff of June 19, 1875

→4 loth,  $4 \cdot 8 + 10 + 5 = 47$  Kop.



Registered cover from Balta to the court in Kamenetz – Podolski, sent January 30, 1879.



1. Registration within Russia up to 1898
- 1.2. Tariff of June 19, 1875

→5 loth, 5\*8 + 10 + 5 = 55 Kop.



Registered letter from Bratslav to Kamenetz – Podolski from September 2, 1878 with a weight of five loth.



1. Registration within Russia up to 1898
- 1.2. Tariff of June 19, 1875

→10 loth, 10\*8 + 10 + 5 = 95 Kop.

25  
Заклад  
W.K.

В. Канунцов-Тоголовский  
и Трапезниковы Цыри.



Полученный отсюда  
двухкопеечный конверт  
Полученный, Юсупов-Горю-  
ха " Св. Матфея.  
В. Канунцов.

В. Канунцов  
Тоголовский



1. Registration within Russia up to 1898
- 1.3. Tariff of March 20, 1879

→ 1 loth,  $7 + 7 = 14$  Kop.

This rate was valid for 35 years until the beginning of World War I. 7 Kop. had to be paid per loth and in addition 7 Kop. for the registration fee. The fee for the registration receipt was abolished.



Registered stationery envelope from Sereda in the Moscow Gubernia to Moscow itself, sent April 10, 1895.



Registered stationery envelope dispatched at the post office in the Baltic railway station of St. Petersburg and sent to Narva on June 3, 1893.

Rare case of the use of a Finnish stationery in Russia proper.



1. Registration within Russia up to 1898
- 1.3. Tariff of March 20, 1879

→ 1 loth, 7 + 7 = 14 Kop.



Front (x 0.75)



1. Registration within Russia up to 1898  
1.3. Tariff of March 20, 1879

→ 2 loth,  $2 \times 7 + 7 = 21$  Kop.

20  
1879  
15

Вот. Сибирск.

Его Превосходительству  
Генералу Сибирскому Губернатору.



Важно  
Амурские.



важно

460  
2  
Заказное.

В Вятский Окружный Суд. По делу  
Господному надзору.

В Т. Вятск.



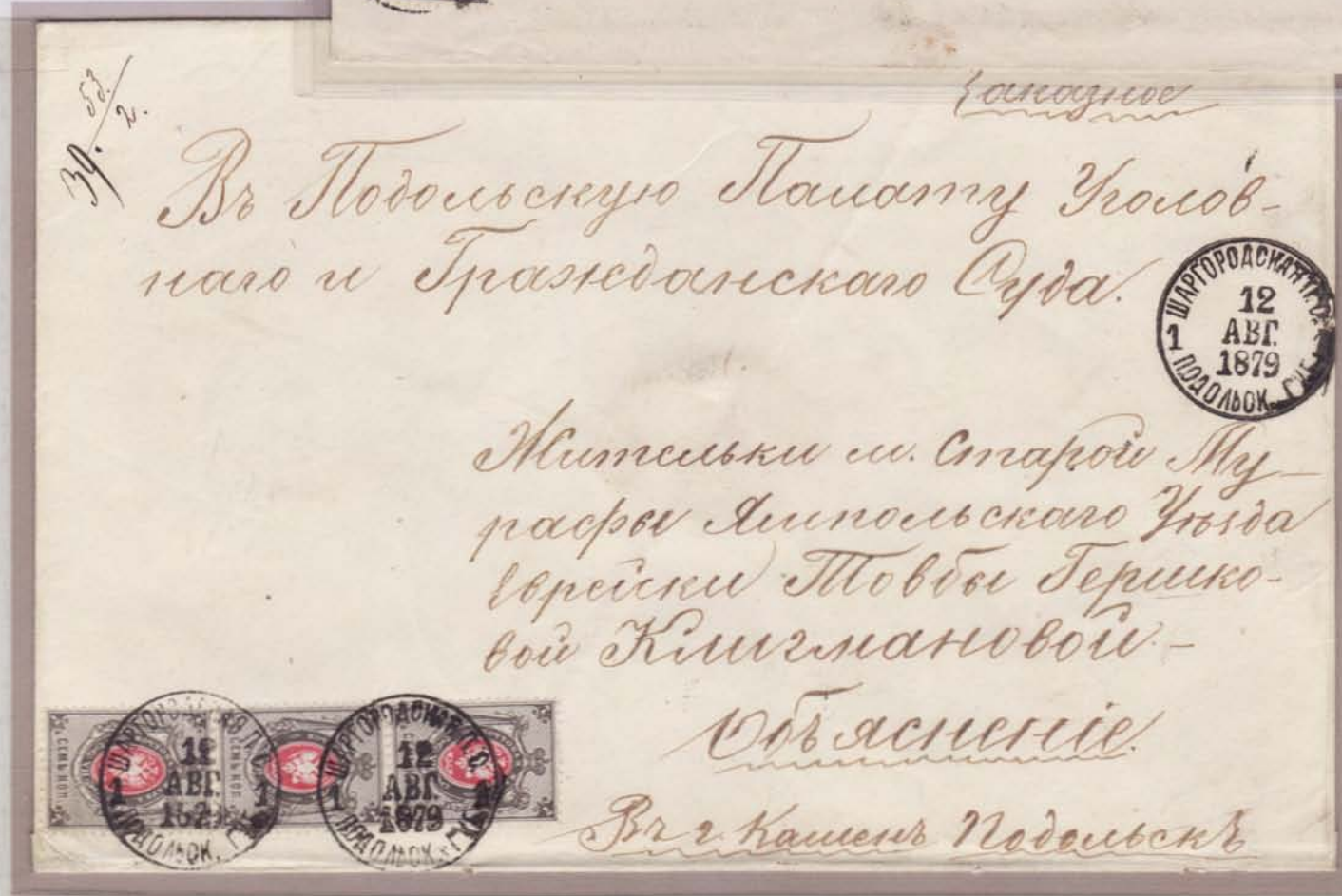
Крестовина Зинкунская  
Губда Седунской волости  
Древни Волости Карин-  
ковъ Сергея Никитина  
и Никитина,





1. Registration within Russia up to 1898
- 1.3. Tariff of March 20, 1879

→ 2 loth, 2\*7 + 7 = 21 Kop.





1. Registration within Russia up to 1898
- 1.3. Tariff of March 20, 1879

→3 loth,  $3 \times 7 + 7 = 28$  Kop. (top)  
 →2 loth,  $2 \times 7 + 7 = 21$  Kop. (bottom)





1. Registration within Russia up to 1898
- 1.3. Tariff of March 20, 1879

→9 loth,  $9 \times 7 + 7 = 70$  Kop.



Front (x 0.75)



Cover of the 9<sup>th</sup> weight rate from Arkhangelsk to St. Petersburg sent May 20, 1899. Handwritten weight note « 91 » and provisional registration label « 239 » on the top left. The rate was paid with a block of ten of the 7 Kop. definitive.

A fine usage of the short lived labels which were primarily only used in the year 1899 (see section 3.1.), in addition from such a remote place, used on a heavy cover to the St. Petersburg court.

Ex collection Harry von Hofmann.

1. Registration within Russia up to 1898
- 1.3. Tariff of March 20, 1879

ЗАКАЗНОЕ

Registered items within Russia up to 1898 did normally show no registration marks in contrast to those sent abroad.

The only exception is the use of a « ZAKAZNOE » mark in St. Petersburg between 1887 and 1892 (Baillie & Peel type 8B2A.v2). This mark looks similar to that one used for registered mail abroad (see section 2.3.) and that for incoming registered mail.



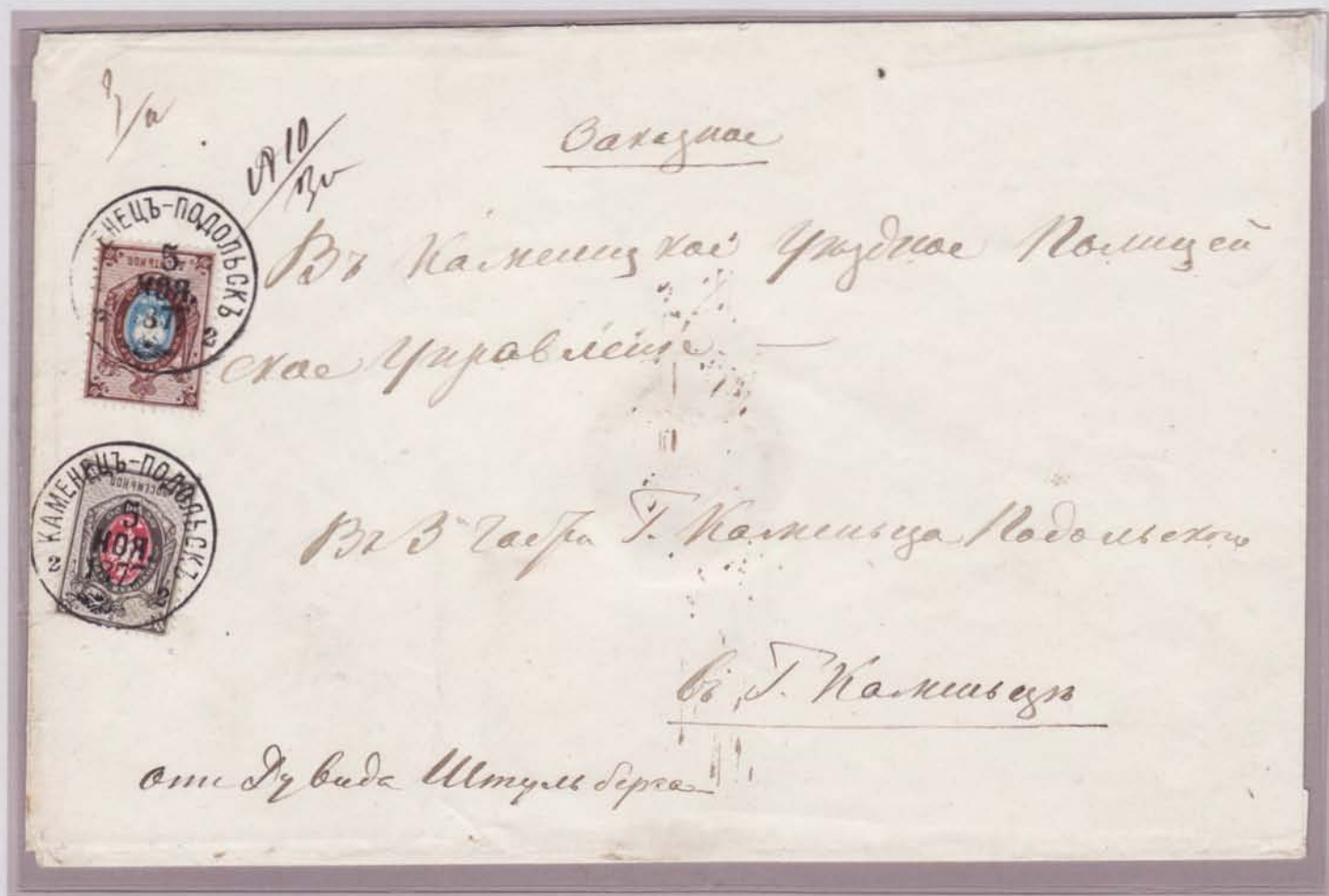
Registered stationery envelope dispatched from the 1<sup>st</sup> Expeditija in St. Petersburg, sent to Narva on March 17, 1887. This is the **earliest use** of this mark on registered mail sent within Russia.

Very rare use of the « ZAKAZNOE » mark within Russia. **Only twelve items known** (Berger, DZRP 92 (2010) 17-21).



1. Registration within Russia up to 1898
- 1.4. Local registered letter; tariff of June 19, 1875

3 + 10 + 5 = 18 Kop.



Local registered cover within Kamenetz-Podolski, sent November 5, 1877. There was no weight dependence of the postage for local letters.

There are only two local registered letters known to me in that tariff period.



"Receiver" postmark on the reverse.

## 2. Registration abroad up to 1898

### 2.1. Insured letters without Russian registration marks

Registration abroad was possible after the postal treaty between Russia and Prussia, which came into force on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 1845 (see *Berger, DZRP 100 (2014) 12-28*). Within Russia these items were sealed with wax and transported with the Heavy Post (« Fahrpost ») as insured letters, while they were handled abroad as registered items. Up to about 1865 there were no Russian marks showing that the respective item was sent insured. Handwritten notions of the sender like « Recommandirt » were added to gap this lack.



Russian wax seal « НЕРЕХТЕНСКОЙ ПОЧТ. КОЛТ. » -  
Nerekhta post office

Reverse (x 0.6)



4/10 loth

Weight of  
cover: 4/10  
loth, first  
weight rate



Rate  
calculation.

Insured cover from Nerekhta (September 12, 1855) to the court in Mergentheim in Württemberg, Germany (October 7, 1855). Nerekhta departure postmark, Prussian railway datestamp and registration mark, and Mergentheim arrival postmark. Presumably the cover of a German colonist asking for documents.

The rate calculation gives the different components for Russia and the German-Austrian Postal Union (GAPU). 20 Kop. is the rate for an insured letter within Russia (twice the simple fee, weight-dependent as usual for insured letters), 10 Kop. or 3 Sgr. is the simple letter fee within the GAPU to Württemberg, and 3 Kop. is the Russian receipt fee. However, the Prussian registration surtax (a fixed fee independent of the weight) of 2 Sgr. / 7 Kop. is missing. Registered items had to be paid in advance, Russia and Prussia both got a registration fee, no use of Russian stamps possible.



2. Registration abroad up to 1898
- 2.1. Insured letters without Russian registration marks

Reverse (x 0.75)



Rate  
calculation.



Insured cover from Mohilev-Podolskiy (August 11, 1860) to Paris (September 2, 1860) with multiple Russian, Austrian, and French marks. This is one of the **extremely rare** registered covers sent abroad where only Austrian, no Prussian services were involved (only **eight** out of 59 covers between 1849-1875; *Berger, DZRP 100* (2014) 12-28).

Departure postmark of Mohilev-Podolskiy, Russian transit postmark «ГУСЯТИНЪ • 15 AUGUST • RUSSIATYN», Austrian datestamps of Hussiatyn, Lemberg, Krakau and «RUSSIE» mark, French entry datestamp in Erquelines, «CHARGE» mark and poste restante arrival datestamp.

The rate calculation gives the different components for Russia, Austria and France for this 1<sup>st</sup> weight rate cover. Russia gets 20 Kop. (twice the simple fee, weight-dependent also for insured letters via Austria), 36¼ Kop. for GAPU and France, and 2 Kop. Russian receipt fee. The 36¼ Kop. are composed of 10 Kop. (= 15 Kr. Austrian currency) for the Austrian part, 10 Kop. Austrian fixed registration surtaxe (also weight-independent in Austria as usual for registered items) and 16¼ Kop. French postage fee. No French registration fee was included by error.

2. Registration abroad up to 1898
- 2.1. Insured letters without Russian registration marks

Reverse (x 0.75)



14/10

Weight of  
cover: 14/10  
loth, second  
weight rate

14/10  
20  
32½  
6½  
R-3

Rate  
calculation.



Insured cover from Odessa (December 15, 1861) to Marseille (January 8, 1862) with multiple Russian, Prussian, and French marks.

Rhomboid Odessa harbor postmark and « Franco », Prussian « Recommandé » marks in black and red, « Aus Russland Franco » and « Breslau-Berlin », French entry datestamp « Prusse-Valenciennes », « P.D. » and « Chargé », as well as timbre descriptif de chargement of the TPO Paris-Dijon.

The rate calculation gives the different components for Russia, Prussia and France for this 2<sup>nd</sup> weight rate cover. Russia gets 40 Kop. (twice the double fee for the insured cover, weight-dependent), Prussia gets 20 Kop. or 6 Sgr. and France 32½ Kop., respectively, for the double-weight cover. 6½ Kop. (= 2 Sgr.) are the fixed Prussian registration fee and 2 Kop. are the Russian receipt fee. No French registration fee was included by error.



## 2. Registration abroad up to 1898

### 2.1. Insured letters without Russian registration marks

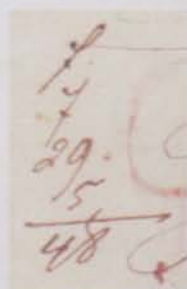


Reverse (x 0.75)

Russian wax seal  
« ПОГРАН ПОЧТ. КОНТОРЫ  
ГУСЯТИН » -  
Border Post Office Hussiatyn



French wax seal  
« POSTES \* STRASBOURG A  
PARIS 2° »



Rate  
calculation.



Insured cover from Hussiatyn, Ukraine (March 10, 1869) to Dijon (March 29, 1869) with multiple Russian, Austrian, and French markings. Hussiatyn (russ. ГУСЯТИН) is situated at the river Zbruch. The western part of this village belonged to the Austrian Empire, the eastern part to Russia.

The origin of this item is presumably the Russian part of Hussiatyn. The Russian datestamp « ГУСЯТИНЪ • 10 МÆРЗ 69 • HUSSIATYN » can also be found as transit postmark on mail dispatched in Russia. However, two Russian wax seals « ПОГРАН ПОЧТ КОНТОРЫ ГУСЯТИН » suggest that the cover was posted at the frontier post office at Hussiatyn. The trilingual postmark « RECOMMANDIRT – CHARGÉ – СТРАХОВОЕ » (Страховое means insured) is one of the earliest Russian marks related to registration. Austrian « RUSSIE. », « A. – P.D. » (Autriche – Port payé jusqu'à Destination) and « Chargé » postmarks as well as « WIEN – RECOMMAND. » datestamp. French entry datestamp, two additional wax seals « POSTES \* STRASBOURG PARIS 2° » and timbre descriptif de chargement of the TPO Strasbourg - Paris.

With the new postal treaty between Russia and Austria, which came into force on January 28, 1866, the rates were strongly decreased, the registration fee became also in Russia independent from the weight and it had to be paid only once in the country of dispatch. Thus, in Russia the insured letter abroad became more similar to registered letter in a Western European style than to the insured letter within Russia (*Berger, DZRP 100* (2014) 12-28). The rate calculation gives 7 Kop. for the postage plus the fixed fee of 7 Kop. for the registration for Russia. In addition there are 29 Kop. summing up 7 Kop. for Austria (= 10 Kr. Austrian currency) and 22 Kop. for France plus 5 Kop. for the Russian receipt.



## 2. Registration abroad up to 1898

### 2.2. « REKOMENDOVANO »

РЕКОМЕНДОВАНО

In order to identify insured mail abroad as such, different marks were used in Russia. The first type was used after the new postal treaties with Prussia and Austria in 1866 and it showed the word « REKOMENDOVANO », which is a russified form of the French "Recommandé". It was used up to ~1878. Until the end of 1874 the postage had to be paid in cash and no stamps were affixed.



Reverse (x 0.75)



Insured cover from Odessa to Gotha sent on January 30, 1869. Russian marks « REKOMENDOVANO » and « FRANKIROVANO » (Paid), transit « RECOMMANDIRT - WIEN » and Thurn & Taxis arrival postmark of Gotha (February 18). There is no rate calculation, the handwritten « f10 » gives the 10 Kr. Weiterfranko for Austria.



Reverse (x 0.75)

Insured cover from Moscow to Paris sent on September 11, 1870. It was sent by a Frenchman to his mother in law, arrived on September 29 outside Paris which was besieged by the Prussians. It was returned (handwritten « Retour à l'envoyeur ») and arrived back in Moscow on September 22. On the front the mark « REKOMENDOVANO » in red. Red is the standard color of the « REKOMENDOVANO » mark between 1870 and 1874 (Berger DZRP 92 (2010) 17-21).



## 2.2. « REKOMENDOVANO »

РЕКОМЕНДОВАНО



Reverse (x 0.75)

Insured cover from Moscow to Colombier (Switzerland) sent on July 6, 1873. Russian mark « REKOMENDOVANO » in red and two Moscow dispatch datestamps, Prussian « Aus Russland über Bur XI Edk. Brg. – Franco » of the exchange office at Eydtkuhnen-Bromberg and pronged « Recommandirt », four Swiss TPO, transit and arrival datestamps (July 22, 1873).



Reverse (x 0.75)

Insured cover from Odessa to London sent on March 28, 1875. Russian marks « REKOMENDOVANO » and « OPLATSHENO » (Received), sent via Prussia with London arrival date stamps (April 6, 1875).

Since January 1875 and thus prior to the GPU, insured mail abroad had to be franked fully by stamps (*Berger, DZRP 100 (2014) 12-28*). **Only eight franked insured covers** are known prior to the GPU. First weight rate cover, postage 5 Kop. for Russia, 5 Kop. for Germany and 6 Kop. for Belgium and Great Britain plus 7 Kop. fixed registration surcharge and 5 Kop. receipt fee, in total 28 Kop.



2. Registration abroad up to 1898
- 2.2. « REKOMENDOVANO »

РЕКОМЕНДОВАНО



Reverse (x 0.5)

Fifth weight  
rate



Insured cover sent from Swiss consulate in Riga to Rüti, canton Glarus, Switzerland on June 10, 1875. The envelope had to be franked with stamps, but old bilateral rates were still in use. Russian mark « REKOMENDOVANO », German preliminary registration label applied in transit, Zürich - Glarus TPO and Glarus arrival datestamps (June 26, 1875).

The 82 kopek rate equates to a quintuple weight rate, with fivefold 5 Kop. for Russia, fivefold 5 Kop. for Germany and fivefold 4 Kop. for Switzerland plus 7 Kop. fixed Russian registration surcharge and 5 Kop. receipt fee.

This item was dispatched nine days prior to the introduction of the GPU rates. **Only eight franked insured covers** are known between January 1875 and prior to the GPU (June 18, 1875 for all members except France and December 19, 1875 for France, respectively).

Ex collections Gordon Torrey and Sylvain Wyler.



2. Registration abroad up to 1898  
2.2. « REKOMENDOVANO »

РЕКОМЕНДОВАНО



Insured cover from St. Petersburg to Bordeaux sent on July 16, 1875. This item was mailed while Russia was already member of the GPU while France did not join earlier than January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1876. Thus the letter had to be franked with stamps, but the old bilateral treaties were still in use. Russian mark « REKOMENDOVANO » and French mark « R ». Second weight rate cover, postage twice 5 Kop. for Russia, twice 5 Kop. for Germany and twice 3 Kop. for France plus 7 Kop. fixed registration surcharge and 5 Kop. receipt fee, in total 38 Kop.

Ex collection O. Fabergé.



Registered cover from Odessa to Gera sent on February 26, 1878. Very late use of the mark « REKOMENDOVANO » during the GPU. Rate (June 19, 1875):  $8 + 10 + 5 = 23$  Kop.

With the establishment of the GPU insurance was replaced by registration also for mail abroad.

## 2. Registration abroad up to 1898

### 2.2. « REKOMENDOVANO »

РЕКОМЕНДОВАНО

The mark « REKOMENDOVANO » was used primarily up to 1875 to identify registered items abroad (Berger DZRP 92 (2010) 17-21). Its disappearance is therefore related to the establishment of the General Postal Union (GPU) and to the appearance of the consecutive « ZAKAZNOE » handstamp.

### Last day before the GPU

Insured cover from St. Petersburg to Graz sent on June 18, 1875, arrived July 3, 1875.

First weight rate cover, postage 5 Kop. for Russia, 5 Kop. for Austria plus 7 Kop. fixed registration surcharge and 5 Kop. receipt fee, in total 22 Kop.

Ex collections Heinrich Imhof und Harry von Hofmann.



Reverse (x 0.75)

R



## 2. Registration abroad up to 1898

### 2.3. « ZAKAZNOE »

ЗАКАЗНОЕ

The mark « ZAKAZNOE » was used between 1875 and 1882 to identify registered items abroad (*Berger DZRP 92 (2010) 17-21*). It came into use after the GPU regulations came into effect on June 19, 1875 (Julian calendar, equal to July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1875 Gregorian calendar). For a registered cover, the sender had to pay 8 Kop. per loth, 10 Kop. registration fee and 5 Kop. for the receipt. Thus, there was no difference between the rates within Russia and abroad.

#### First day of the GPU and earliest use of the « ZAKAZNOE » mark

Registered stationery envelope from St. Petersburg to Graz sent on June 19, 1875, arrived July 4, 1875.

Rate (June 19, 1875) :  
→ 1 Loth, 8 + 10 + 5 = 23 Kop.



Reverse (x 0.75)

The sender of these two covers was Adolf Nikolaus Tilesius von Tilenau, born February 7, 1808 in St. Petersburg, deceased December 22, 1885 in St. Petersburg. He was the son of Wilhelm Gottlieb Tilesius von Tilenau, a German naturalist and explorer, who joined the 1803-1806 first Russian circumnavigation under Krusenstern. Adolf Tilesius von Tilenau grew up in Mühlhausen, Thuringia and got his education in law and political science primarily on German universities. In 1836, he entered civil service in Russia, in 1854 he started to work at the St. Petersburg main post office and finally became Privy Councillor (« Staatsrath ») and the head of the censorship department (« Ober-Censor » as he denotes on the cover).

The addressee was Leopold von Beckh-Widmanstetter (1841-1903), an Austrian officer interested in history and archivist of the Teutonic Knights (« Deutschritterorden »). Both correspondents shared their interest for genealogy and heraldry.



Adolf Nikolaus Tilesius von Tilenau



2. Registration abroad up to 1898

2.3. «ZAKAZNOE»

ЗАКАЗНОЕ



Registered cover from Warsaw to Leipzig sent on November 19, 1881. The cover shows a **particular type of «ZAKAZNOE» mark** which is known in the years 1881-1882 from the post office at the Warsaw-Granitsa-Alexandrovo Railway line, **only five covers known**. German label for registered items from abroad «Vom Auslande - über Bahnpost 18 - Alexandrowo-Berlin. - Eingeschrieben». These labels were attached to incoming registered mail to unequivocally identify it as such. Rate (March 20, 1879) : 7 + 7 = 14 Kop.; weight 1 loth.

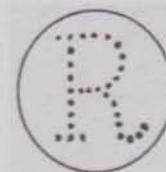


Registered cover from Vilna to Königsberg, sent on July 12, 18. «ZAKAZNOE» mark and German provisional registration label. Rate (March 20, 1879) : 2\*7 + 7 = 21 Kop.; weight 2 loths.



## 2. Registration abroad up to 1898

### 2.4. « R » in dots



The mark « ZAKAZNOE » was not really appropriate, because this Russian word in Cyrillic letters could not be understood by foreign postal officers. Hence, since 1882 a simple mark depicting a « R » in dots came into use for marking registered mail abroad. It can be found until the 1930s, often in combination with other registration marks or labels.



Reverse (x 0.75)

Registered cover from a mining engineer in Aleksandrov on the **Sakhalin island** in the Far East to Vienna sent on July 8, 1898. The stamp was canceled with an extremely rare triangular postmark « C / П Т К » (Sachalin Post and Telegraph Office). On the front one can see also the datestamp « Александров на Остр. Сахалинѣ » (Aleksandrov on the island Sakhalin). After nearly two months this cover reached the Russian - Austrian border office at Volochinsk (September 8, 1898) and on September 23, 1898 (new style calendar) it finally arrived in Vienna (compare with later cover from Aleksandrovsk in section 3.2.).

This cover was transported by ship to the Russian mainland, but in the summer 1898 the Trans-Siberian railway was in the middle of construction. From the east it did not reach further than Khabarovsk on the Amur and from the west it reached Irkutsk at lake Baikal. Thus, for about 3'400 km between these two cities the cover had to be transported by means like horse-drawn carriages and river steamers on the Amur. This explains the long travel time.

The island of Sakhalin was one of the largest penal colonies or katorgas of the czarist empire. The sender of this cover was presumably an engineer in one of the coal mines.

Rate (March 8, 1889): 10 + 10 = 20 Kop

Ex collection Cihangir.



2. Registration abroad up to 1898
- 2.5. Purple St. Petersburg registration marks



While all registration marks before were identical in each post office, in 1883 purple registration marks were introduced for mail abroad dispatched from St. Petersburg. They not only showed the name of the town but also of the post office. There is a large variety of subtypes.



Registered postal stationery from St. Petersburg to Vienna sent on May 5, 1884. This is an early use of this registration mark in the 5<sup>th</sup> expeditia (Baillie & Peel type 8D1.v1). This post office was responsible for mail sent abroad. In contrast to other marks and labels one can find here registration numbers higher than « 1000 ». The sender is Friedrich Breitfuss, the most famous Russian philatelist of that time, the addressee is the stamp dealer Sigmund Friedl. Rate (March 20, 1879): 7 + 7 Kop.



Postal stationery postcard from St. Petersburg to Rosario, Santa Fé province, Argentina, sent on January 8, 1897. **Rare unframed R-mark** in black, Baillie & Peel type 8D2, unknown variety. Rate (March 8, 1889): 4 + 10 Kop.



2. Registration abroad up to 1898
- 2.5. Purple St. Petersburg registration marks



This purple R-mark (Baillie & Peel type 8D4) was used in telegraph post offices. The number of the office is given in Roman numerals.



Letter written by **Grand Duchess Elisaveta Feodorovna Romanova** (Princess Ella of Hessen-Darmstadt, older sister of the last Czarina Alexandra, 1864-1918), autographed cover to the princess Albrecht von Preussen, Herzogin zu Sachsen (Charlotte von Preussen, 1860-1919) in San Remo, sent registered on April 8, 1889. Posted at the 20<sup>th</sup> town telegraph post office. Rate (March 8, 1889) : 10 + 10 = 20 Kop.

'ELISAVETA' on reverse (x 1.5)



Registered postal stationery envelope from St. Petersburg to Lyon sent on November 11, 1895. Despatched at the 11<sup>th</sup> town telegraph post office. Rate (March 8, 1889) : 2\*10 + 10 = 30 Kop.





2. Registration abroad up to 1898
- 2.5. Purple St. Petersburg registration marks

These purple and blueish R-marks (Baillie & Peel types 8D5 & 8D6) were used in city post offices. The number of the office is given in Arabic numerals.



Registered postcard from St. Petersburg to Brück, Bohemia sent on December 19, 1898. Dispatched at the 11<sup>th</sup> city post office, rare Baillie & Peel registration mark type 8D6. Rate (March 8, 1889) : 4 + 10 = 14 Kop.

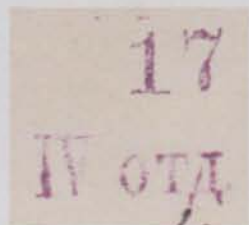


Registered wrapper from St. Petersburg to Berlin, sent on April 24, 1898. Posted at the 4<sup>th</sup> city post office. Baillie & Peel registration mark type 8D5.



2. Registration abroad up to 1898
- 2.5. Purple St. Petersburg registration marks

This provisional violet R-mark (Baillie & Peel type 8D7) was used only in the 4<sup>th</sup> city post office between 1893 and 1895 for mail within Russia as well as abroad. Just **seven covers** known (Berger, DZRP 92 (2010) 17-21).



10 Kop. stationery envelope with additional franking of 10 kop. from St. Petersburg 4<sup>th</sup> city post office to Oxford, sent on August 14, 1893.



14 Kop. stationery envelope with additional definitive's franking from St. Petersburg 4<sup>th</sup> city post office to Hamburg, sent on February 2, 1895.

Rates (March 8, 1889) : 10 + 10 = 20 Kop.



### 3. Registration labels and marks 1899 - 1914

#### 3.1. 1899 temporary labels

In 1899 registration labels were introduced in Russia. Some labels were designed for mail within Russia, others for mail abroad, the majority for both.

Most of these 1899 temporary labels were only used in this year. They were locally produced and therefore differ in size, color of the paper, imprint etc. between different post offices, even within the same city. These labels were replaced in 1900 by the UPU-type labels and due to the short period of use they are relatively rare.



Registered stationery envelope, sent from the 5<sup>th</sup> expedita of the main St. Petersburg post office to Frankfurt on April 3, 1899.

Label for mail abroad, Roman characters.

Rate (March 8, 1889): 10 + 10 = 20 Kop.

Registered stationery envelope, sent from the 3rd city post office in St. Petersburg to Helsingfors on April 3, 1899.

Label for mail within Russia and Finland, Cyrillic characters.

Labels from the main and the city post offices were printed on pink paper. The city name « S.P.Burg » was added with a handstamp to the label.

Rate (March 20, 1879): 7 + 7 = 14 Kop.





### 3. Registration labels and marks 1899 - 1914

#### 3.1. 1899 temporary labels

Registered cover, sent from the 11<sup>th</sup> telegraph post office St. Petersburg to Wiesbaden on October 26, 1899. As the label is in Cyrillic characters, an additional purple registration mark in Roman characters was added.

Labels of the telegraph post offices of St. Petersburg were in general in upright format on white paper.

Rate (March 8, 1889) :  
10 + 10 = 20 Kop.



Registered cover, sent from 31<sup>st</sup> telegraph post office St. Petersburg to Dresden on November 25, 1899.

As an exception of the exception, the 31<sup>st</sup> telegraph post office was the only telegraph post office using a pink label.

Rate (March 8, 1889) :  
2\*10 + 10 = 30 Kop.



### 3. Registration labels and marks 1899 - 1914

#### 3.1. 1899 temporary labels

Two temporary 1899 labels from Moscow.

Post office department in Moscow on cover to Lyon, sent September 28, 1899. This type resembles the one used after 1899. Here the number is still red, later it became black. On all items sent abroad the «R» in dots was applied in addition.

Rate (March 8, 1889) : 10  
+ 10 = 20 Kop.



Main post office in Moscow (1<sup>st</sup> expeditia) on cover to Bukhara, nowadays Uzbekistan, sent September 22, 1900. Late use of 1899 labels is known up to 1902.

Rate (March 20, 1879) : 3\*7 + 7 = 28 Kop.



### 3. Registration labels and marks 1899 - 1914

#### 3.1. 1899 temporary labels

*Num 469 P*

Two temporary 1899 labels from small post offices in Russia proper.

Registered picture postcard, sent from Zaraysk (Ryazan gubernia) to Turbenthal (Switzerland) on December 20, 1899.

The temporary label was made with a handstamp mark and included just the registration number. In addition, a « R » in dots was applied for mail abroad.

Rate (March 8, 1889):  
4 + 10 = 14 Kop.



Registered cover, sent from Burmakino (Yaroslavl gubernia) to St. Petersburg on May 10, 1899.

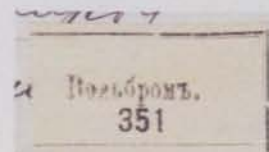
The receiver of this item was again the famous entomologist Andrei Petrovich Semenov-Tian-Shansky (see sections 1.3., 3.4. & 4.3.).

Rate (March 20, 1879):  
7 + 7 = 14 Kop.





3. Registration labels and marks 1899 - 1914  
3.1. 1899 temporary labels



Two temporary 1899 labels from small post offices in Poland.

Registered cover, sent from Wolbrom (Kielce gubernia) to Dresden on September 22, 1899.

In addition, a « R » in dots was applied for mail abroad.

Rate (March 8, 1889):  $10 + 10 = 20$  Kop.



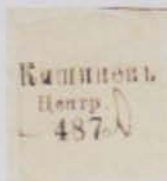
Registered formular postcard, sent from Petrokov to Lodz on February 13, 1899.

Rate (March 20, 1879):  $3 + 7 = 10$  Kop.



### 3. Registration labels and marks 1899 - 1914

#### 3.1. 1899 temporary labels



Two temporary 1899 labels from small post offices in Ukraine and Bessarabia.

Registered stationery envelope, sent from Kozin (Kiev gubernia) to Vienna on November 6, 1899.

In addition, a « R » in dots was applied for mail abroad.

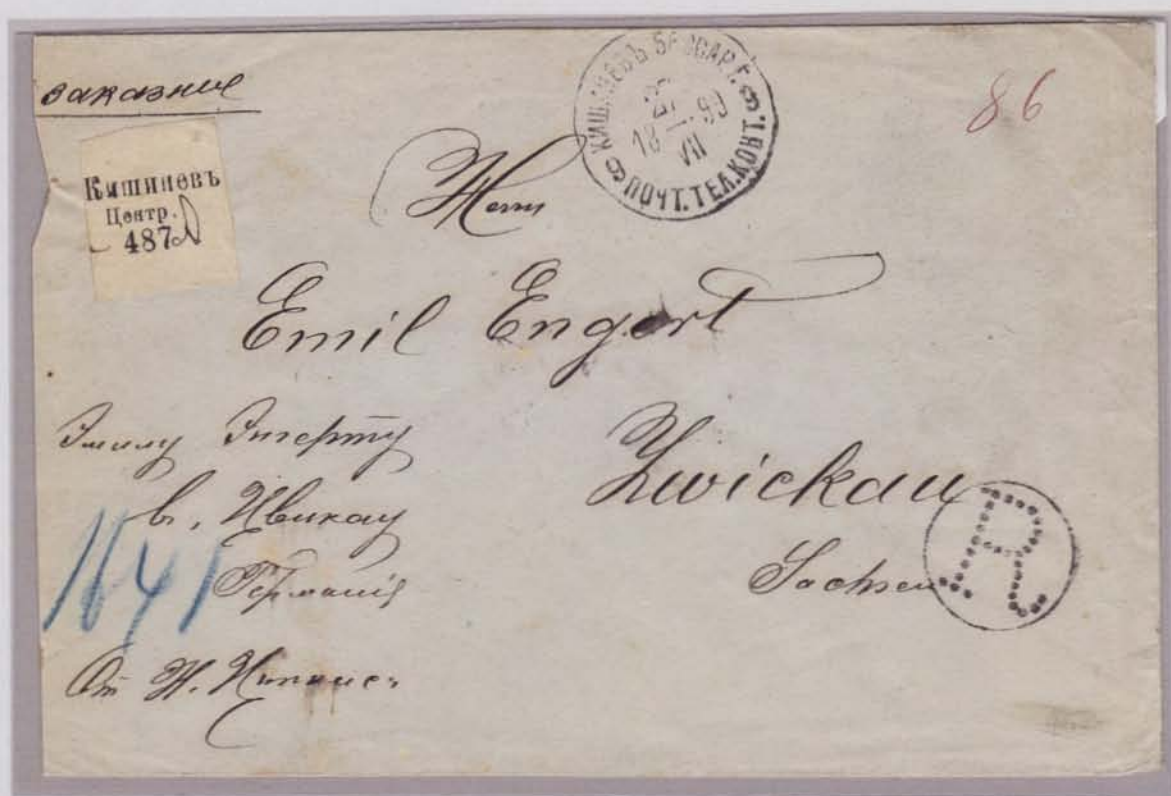
Rate (March 8, 1889):  
10 + 10 = 20 Kop.



Registered cover, sent from Kishinev (Bessarabia gubernia) to Zwickau on July 27, 1899.

In addition, a « R » in dots was applied for mail abroad.

Rate (March 8, 1889):  
10 + 10 = 20 Kop.



### 3. Registration labels and marks 1899 - 1914

#### 3.1. 1899 temporary labels



Temporary label from the Kuban: Registered cover, sent from Starominskaya (Kuban Oblast) to Lausanne on February 9, 1900. Late use of the 1899 label. Rate (March 8, 1889) : 10 + 10 = 20 Kop.



Reverse (x 0.75):  
Oil production in the  
"Black City"



Temporary label from Azerbaijan: Registered picture postcard, sent from Balakhany nearby Baku to Pilsen (Bohemia) on September 27, 1899. Rate (March 8, 1889) : 4 + 10 = 14 Kop.



3. Registration labels and marks 1899 - 1914  
3.1. 1899 temporary labels

Temporary label  
from Siberia:  
Registered cover,  
sent from  
Turukhansk  
(Yenisey gubernia)  
to London on  
August 12, 1899.

Turukhansk is a  
small rural locality  
in northern Siberia.  
Thus, the cover  
needed nearly one  
month to reach  
Moscow.

Rate (March 8,  
1889):  $10 + 10 =$   
20 Kop.



Temporary label  
from Kazakhstan:  
Registered cover,  
sent from Verniy  
(today Alma-Ata) to  
Nevers on January  
22, 1899.

Instead of a label, a  
handstamp and a  
handwritten number  
were used for  
registration.

Rate (March 8,  
1889):  $10 + 10 =$   
20 Kop.





3. Registration labels and marks 1899 - 1914  
3.2. UPU-type labels - R-labels

Since 1900 registration labels of the UPU type (red frame, red « R » on the left, black text) were used in Russia. These labels were available for mail within Russia and abroad (3- and R-labels), at least in large post offices. In Moscow and St. Petersburg additional labels with red city name were in use. The UPU type was the most current label until 1918 and thereafter.



Registered formular postcard, sent from Moscow to Paris on September 30, 1910.

Special label type of Moscow with the name of the city in red (compare with temporary 1899 label from Moscow in section 3.1.).

Rate (March 8, 1889):  
4 + 10 = 14 Kop.



Registered cover, sent from Omsk (Akmolinsk Oblast, Siberia) to Aarhus Denmark on September 25, 1908.

Locally produced UPU-type R-label.

Rate (March 8, 1889):  
2\*10 + 10 = 30 Kop.

Ex collection Jack Moyes.



3. Registration labels and marks 1899 - 1914
- 3.2. UPU-type labels - 3-labels

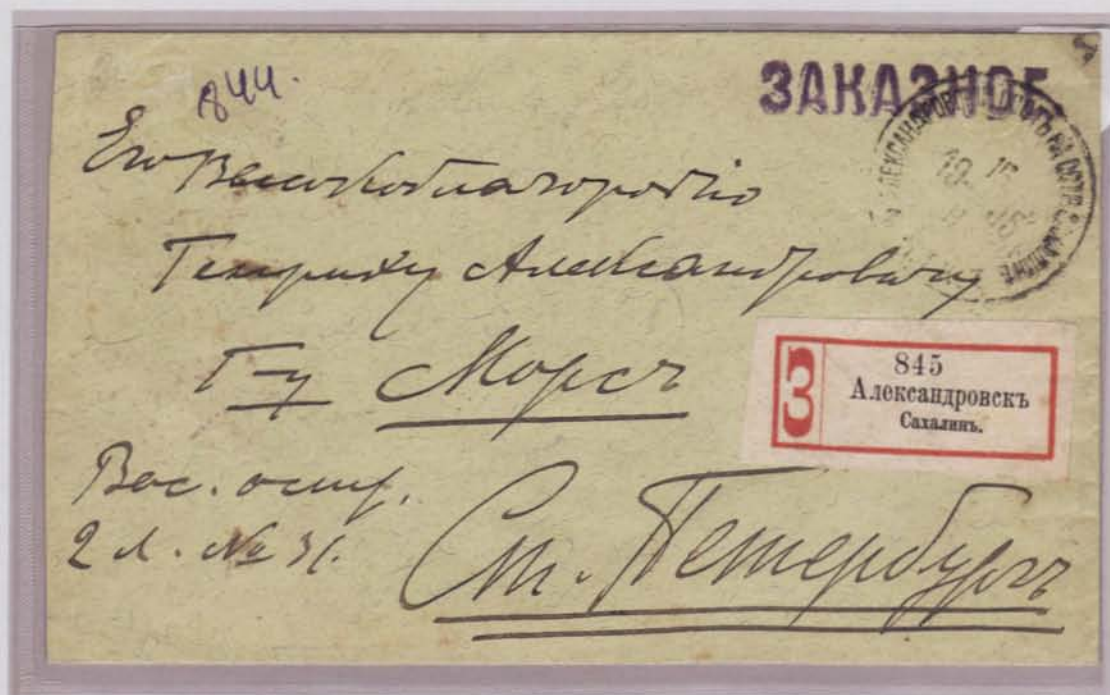


Registered formular letter card from Lukovska, Don oblast to Yusovka, sent May 2, 1917 with 3-label.  
 Very rare usage of an **unapproved essay** for a reply formular letter card of 1906 (Standard catalogue ES 8), reverse with war charity labels.

Rate (September 21, 1914): 10 + 10 Kop.

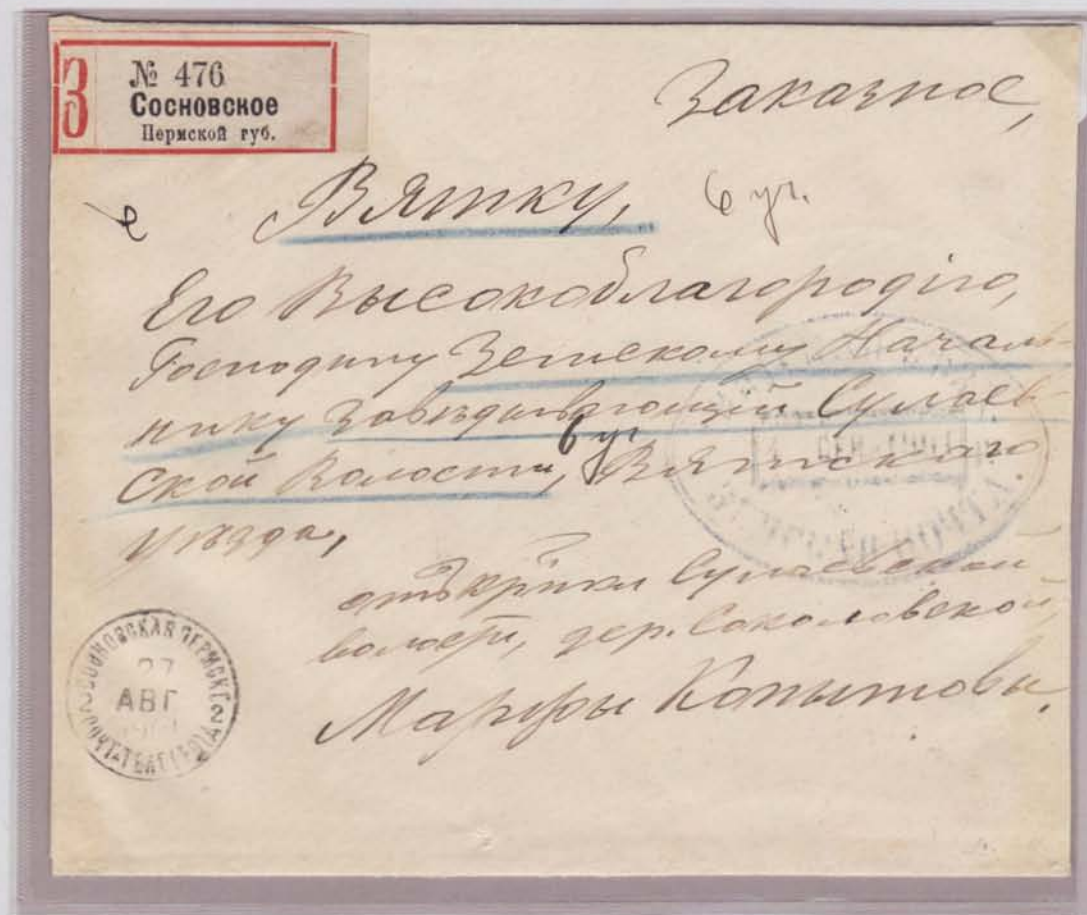


3. Registration labels and marks 1899 - 1914
- 3.2. UPU-type labels - 3-labels



Cover from Aleksandrovsk (Sakhalin island) to St. Petersburg, sent February 15, 1905 with 3-label. Compare with the earlier cover from Aleksandrovsk in section 2.4.

Tariff: 7 + 7 Kop.  
from March 20, 1879



Cover from Sosnovskoje (Perm Gub.) to the Zemstvo administration in Vyatka, sent August 27, 1901 with 3-label. Blue receiver mark of the Zemstvo post on the front.

Tariff: 2\*7 + 7 Kop.  
from March 20, 1879



### 3. Registration labels and marks 1899 - 1914

#### 3.3. 1908-type labels

Since 1908 a new type of labels for smaller post offices was issued, characterized by a black frame. Only R-labels were issued, never 3-labels and they are only found on items sent abroad. The town name is in general in Roman writing, while combined Roman and Cyrillic writing is rare. The registration number is in most cases added by hand, sometimes even the town name was added this way.



Registered stationery envelope, sent from Tambov to Davos on December 17, 1914.

Rate (March 8, 1889): 10 + 10 = 20 Kop.



*Заказное.*



*Абемпира. La Bohême*  
*Vel. Pan Hugo Suchánek*  
*(Тео Суханек)*

*jeune pour l'armée au service de la patrie.*

*Prater I*  
*(Трарат I)*

*Husova tida*

*Bohmen*



Registered cover, sent from Korocha (Kursk gubernia) to Prague on January 22, 1914.

Rate (March 8, 1889): 2\*10 + 10 = 30 Kop.



3. Registration labels and marks 1899 - 1914
- 3.4. Numerator registration marks



In 1912 so called numerator registration marks were introduced. These marks displayed the post office name, the registration number, and on the left a large «3». They were thought for inland mail and there exists only one R-numerator from Riga.



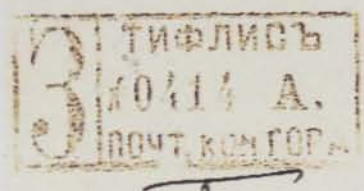
Top : Cover from Bobruisk to Gomel from October 31, 1914.

Bottom : Cover from Samara to Riga from September 2, 1914.

Tariffs : 2\*10 + 10 Kop. from September 21, 1914 ; 7 + 7 Kop. from March 20, 1879



3. Registration labels and marks 1899 - 1914
- 3.4. Numerator registration marks



Top : Cover from Baku to Copenhagen from July 5, 1916. Use abroad not intended for this type of mark. Baku censor.

Bottom : Cover from Tiflis to Petrograd from July 27, 1917. The receiver of this item was again the famous entomologist Andrei Petrovich Semenov-Tian-Shansky (see also sections 1.3., 3.1. & 4.3.).

Tariffs : 10 + 10 Kop. from March 8, 1889; 10 + 10 Kop. from September 21, 1914



3. Registration labels and marks 1899 - 1914
- 3.5. Machine registration marks

In order to simplify further on the postal service for the customers, registration machines were introduced in larger cities. A correctly franked letter could be placed in this machine, the letter and a confirmation was marked by the machine and the letter could be thrown in the letter-box. The next day, the post officer applied a mark « From the machine » to the cover, which was registered in the book. These registration machines produced normally only weak and smeared marks. They exist either as « 3 » or as mixed « 3 / R » marks and are rare.



Registered cover, sent within Petrograd on November 8, 1915.

**Romanov money stamp and bilingual 3 / R – machine registration mark.**

Rate (September 21, 1914):  
5 + 10 = 15 Kop.

Registered stationery postcard of the Romanov series, sent within Moscow on February 15, 1913.

3 – machine registration mark. Additional mark « ПРИНЯТО АВТОМАТОМ » (From the machine).

Rate (March 20, 1879):  
3 + 7 = 10 Kop.





### 3. Registration labels and marks 1899 - 1914

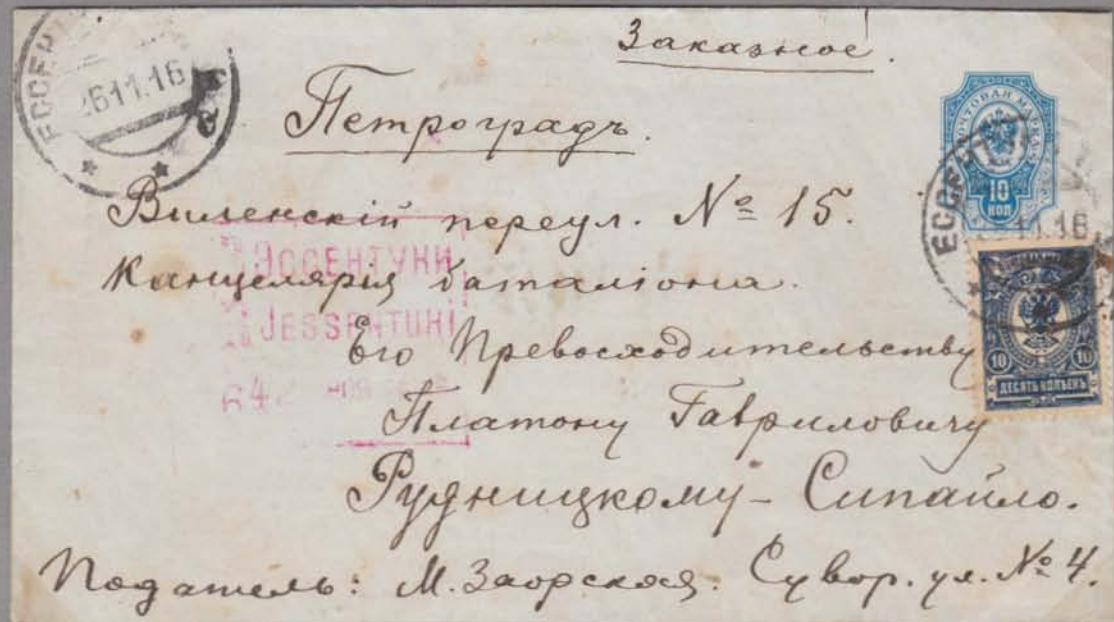
#### 3.5. Machine registration marks

Registration machines did not only exist in large cities like Moscow, St. Petersburg or Riga but also in small places such as the Caucasian spas Kislovodsk and Essentuki.

З КИСЛОВОДСК  
RKISLOWODSK  
364 АПР-717

Registered cover from  
Kislovodsk to England with  
bilingual 3 / R – machine  
registration mark, sent April 7,  
1917.

Rate (March 8, 1889) : 10 + 10  
= 20 Kop.



Registered stationery  
envelope from  
Essentuki to Petrograd  
with 3 – machine  
registration mark, sent  
November 26, 1916.

**One of the rarest  
machine registration  
marks.**

Rate (September 21,  
1914) : 10 + 10 = 20  
Kop.

Ex collection Harry von  
Hofmann.



### 3. Registration labels and marks 1899 - 1914

#### 3.6. Double registration labeling

In many smaller post offices only 3-labels with imprinted registration numbers were available. For registered mail abroad a R-label or R-mark without number was added in all possible configurations to elucidate the registration also to the foreign postal administration.



Combination of the 3- and the R-label of the UPU-type.

Postal stationery card from Melitopol to Los Angeles, sent April 13, 1917.

Tariff: 4 + 10 = 14 Kop. from March 8, 1889



Cover of the 2<sup>nd</sup> weight rate from Kulyabinskoje (Tauridia Gub.) to Stockholm, sent November 22, 1917.

As in Kulyabinskoje no R-label or mark was available at that time, an R-label of Bogdanovka was used and corrected by hand.

Tariffs: 2\*20 + 20 = 60 Kop. from September 1<sup>st</sup>, 1917. Overfranked by 10 Kop.



### 3. Registration labels and marks 1899 - 1914

#### 3.6. Double registration labeling

In principal all combinations between 3 - labels or marks and R - labels or marks were possible.



Registered stationery card from Kishinev (Bessarabia) to Cairo sent September 27, 1916 depicting a combination of a 3-numerator postmark and a 1908-type label. Censorship in Odessa.

Rate (March 8, 1889): 4 + 10 Kop.



Registered stationery card from St. Petersburg to Paris sent July 11, 1905. An UPU-type 3-label was combined with a special R-mark of the 22<sup>nd</sup> telegraph post office. Mark not listed by Baillie & Peel.

Rate (March 8, 1889): 4 + 10 Kop.



3. Registration labels and marks 1899 - 1914

3.6. Double registration labeling

Numerator marks which existed only with an « 3 » for the service within Russia had to be combined with unnumbered « R » marks or labels.



Top : Cover from Taganrog to Corcelles (Switzerland) from May 24, 1914 depicting a 3-numerator mark and in addition a red R rubber stamp mark.

Bottom : Cover from Vladivostok to Stockholm from September 27, 1915. In this case an UPU-type R-label without number was combined with the numerator. On the reverse censorship wax seal from Petrograd.

Tariff : 10 + 10 Kop. from March 8, 1889.



### 3. Registration labels and marks 1899 - 1914

#### 3.6. Double registration labeling

Machine registration marks existed either as « 3 » or « 3 / R » marks. « 3 » marks had to be combined with other « R » marks or labels to enable understanding outside Russia.



Cover from Moscow, 1<sup>st</sup> Expeditiya to Paris, forwarded to Leipzig in 1913. Use of the 3 - machine registration mark in combination with a rubber R-handstamp with the same number. Mark « From the machine ». Machine marks alone or with other registration signs are rare.

Tariff : 10 + 10 Kop. from March 8, 1889.

Cover from « Riga 1<sup>ая</sup> - Voksal » (Riga, 1<sup>st</sup> train station post office) to Leipzig in 1913. Use of the 3 - machine registration mark in combination with a UPU-type R-label with the same number. In this case a numbered registration label was used which shows the same number like the machine mark. Machine marks alone or with other registration signs are rare.

Tariff : 10 + 10 Kop. from March 8, 1889.





3. Registration labels and marks 1899 - 1914
- 3.7. Self registration - Selbstbucher

Carl Fe  
Принято по частн. книгъ.

To simplify the registration procedure for companies with large amounts of registered mail, these companies got the possibility, to register their mail in their own (« non-public ») registration book. At the post office these registered items were marked with « ПРИНЯТО ПО ЧАСТН. КНИГѢ. » - « treated suitable to the non-public book » or « ПО ЧАСТНОЙ КНИГѢ » - « suitable to the non-public book », and passed on. Rarely seen.



Cover from Moscow to Ludwigshafen from 1901. The sender added two marks « Zakaznoje » and « Rekommandiert » in blue. Beside the R-label the « R » in dots was applied to the cover. What is special with this cover is the Cyrillic notion « ПРИНЯТО ПО ЧАСТН. КНИГѢ. » in red on the top left. This cover was registered by Carl Ferrein in Moscow in its own book.

In the literature, the year 1901 is mentioned as the first year in which this service was possible (Skipton, *Rossica* 108 (1986) 35-42).

Tariff : 10 + 10 Kop. from March 8, 1889.



3. Registration labels and marks 1899 - 1914
- 3.7. Self-registration - Selbstbucher

ПРИНЯТО ПО ЧАСТИ  
КНИГЪ



Reverse (x 0.75):



Registered cover, sent from the post office nearby the Bryansk station at the Moscow – Kiev – Voronezh railway line (« БРЯНСКОЙ М. К. В. Ж. Д. », label: Briansk M.-K.-V.) to Boras, Sweden on January 19, 1915, reverse with lilac handstamp « ПРИНЯТО ПО ЧАСТИ. КНИГЪ » - « treated suitable to the non-public book ».

This is one of the rare cases of a **non-public registration book outside of St. Petersburg or Moscow.**

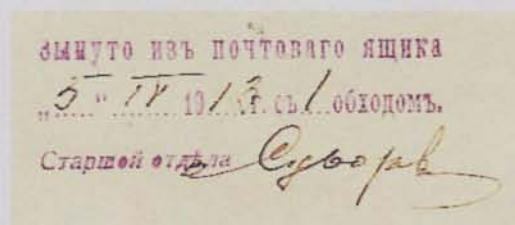
Rate (March 8, 1889) : 10 + 10 = 20 Kop.

Ex collection Harry von Hofmann.

**R**



3. Registration labels and marks 1899 - 1914
- 3.8. From the letter box



Registered items could also be placed in the letter box. If correctly franked these items were inscribed in the registration book and passed on. However there was no indemnity in the case of loss.



Front (x 0.6)



Cover within Moscow from April 5, 1913 with the mark «ИЗЪ ПОЧТОВАГО ЯЩИКА» - «from the letter-box» on the reverse. This mark shows also the date and was signed by the postman.

Tariff: 3 + 7 Kop. from March 15, 1909.



3. Registration labels and marks 1899 - 1914
- 3.8. From the letter box



Formular postcard from Vitebsk train station post office to Nürnberg, sent January 22, 1913. Mark «ВЫНУТО ИЗЪ ПОЧТОВОГО ЯЩИКА» - «taken from the letter-box». Nice use on a card.

Tariff : 4 + 10 Kop. from March 8, 1889.

reverse (x 0.65)



Cover from Petrograd to Göteborg, sent November 1st, 1914. Mark «З. О. - ВЫНУТО ИЗЪ ЯЩИКА» - «Central department - taken from the letter-box» on the reverse.

St. Petersburg postmarks and labels. Petrograd censorship with wax seal. War charity label.

Tariff : 10 + 10 Kop. from March 8, 1889.

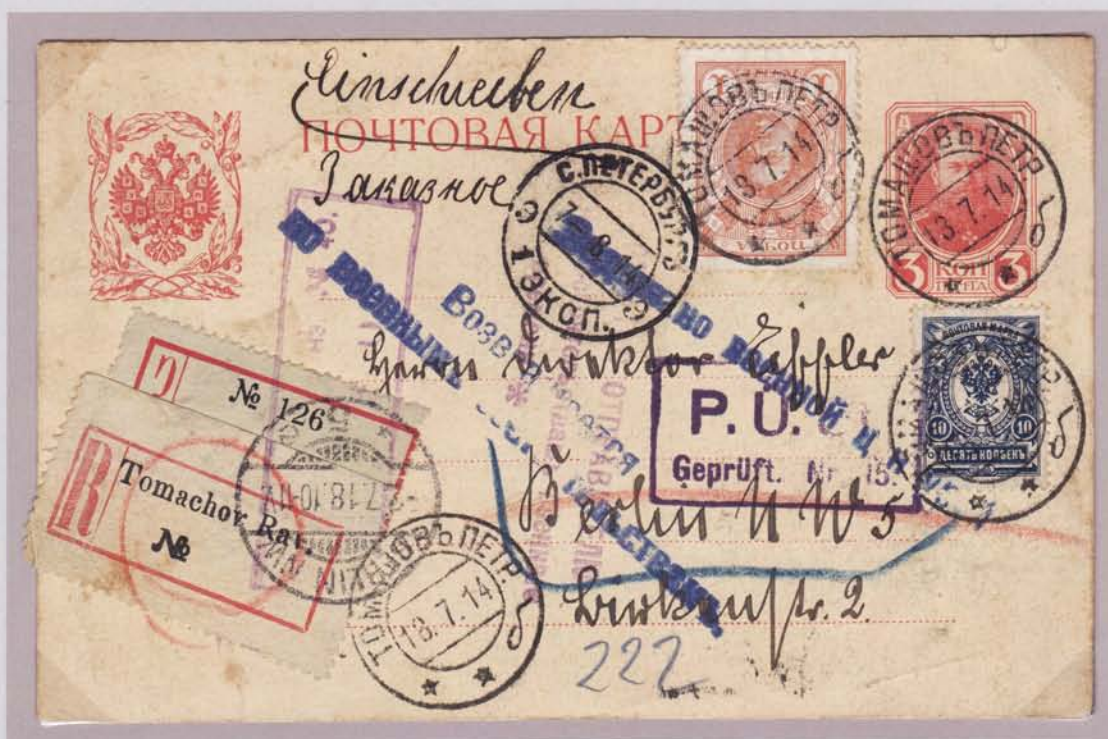


#### 4. Registration during the war 1914 - 1918

At the end of World War I the czaristic empire was history. In a disintegrating society like this also the postal system was breaking apart. The well-organized registration system lacked the material needed for its existence like labels and postmarks and the system went back to handwritten markings, rubber stamps and all sorts of provisional marks.

This section shows first the mute cancellations on registered items from the beginning of the war and displays thereafter all kinds of provisional marks from the end of WWI. The main part of this section, however, presents the changes in the tariffs for covers and postcards within Russia and abroad during the war.

During World War I postal items to allied or neutral countries were censored like mail from the theatre of war. Mail to enemy countries was impossible, mail from and to prisoners of war had to be sent via the Red Cross in Copenhagen or Geneva.



Registered postal stationery postcard with double registration from Tomashov to Berlin, posted on July 13, 1914 and delivered on July 2, 1918.

On July 28, 1914 (new style Gregorian calendar = July 15, 1914 old style Julian Russian calendar) Austria-Hungary declared the war to Serbia. On July 17 old style calendar Russia declared its general mobilization to support Serbia. As a response the German empire as an ally of Austria-Hungary declared the war to Russia on July 19 old style calendar. At the evening of that day the first Russian cavalry units entered Eastern Prussia.

While this postcard was still in the Russian postal system, Russia entered the war against Germany and Austria-Hungary. The card was obviously transferred to St. Petersburg (postmark August 7, 1914 ; renamed to Petrograd on August 18, 1914) and stayed there until the peace treaty of Brest-Litovsk between Germany and Russia under Bolshevik government (March 3, 1918 old style calendar). In these four years the postcard received two different postmarks stating that a mailing was impossible due to the war : in blue « ВОЗВРАЩАЕТСЯ ПО ВОЕННЫМЪ ОБСТОЯТЕЛЬСТВАМЪ » (Returned because of war), and in lilac « ОБРАТНО ОТПАВИТЕЛНО ПО ОБСТОЯТЕЛЬСТВАМЪ ВОЕННОГО ВРЕМЕНИ » (Return - Delivery temporarily impossible because of war) (Speckaert, Russian postal censorship 1914 - 1918). The card shows in addition two censorship marks from Petrograd, one unknown to Speckaert, a German censor mark and an arrival postmark from Berlin.

The sender wrote to his parents that they shall not worry about him, he will come back as soon as possible. Maybe he was one of the 200'000 German civilians in Russian captivity.

Tariff :  $4 + 10 = 14$  Kop. from March 20, 1889.



#### 4. Registration during the war 1914 - 1918

##### 4.1. « Mute » registration

At the beginning of WWI the postmarks as well as registration labels and marks were made unrecognizable in the western governments of the Russian empire. This should prevent that the enemy could gain any information if he would get access to this mail. However, this measure was abolished very soon because the addresses on the mail gave enough information to identify the source.



The perfect mute letter :

Registered cover from Berdichev to Riga, arrived at September 6, 1914. No registration mark or label was added and the sender has even made the address unrecognizable with a black beam. The place of origin could only be identified from the literature (Levin ; The mute cancels of Russia 1914-1917 ; No. 511.04)

Tariff :  $7 + 7 = 14$  Kop. from March 20, 1879.



4. Registration during the war 1914 - 1918  
4.1. « Mute » registration

Two covers where the commercial envelope gives the place of origin :

Registered cover, sent from Kiev to Petrograd with an anonymized numerator registration mark, arrival August 27, 1914 (Levin no. 511.06). However, the imprinted address of the Kiev bank betrays the secret.

Rate (March 20, 1879):  $7 + 7 = 14$  Кор.

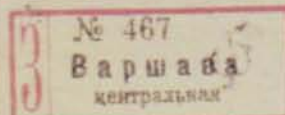


Registered cover, sent from Warsaw to Riga with a UPU-type registration label from Warsaw, which was made unreadable. Departure at the beginning of September 1914 (mute mark Levin no. 512.08). The imprinted address of the cover gives Warsaw as place of departure.

Rate (March 20, 1879):  $7 + 7 = 14$  Кор.



4. Registration during the war 1914 - 1918
- 4.1. « Mute » registration



Акционерное Общество Челекенскихъ Озokerитово-Нефтяныхъ Промысловъ

„ЛЮБОРАДЪ“

ВАРШАВА УЛ. ЗГОДА № 9.

з а к а з н о е

Правленію Товарищества

БР. НОБЕЛЬ

ПЕТРОГРАДЪ

A mute cancellation combined with a speaking registration label and date postmark :

Cover from Warsaw to Petrograd with a UPU-type registration label and a datestamp of the first expedition of Warsaw, departure May 26, 1915 (mute mark Levin no. 512.08). In addition, the imprinted address of the cover gives Warsaw as departure. Rate (September 21, 1914): 10 + 10 = 20 Kop.



РУССКІЙ ДЛЯ ВНЕШНЕЙ ТОРГОВЛИ БАНКЪ,  
РИЖНОЕ ОТДѢЛЕНІЕ.

Local mute cover:

Registered cover within Riga, arrival August 26, 1914 (mute mark Levin no. 547.20).

Rate (March 15, 1909):  
3 + 7 = 10  
Kop.

ВАКАЗНОЕ

603

Христианъ Гринъ

Судачевъ





4. Registration during the war 1914 - 1918  
4.2. Provisional registration

During the war there was a shortage of registration labels. As a substitute locally made rubber handstamps were used or the registration was simply noted on the item.



Reverse (x 0.75)



Top : Registered cover, sent from Sosnovka (Mogilev gubernia) to Moscow on September 4, 1918. Sosnovka rubber mark.

Bottom : Registered cover, sent from Allaverdi (Tiflis gubernia) to the post office at the Katarsk factory (Elisavetpol gubernia) on August 9, 1917. Allaverdi rubber mark.

Rates : 35 + 70 = 105 Kop. of February 28, 1918 ; 10 + 10 = 20 Kop. of September 21, 1914.

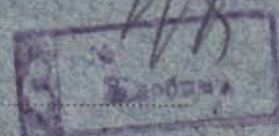


4. Registration during the war 1914 - 1918
- 4.2. Provisional registration



Шлобинское торгово-промышленное Общество  
Взаимного Кредита.

ЗАКАЗНОЕ



Русско-Вятскому Банку



Въ Лос-Анжелесъ

Шлобинск. уст.

Reverse (x 0.5)



Top : Registered stationery postcard, sent from Kletsk (Minsk gubernia) via New York to Cincinnati on July 13, 1917. Unusual « ОБРАТНАЯ ПОЛ. ПОЧ. КОН. ВЪ МИНСКѢ » (Field post office for return correspondence) datestamp, i. e. this card passed with the field post away from the front. Kletsk rubber mark nearly invisible below the US « Registered » mark.

Bottom : Registered cover, sent from Shlobin to Gomel (both in Mogilev gubernia) on October 18, 1917. Shlobin rubber mark.

Rates : 4 + 10 = 14 Kop. of September 21, 1914 ; 15 + 20 = 35 Kop. of August 15, 1917.



4. Registration during the war 1914 - 1918
- 4.2. Provisional registration

244 - Kieff 8



Top : Postal stationery postcard franked with in total 60 Kop. from Kiev to the UK from December 9, 1917 (arrival February 4, 1918). The handwritten registration mark « 244 – Kieff 8 » is hidden by the censorship mark from there.

Bottom : Kerenski – type postal stationery postcard from Dvinsk to Johannesburg (South Africa) in January 1918. Only an handwritten « zakaznoje » and the registration number « N 107 » mark it as registered. Overfranked by 27 Kop.

Tariff : 8 + 20 Kop. from September 1<sup>st</sup>, 1917.



4. Registration during the war 1914 - 1918  
4.2. Provisional registration

77  
Красная Гора,  
СПб. губ.



Top : Registered cover, sent from Krasnaya Gory (St. Petersburg gubernia) to Pernov on March 24, 1916. Provisional use of a label with blue frame issued for money items (see section 6.2.)

Bottom : Registered cover, sent from Kharkov to Loenen (Netherlands) in August 1917. Provisional use of a label with green frame issued for cash on delivery items (see section 6.3.)

Rate (September 21, 1914): 10 + 10 = 20 Kop.



#### 4. Registration during the war 1914 - 1918

Letter tariff of September 21, 1914

##### 4.3. Increasing tariffs within Russia

→15 gr., 10 + 10 = 20 Kop.

The war had to be financed. On September 21, 1914 the tariffs within Russia were increased. This section displays pre-war and war tariffs for registered letters, local letters and postcards. The tariffs from post office to post office within Russia were raised to the level of the mail sent abroad from March 1889. Letter postage was increased to 10 Kop. for 15 gr. and the registration fee became also 10 Kop.



Two covers up to 15 gr.

Top : This postal stationery envelope was sent from Moscow to Arkhangelsk in 1915. UPU-type registration label.

Bottom : Letter from Arkhangelsk to Petrograd in 1915. Numerator registration mark.



4. Registration during the war 1914 - 1918
- 4.3. Increasing tariffs within Russia

Letter tariff of September 21, 1914  
→30 gr., 2\*10 + 10 = 30 Kop.



Two letters up to 30 gr. with Romanov issue stamps.

Top : Cover from Petrograd to Riga in December 1914. Although renamed in Petrograd, postmarks and the UPU-type label of the 11<sup>th</sup> town post office still shows « St. Petersburg ».

Bottom : Reverse of a cover from Velion to Petrograd in December 1914. Red Petrograd receiver.



4. Registration during the war 1914 - 1918

4.3. Increasing tariffs within Russia

Letter tariff of August 15, 1917

→15 gr., 15 + 20 = 35 Kop.

Still under the Kerenski government tariffs were increased drastically in August 1917. Then, 15 Kop. for a letter of 15 gr. and 20 Kop. registration fee had to be paid.



Front (x 0.75)



Top : Cover with a mass franking of 35 Kop. from Samara to Valk from January 29, 1918

Bottom : Cover from Rostov / Don to Abo (Finland) from August 19, 1917. This item was dispatched only four days after the tariff change and is correctly franked. It shows a numerator mark and a red censorship mark from Abo.



4. Registration during the war 1914 - 1918
- 4.3. Increasing tariffs within Russia

Letter tariff of August 15, 1917  
 →30 gr., 2\*15 + 20 = 50 Kop.



Cover with a weight of 30 gr. from Melitopol (Taurida Gubernia) to Marienburg (today Aluksne, Latvia) from October 14, 1917. Late use of the war charity stamps issued in 1914.



4. Registration during the war 1914 - 1918  
 4.3. Increasing tariffs within Russia

Letter tariff of February 28, 1918  
 →15 gr., 35 + 70 = 105 Kop.  
 →45 gr., 3\*35 + 70 = 175 Kop.



Front (x 0.75)

Registered covers with weights of 15 and 45 gr. from Murmansk and from Rybinsk both to Petrograd from March and May 1918. This is again a short-lasting tariff from end of February to September 1918. Both items show only a handwritten registration note.



4. Registration during the war 1914 - 1918  
 4.3. Increasing tariffs within Russia

Letter tariff of September 15, 1918  
 →15 gr., 25 + 25 = 50 Kop.



Cover with a weight of 15 gr. from Voronezh 2<sup>nd</sup> town post office to Petrograd from November 18, 1918. Short revolutionary tariff from mid-September 1918 to the end of the year.

A very clean item for this period to the famous entomologist Andrei Petrovich Semenov-Tian-Shansky (1866-1942), son of Piotr Petrovich Semenov Tian-Shansky (1827-1914), explorer of the Tian Shan mountains between Kyrgyzstan and China. A. P. Semenov-Tian-Shansky died during the siege of Leningrad. There are three other covers to him in this collection (sections 1.3., 3.1. & 3.4.).



A. P. Semenov-Tian-Shansky



4. Registration during the war 1914 - 1918
- 4.3. Increasing tariffs within Russia

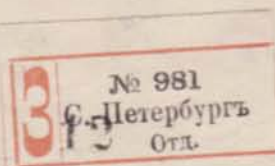
Local letter tariff of March 20, 1879

5 + 7 = 12 Kop.

3 + 7 = 10 Kop.

For local letters within St. Petersburg or Moscow a fee of 5 Kop. had to be paid. In all other cities this fee was only 3 Kop. The tariff was independent from the weight and the registration fee was always 7 Kop. in this pre-war tariff.

(Городское)



*Заказное.*

*Его Высокоблагородию  
Горному Инженеру  
Николаю Ивановичу  
Степанову.*



*Вас. Островъ 9 линия д. № 20.*

*Ст. Киевъ 12-й городск. почт. отд.*



*отъ пер. Киевскаго Узла,  
Артиллерійской воюющей  
Роты № 12  
тевой.  
Киевъ городъ,  
Брежневъ*

Top : Cover dispatched from the 12<sup>th</sup> town post office in St. Petersburg and franked with 12 Kop.  
Bottom : Cover dispatched from the 1<sup>st</sup> town post office in Kiev and franked with 10 Kop.



4. Registration during the war 1914 - 1918  
4.3. Increasing tariffs within Russia

Local letter tariff of September 21, 1914  
→60 gr., 5 + 10 = 15 Kop.

At the beginning of the war the local tariff was raised from 3 Kop. to 5 Kop. and the registration fee from 7 Kop. to 10 Kop.



Two local registered covers within Petrograd from 1914 and 1915 and franked with 15 Kop.



#### 4. Registration during the war 1914 - 1918

##### 4.3. Increasing tariffs within Russia

Postcard tariff of March 20, 1879

3 + 7 = 10 Kop.

Two registered postcards depicting the 10 Kop. pre-war tariff. While being relatively rare before the war, they became more frequent due to the lower postcard tariff and the ease to censor them.



Top : Postcard from Kishinev (Bessarabia) to St. Petersburg with a 3 – label.

Bottom : Postcard from Kasan to St. Petersburg with two numerator registration marks. The mark with the wrong number was crossed out.



4. Registration during the war 1914 - 1918
- 4.3. Increasing tariffs within Russia

Postcard tariff of September 21, 1914  
 $3 + 10 = 13$  Kop.  
 Postcard tariff of August 15, 1917  
 $5 + 20 = 25$  Kop.

Like the tariffs for letters within Russia and local letters also the postcard tariff was increased at the beginning of the war and again drastically in 1917.



Top : Postcard from Novgorod to Sajzevo with a provisional registration rubber mark. Nice 13 Kop. tariff.

Bottom : Postcard from Gomel to Petrograd with a numerator registration mark. Nice presentation of the 25 Kop. Kerenski tariff.



#### 4. Registration during the war 1914 - 1918

##### 4.4. Increasing tariffs abroad

Letter tariff of September 1<sup>st</sup>, 1917

→15 gr., 20 + 20 = 40 Kop.

The tariffs abroad have not been changed at the beginning of the war because they had already been increased in 1889. Thus from 1914 to 1917 interior tariffs and those abroad were identical. However, in 1917 under the Kerenski government tariffs abroad were increased like those within Russia.



Two censored registered covers in the 40 Kop. tariff from 1917. The upper cover went from Odessa (27.10.1917) via France to Lausanne and was censored in Odessa and in France. The cover on the bottom went from Petrograd (4.2.1918) to Stockholm and was intercepted by the Germans. It shows a censorship stripe from Petrograd and the German war censorship stripe « Militärischerseits unter Kriegsrecht geöffnet ».



4. Registration during the war 1914 - 1918
- 4.4. Increasing tariffs abroad

Letter tariff of March 10, 1918  
→15 gr., 30 + 30 = 60 Kop.

A further tariff increase took place in March 1918.



Two registered covers in the 60 Kop. tariff. The upper letter went from Losinoostrovskaya (Moscow Gubernia) (12.9.1918) to a prisoner of war in Gütersloh and was censored in Moscow and Königsberg. Provisional R-mark and « R » with blue pencil. Following the peace treaty of Brest-Litovsk (3.8.1918) a direct exchange of mail with Germany became possible. The cover on the bottom went from Moscow (14.10.1918) to Reval in Estonia which was already independent. Censorship mark from Moscow and control mark from Riga (« R »).



4. Registration during the war 1914 - 1918  
4.4. Increasing tariffs abroad

Postcard tariff of March 20, 1879  
3 + 7 = 10 Kop.  
Postcard tariff of March 8, 1889  
4 + 10 = 14 Kop.

Like for the letters, also the postcard tariffs abroad were unchanged until 1917.



Top : Stationery postcard dispatched in 1885 from Fellin to Hamburg. Postcards in this tariff are rare.

Bottom : Registered picture postcard from Akkerman in Bessarabia to Constantinopoli (Turkey) in December 1905. Instead of a R-label of the UPU-type an 3-label and a dotted « R » were used. Arrival postmark of the ROPiT office in Constantinopoli (ROPiT, Russian abbreviation of « Russian company for steam shipping and trade »).



4. Registration during the war 1914 - 1918  
 4.4. Increasing tariffs abroad

Postcard tariff of March 8, 1889  
 4 + 10 = 14 Kop.



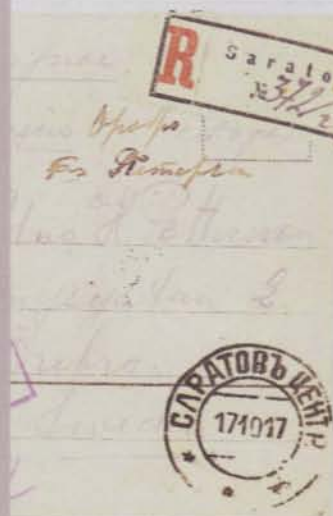
Two registered postal stationery postcards of the 1909 issue with additional frankings.  
 Top : Postcard from Mohilev-Podolsky to Davos with a 1908-type label, dispatched June 1914.  
 Bottom : Postcard from Moscow to Birmingham in February 1917. Correct additional franking with three values of the war charity issue of 1914. Censorship in Moscow.



4. Registration during the war 1914 - 1918
- 4.4. Increasing tariffs abroad

Postcard tariff of September 1<sup>st</sup>, 1917  
 $8 + 20 = 28$  Kop.

With the Kerenski tariff of September 1917 all previous tariffs abroad from 1889 were doubled.



Address side (x 0.75)



Top : Picture postcard from Saratov to Örebro (Sweden), sent October 17, 1917. 1908-type R-label and censorship in Petrograd.

Bottom : Postal stationery postcard of the Romanov issue from Kamenets-Podolski to Fribourg (Switzerland), sent October 19, 1917. Arrival at February 5, 1918. Censorship in Odessa and France.



4. Registration during the war 1914 - 1918
- 4.4. Increasing tariffs abroad

Postcard tariff of March 10, 1918  
 $12 + 30 = 42$  Kop.

A further tariff increase took place in March 1918. This rate lasted for only six months and is rarely seen due to the conditions of the ongoing Civil War.



Top : Stationery postcard from Petrograd to Schaulen, Lifland, then under German occupation, sent June 10, 1918. Censorship in Petrograd. Correct four colour franking of the 42 Kop. tariff.

Bottom : Stationery postcard from Saratov to Warsaw, then under German occupation, sent July 14, 1918. Soviet and German censorship.



5. Registration in special post offices  
5.1. Telegraph offices

Since 1886 it was possible to despatch registered items in the evening in telegraph offices without paying a late fee. 26 telegraph offices started to offer this service in St. Petersburg between March and July 1886. In general it should not have been possible to dispatch non-registered mail in telegraph post offices. Registered mail from telegraph offices is relatively frequent from St. Petersburg, Moscow, Kiev, Riga and Odessa, while only few or unique items are known from Astrakhan, Omsk, Rovno, Rostov and Vladivostok as well as from the Imperial Palace of Gachina and the stock exchange of Kazan (Berger, DZRP 96 (2012) 19-27).



Registered cover posted at the 19<sup>th</sup> St. Petersburg city telegraph office (ТЕЛЕГРАФЪ. – ВЪ С.П.Б. XXIX; Baillie & Peel type 5A2), sent to Klein-Glienicke, Germany on August 26, 1886.

The **first despatch** of a registered cover at a telegraph station in Russia known to me.

Addressee of this letter is Svante August Arrhenius (1859-1927), one of the founders of the science of physical chemistry, who received the Nobel Prize of Chemistry in 1903.

Rate (March 20, 1879): 7 + 7 = 14 Kop.



5. Registration in special post offices  
5.1. Telegraph offices

Registered cover posted at the main telegraph station in St. Petersburg (ГЛАВНАЯ – ТЕЛЕГРАФ СТАНЦ СПБ) to Insterburg, Germany on April 4, 1887.

First datestamp type of the main St. Petersburg telegraph office and **not known on cover** to Baillie & Peel, 2001 (type no. 5A1A).

Rate (March 20, 1879): 7 + 7 = 14 Kop.



Registered cover posted at the main telegraph station in St. Petersburg (ГЛАВНАЯ – С.П.Б. ТЕЛЕГРАФ СТАНЦ.) to Göteborg, Sweden on December 31, 1887.

Second datestamp type of the main St. Petersburg telegraph office (Baillie & Peel, 2001; type no. 5A1B).

Rate (March 20, 1879): 2\*7 + 7 = 21 Kop.



5. Registration in special post offices  
5.1. Telegraph offices



Top : Registered stationery postcard posted at the 20<sup>th</sup> St. Petersburg city telegraph office (С. ПЕТЕРБУРГЪ - ГОР. ТЕЛЕГР. КОНТ. No XX; Baillie type 5C6) to Riga on February 3, 1903.

Bottom : Registered cover posted at the 32<sup>nd</sup> St. Petersburg city telegraph office (С. ПЕТЕРБУРГЪ - XXXII<sup>я</sup> ГОР. ТЕЛ. КОНТ.; Baillie & Peel type 5C4) to Helsingfors (Finland) on August 8, 1896.



5. Registration in special post offices
- 5.1. Telegraph offices



Reverse (x 0.75)

Registered postal stationery cover posted at the 7<sup>th</sup> Moscow telegraph office (МОСКВА – ТЕЛЕГРАФЪ 7) to Goethe (Germany) on April 11, 1893.



Registered postal stationery cover, posted at the Riga telegraph station (РИГА – ТЕЛЕГРАФН. СТАНЦ.) to Viborg on December 7, 1898.

Only seven covers are known from the Riga telegraph station, dispatched in 1894-1902 (Berger, DZRP 96 (2012) 19-27).



5. Registration in special post offices  
5.1. Telegraph offices

In contrast to St. Petersburg or Moscow, registered items from the city telegraph post offices in Odessa are scarce, in total 15 covers from the years 1887 – 1904 are known to me. However, there is a large variety of labels used.



Registered cover posted at the Odessa city telegraph department (ОДЕССА – ТЕЛЕГРАФЪ ГОРОДСКАЯ) to Bristol, sent March 14, 1902.

**Only known item** with the label « ОДЕССКАГО ГОР. ТЕЛЕГР. ОТДѢЛ. ХЕРСОНСКОЙ ГУБ. ».

Ex collection Ian Baillie.



Registered cover posted at the Odessa city telegraph department to London, sent July 8, 1900.

**Only known item** with the label « ОДЕС. ТЕЛ. ОТД. ХЕРС. ГУБ. ».



## 5. Registration in special post offices

### 5.1. Telegraph offices

Registered items from Kiev city telegraph post offices are scarce too, 18 items are known to me. From some cities such as Rovno only few or like in this case unique covers are known.



Registered stationery envelope posted at the Kiev central telegraph office (КИЕВЪ - ЦЕНТРАЛ. ТЕЛ. КОНТ.) to La Plata, Argentina, sent on February 5, 1896.

Ex collection Harry von Hofmann.



Registered stationery envelope posted at the Rovno telegraph office (ТЕЛЕГРАФЪ ВЪ РОВНѢ) to St. Petersburg on March 29, 1889.

**Only known item** from the telegraph post office in Rovno.

Ex collection Jack Moyes.



## 5. Registration in special post offices

### 5.2. Railway station post offices – precursors at horse-drawn carriage stations

It was possible to despatch registered items in three different types of post offices in or nearby train stations (*Berger, DZRP 97 (2012) 4-13*).

The first type were the real railway station post offices which were controlled and operated by the railway administration.

The second type were « semi-postal » offices opened first along the Trans-Siberian railway which were controlled by the general post, but were operated by railway clerks.

The third type were regular post offices nearby railway stations which were controlled and operated by the general post, but which mention their location in their datestamps and labels.

One can regard post offices at horse-drawn carriage stations as precursors of railway station post offices, although they were controlled and operated by the general post.



Reverse (x 0.75)

Registered cover despatched at the **post office of the Pokrovskoje horse-drawn carriage station** in the Tver gubernia (prephilatelic two line datestamp « Ст. Поковское. Твер. – 10 Мая. 1878 Года. »), sent on May 10, 1878 to Stockholm. St. Petersburg transit, German « Vom Ausland » label for registered mail from abroad. Only five registered covers with these early marks are known to me.

Rate (June 19, 1875):  $8 + 10 + 5 = 23$  Kop.

Ex collection Harry von Hofmann.



5. Registration in special post offices
- 5.2. Railway station post offices – precursors at horse-drawn carriage stations



Registered postal stationery envelope despatched at the post office of the Novij Bug horse-drawn carriage station in the Kherson gubernia (« НОВЫЙ БУГЪ ПОЧТ. СТ. – ХЕРСОНСКОЕ Г. ») on January 3, 1882 to Leipzig. German « Vom Ausland » label for registered mail from abroad.

Rate (March 20, 1879):  $2 \times 7 + 7 = 21$  Kop.



Reverse (x 0.75)

Registered wrapper despatched at the post office of the Glibovo horse-drawn carriage station in the Yaroslavl gubernia (« ГЛИБОВО ПОЧТ. СТ. – ЯРОСЛАВСКАЯ Г. »), sent on July 27, 1897 to Bremen.



### 5.2. Railway station post offices - of the railway administration

Registered cover  
despatched in the post  
office of the St. Petersburg  
train station on the railway  
line to Tsarskoye Selo  
(« С.ПЕТЕРБУРГСК.  
П.О. – ЦАРСКОСЕЛ.  
Ж. Д. »), sent on June 25,  
1881 to Gyeshetsk.



Registered postcard  
despatched in the  
post office of the  
Vladivostok train  
station  
(« Владивосток  
Жел. Дор. П. О. »),  
sent on September  
22, 1900 to Soltau.



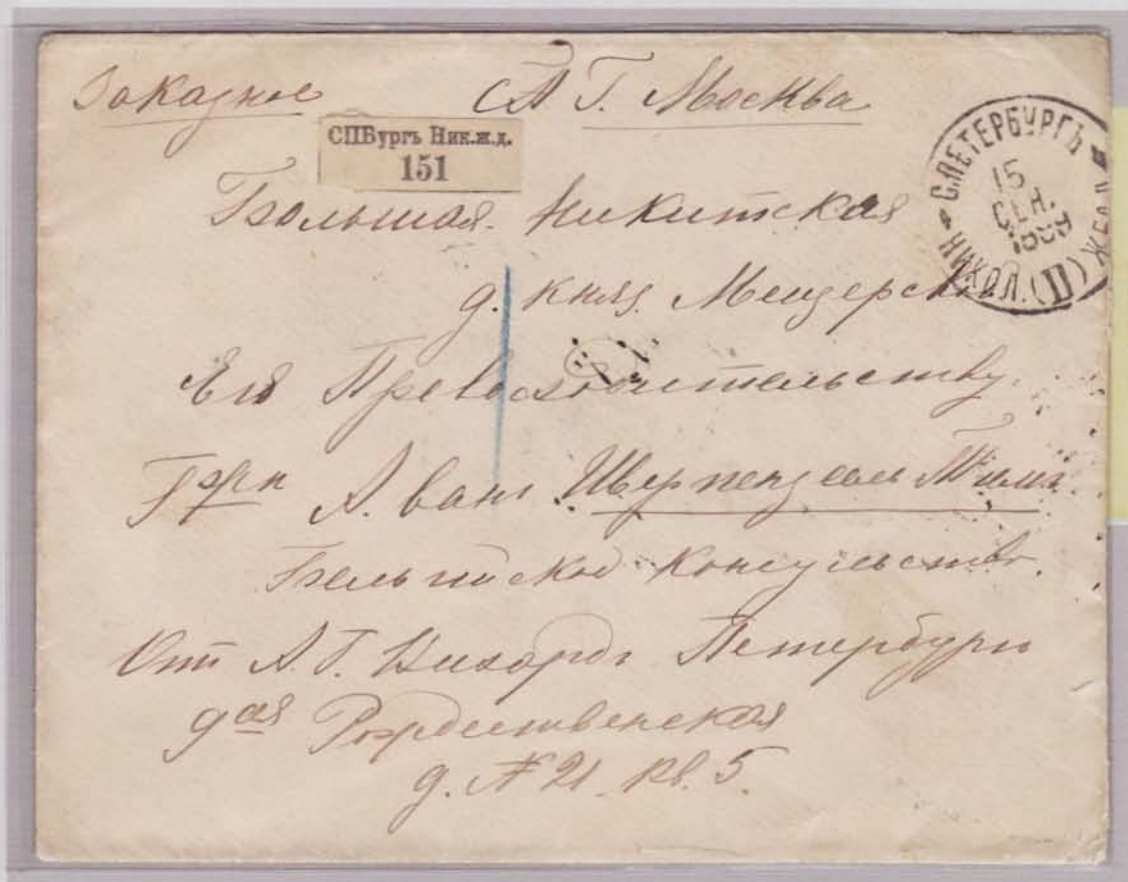
Reverse (x 0.75)



5. Registration in special post offices

5.2. Railway station post offices - of the railway administration

Also in railway station post offices, preliminary 1899 registration labels were used.



Registered cover, dispatched at the post office of the St. Petersburg Nikolayev train station (СПБургъ ник.ж.д.), sent to Moscow on September 15, 1899.

Rare temporary 1899 label. Ex collections Miskin and Baillie.



Registered cover, dispatched at the post office of the Libava railway station (Либава ж. п. о.), sent to Riga on July 5, 1899.



5. Registration in special post offices
- 5.2. Railway station post offices - of the railway administration

From about 1903 onward datestamps of the railway station post offices had an oval form with the abbreviated word « Vokzal » included.



Registered postcard dispatched at the post office of the Nikolay train station in St. Petersburg, sent to Berlin on April 20, 1908. The Cyrillic datestamp shows the typical oval form, it is combined with a label in French language.



Registered letter card dispatched at the post office of the Khabarovsk train station (postmark: BOK3.; label: Ж. Д. П. О.), sent to Berlin on April 20, 1908. The letter card was transported from Khabarovsk at the lower Amur river via the Trans-Siberian railway.



5. Registration in special post offices  
5.2. Railway station post offices - of the railway administration

Also in railway station post offices numerator and machine registration marks were used.

Registered cover dispatched at the post office at the train station Revel of the north-western railroad (« РЕВЕЛЬ / СІБЕРО-ЗАПАДНЫХЪ Ж. Д. / Ж. Д. П. О. »), sent in August 1914 to Libava.

Use of a numerator registration mark, the stamp is cancelled with a mute mark (see sections 3.4. & 4.1.)



Registered cover dispatched at the post office at the train station of Riga, sent on December 12, 1912 within Riga.

The reverse shows a strike of the machine registration mark (see section 3.5.) « РИГА 1<sup>АЯ</sup> - ВОКЗАЛЬ ».





5. Registration in special post offices

5.2. Railway station post offices - « semi-postal » offices

« Semi-postal » offices were established along newly built railway lines like the Trans-Siberian railway. Thus, they were the only post offices in these new settlements. As the office was open as long as the railway station this was a very convenient service. Their datestamps included the words stanza (station; abbreviated « Ст. ») or platform. Registered items from these small stations are of course rare.



Registered stationery postcard dispatched at the post office of the Saburovo stanza of the Ryazan - Ural railway line (« Ст. САБУРОВО - РЯС.-УРАЛ. Ж. Д. »), sent on July 3, 1916 to Rome.

Use of a provisional white registration label due to the material limitations of the war.



Registered cover dispatched at the post office of the Bashenovo stanza of the Perm railway line (« Ст. БАЖЕНОВО - ПЕРМСК. Ж. Д. »), sent on January 3, 1912 to Paris.



5. Registration in special post offices

5.2. Railway station post offices - « semi-postal » offices



Registered cover dispatched at the post office of the Bolovsk stanzia of the St. Petersburg - Warsaw railway (« СТ. БОЛОВСКЪ - С.-ПЕТ.-ВАРШ. Ж. Д. »), sent on September 25, 1908 to Lyutsin.



Registered cover dispatched at the post office of the Galeshchina stanzia of the southern railway (« СТ. ГАЛЕЩИНА - ЮЖН. Ж. Д. »), sent on September 30, 1909 to Paris. Ex collection Peel.



5. Registration in special post offices
- 5.2. Railway station post offices - « semi-postal » offices



Registered cover  
despatched at the  
post office of the  
Obidimo stanzia  
of the Syzran -  
Vyazma railway  
(« СТ.  
ОБИДИМО -  
СЫЗР. ВЯЗ. Ж.  
Д. »), sent on  
November 27,  
1914 to Geneva.





## 5. Registration in special post offices

### 5.2. Railway station post offices - general offices nearby stations

This last category includes post offices of the general postal administration which were located nearby the railway station (privokzalniy) and mentioned this location in their datestamps and registration labels. Thus, these are no railway stations in a narrow sense.

Their datestamps are in general round like all postmarks of general post offices, not oval like the railway station post offices.



Reverse (x 0.75)



**R**

Registered cover despatched at the post office nearby the Vilna train station (« ВИЛЬНА ВОКЗАЛЬ »), sent on January 7, 1915 to St. Croix, Switzerland. The envelope was closed with a wax seal following censorship in Petrograd. Bilingual **machine registration mark of the Vilna railway station**, a very rare mark of which only three usages are known to me from January and February 1915.

Ex collection Harry von Hofmann.



5. Registration in special post offices  
5.3. Traveling post offices (TPO's) - trains

Registration was also possible in traveling post offices of trains and ships. It was not necessarily the case that passengers dispatched this mail, but registered items could also be thrown in portable letter-boxes which were set-up on the platform or the landing stage when the train or the ship came in. Registered items from TPO's are very rare (*Berger, DZRP 98* (2013) 23-26).



Registered postal stationery envelope posted at the train post office no. 27 (line Warsaw - Aleksandrov), sent May 30, 1906 to Nürnberg.

The cover shows the registration number «2». On this railway line the registration numbering started with each trip resulting only in small numbers.



Registered postal stationery posted at the train post office no. 40 (line Revel - St. Petersburg), sent December 29, 1893 to Bucharest.

The cover shows the registration number «534». On this railway line the registration numbers were given on a monthly basis, thus at the end of December 1893 such a high number was reached.



5. Registration in special post offices
- 5.3. Travelling post offices (TPOs) - trains



Registered postal stationery envelope posted at the train post office no. 34 (line Kostroma - Moscow), sent February 16, 1897 to Moscow.

The cover shows the registration number «3». On this railway line the registration numbering started with each trip resulting only in small numbers.

**R**



Registered cover posted at the train post office no. 14 (line Voronezh - Moscow), sent July 20, 1912 to Beatenberg, Switzerland.

The cover shows the registration number «5» in a manuscript registration label. On this railway line the registration numbering started with each trip resulting only in small numbers.



5. Registration in special post offices
- 5.3. Traveling post offices (TPO's) - trains

Arrival datestamp on reverse



In 1914 registration marks were introduced for traveling post offices in trains.

Registered cover from Riga to the Nobel company in St. Petersburg with a registration mark belonging to a mail wagon (« П. В. № » means Postal Wagon No.). The route number in the mark is left blank and the stamps were cancelled with a mute mark from Riga railway station post office (Levin no. 581.22; see section 4.1.). The arrival datestamp of St. Petersburg on the reverse is dated August 14, 1914. The registration number « 389 » may have been added at the station office at Riga and not in the train itself.

Ex collection Dr. Kossoy.



5. Registration in special post offices

5.3. Traveling post offices (TPO's) - un-numbered trains

So called un-numbered railway lines are local side routes which were not controlled by the railway administration but by the general post. In an extension of what is told above for TPO's in trains in general, registered mail on these lines is obviously even more rare.



Registered postcard dispatched in the TPO of the un-numbered railway line Lodz to Kolyushki in Poland, sent on May 2, 1913 to Seree.

The registration was obviously not done at the TPO itself, but in the post office at the terminus train station of Lodz (Лодзь вокзалъ).



Registered cover dispatched in the TPO of the same line, sent on May 15, 1900 to Braunschweig.

Also in this case, registration was obviously not done at the TPO itself, but in the post office at the terminus train station of Lodz (Лодзь жел. дор. п. о.).



5. Registration in special post offices
- 5.3. Travelling post offices (TPOs) - ships

Registered mail was also accepted by the travelling post offices (TPOs) on steamships («ПАРОХОД») travelling on lakes, rivers as well as on the open sea. The whole group is evidently very rare, registered mail from certain connections is unique.



Registered cover despatched at the TPO at the jetty in Voznesenye in the Olonets gubernia («ВОЗНЕСЕНСК. ПРИСТАНЬ - ОЛОНЕЦК. ГУБ.»), located on the banks of the Svir River at the place where it flows out of Lake Onega, sent on July 27, 1876 to St. Petersburg.

This place is located at the Baltic Sea – White Sea Canal connecting St. Petersburg with Arkhangelsk. A **rare and early ship mail**.

Ex collections Liphschutz and Dr. Casey.

**R**



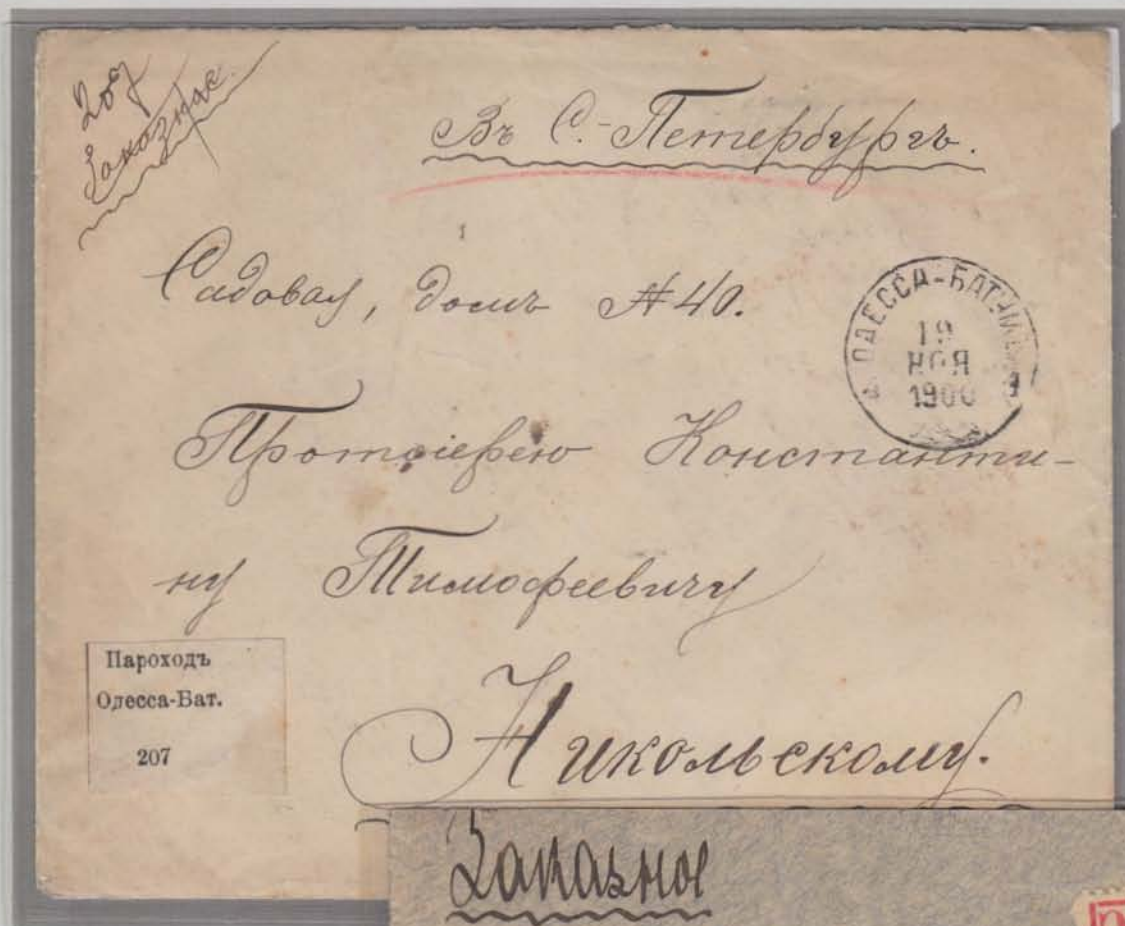
Registered cover despatched at the TPO of the **Volga** steamship route Nizhny Novgorod to Astrakhan, sent on June 2, 1915 to Riga. Oval datestamp «НИЖНИЙ АСТРАХАНЬ ПАРОХ. 2 6 15». UPU-type 3-registration label alongside with route added by handstamp. The handwritten sender's address mentions the steamship «Petrograd» of the «Caucasus & Mercury» Company.

Ex collection Dr. Casey.



5. Registration in special post offices
- 5.3. Travelling post offices (TPOs) - ships

Mail along the Russian shore of the **Black Sea** was transported by the steamships of the Russian Company for Steam Shipping and Trade (ROPiT). These ships had TPOs on board which could handle ordinary and registered mail. ROPiT ran two domestic lines, a fast Odessa - Batum line and a slower Odessa - Poti line calling at more ports. Registered mail was also accepted by the TPOs but it is evidently much scarcer than ordinary mail.



Provisional registration label used in 1900 on cover to St. Petersburg. On reverse, pair of 7 k. Arms definitives cancelled by «ОДЕССА - БАТУМЪ 19 НОЯ 1900».

Only six registered items with this provisional label are known.

Ex collections Harry von Hofmann & Dr. Casey.

Registered cover despatched at the ship TPO Odessa - Poti and sent from the palace of Prince Oldenburg in Gagry to St. Petersburg. Stamps on reverse cancelled by oval datestamp «ПОТИ - ОДЕССА ПАРОХ. 13 11 12». UPU-type registration label of the Batum - Odessa line alongside.

Only known registered item from the slow ship line ending at Poti which did obviously use the labels of the fast line.

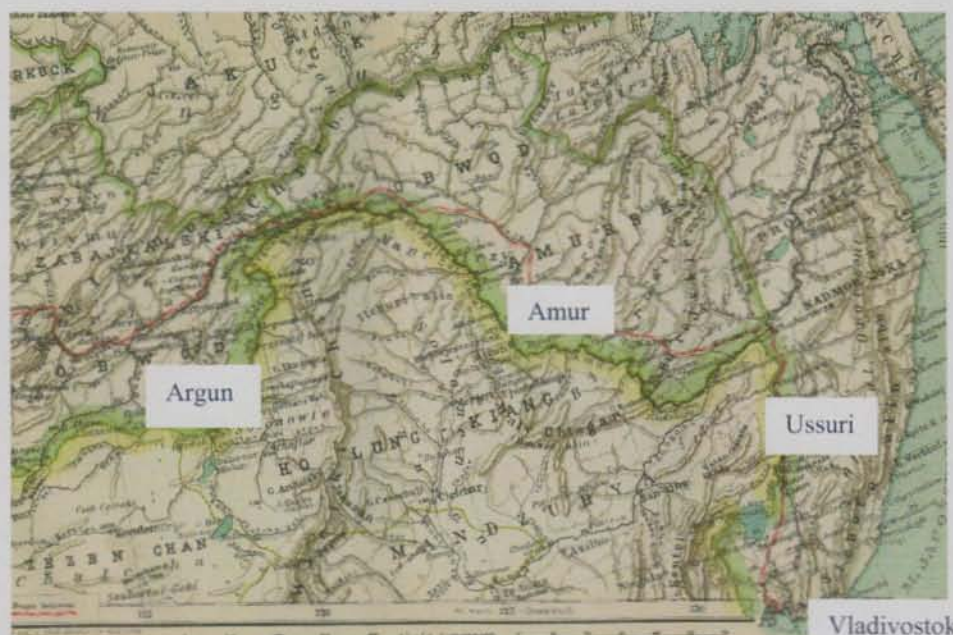
Ex collection Dr. Casey.





5. Registration in special post offices  
5.3. Travelling post offices (TPOs) - ships

The **Amur River** connects the Strait of Tartary with Central Siberia. Prior to the Transsiberian Railway it was the most important East-West connection. Also on this waterway, registered mail was accepted in rare cases by the TPOs on the vessels.



The Amur and its tributary rivers Argun and Ussuri are the borders between Russia and Manchuria / China.



Registered cover  
despatched from  
Blagoveshchensk,  
Siberia, sent via  
steamship to Stretensk  
and then to St. Petersburg,  
a pair of 7 Kopek-stamps  
cancelled by oval  
«БЛАГОВЕЩ. -  
СТРЕТЕНСК. 2 6 09  
».

Handwritten registration  
number, no label.

Ex collection Dr. Casey.

**R**



5. Registration in special post offices
- 5.3. Travelling post offices (TPOs) - ships

From Vladivostok, ship mail services were run to the Sea of Okhotsk, the Kamchatka peninsula, the Bering Sea, even to Kolyma at the remote Siberian Arctic Sea. Only few journeys could be made each year due to climate restrictions and they were organized and completed by the Russian Volunteer Fleet. As mail from these steamships is already rare, registered mail is of ultimate rarity, only three items are known to me.



Registered cover front sent from the Northern Districts, i. e. the **Bering Sea** via Vladivostok to Bologna, Italy. Cancellation and despatch oval datestamp Vladivostok – Northern Districts (« ВЛАДИВОСТ. СЛЪВЕР. УЛЪЗ. ПАРОХ. 4 5 10 »). The 3-label shows the same handwritten inscription. **Only two registered items** from the Bering Sea known to me.

Ex collection Dr. Casey.

**R**



5. Registration in special post offices
- 5.4. Auxiliary post offices - volostnoe pravlenie

Imperial postal services were primarily restricted to the large cities and the railway and ship lines. Vast areas of the country were without this service. To reduce this gap, auxiliary post offices were founded in a multitude of official, semi-official, and private places (Berger, 100 (2014) 37-45).

A volost is a rural area in the plain country, its administration is named « volostnoe pravlenie » (Волостное Правление, abbreviated Вол. Пр.). Since 1894, these volosts had the right to provide simple postal services which were extended in 1900 to the full postal service including registration. During the war many Vol. Пр. post offices were converted into regular post offices.



Registered cover dispatched from the auxiliary post office at the volost administration of Seitovskoe (« Сеитовское Вол. Пр. ») in the Orenburg gubernia, sent to Copenhagen on April 14, 1916.

Double registration.

Registered cover dispatched from the post office Askarova to Geneva on November 9, 1916.

This regular post office emerged in January 1916 from the auxiliary post office of the volost administration of Tamyano-Tangaurovsk in the Orenburg gubernia (« Тамьяно-Тангауровс. Оренб. Вол. Пр. »). The regular post office still used the old datestamp.





5. Registration in special post offices
- 5.4. Auxiliary post offices - gminoe upravlenie

The Polish equivalent of the Russian volost is the gmin. However, while Vol. Pr. mail is relatively common after 1909, mail from post offices in gminoe upravlenie is a **great rarity**. In total, four items are known, two of them registered (*Berger, 100 (2014) 37-45*).

Top: Registered cover dispatched from the auxiliary post office at the gmin administration of Bartinskoe (« Бартинское Гм. Упр. ») in the Suvalki gubernia, sent to Volkovysk on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1913.

Bottom: Registered cover dispatched from the post office at the gmin administration of Voitkobolskoe (« Войткобольшское Гм. Упр. ») in the Suvalki gubernia, sent to Volkovysk on August 19, 1913.



R



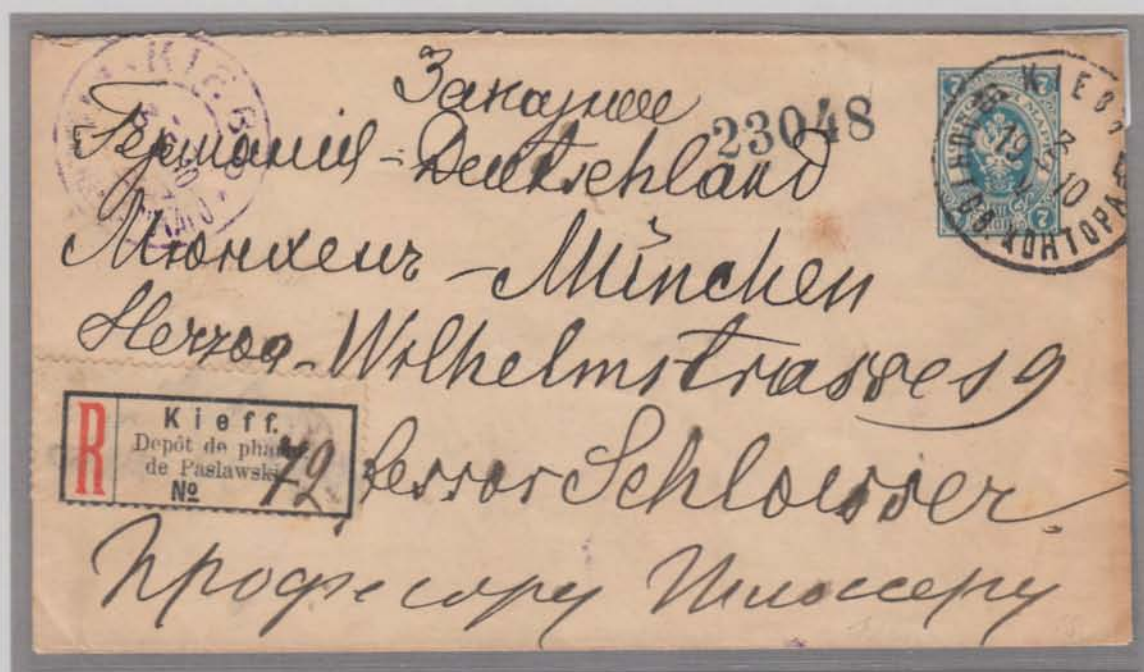
5. Registration in special post offices

5.4. Auxiliary post offices – private organizations; pharmacies

The postal regulations of 1909 allowed for the first time that private persons and organizations could allocate postal services. These auxiliary postal offices are found in a very heterogeneous group of locations. Mail is extremely rare as most of these auxiliary post offices did not have their own datestamps, registered items are sometimes unique.



Reverse (x 0.75)



Registered postal stationery envelope from the auxiliary post office in the Paslawski pharmacy in Kiev, sent to Munich on May 5, 1910.

Stamps on reverse were cancelled at the auxiliary post office and a registration label affixed to the front, while the indicium was later on cancelled at the Kiev main post office.



5. Registration in special post offices
- 5.4. Auxiliary post offices - private organizations; trading firms



Registered cover despatched in the auxiliary post office of the trading firm « V. Latsh » (« ТОРГ. ДОМЪВ. В. ЛАТЧЪ ») in Yuryev/Dorpat in the Lifland gubernia, nowadays Tartu in Estonia, sent December 15, 1910. The 10 Kop. stamp was later on cancelled at Yuryev main office.



The trading firm « Handelshaus Latsch » was situated in the city center of Dorpat in the Alexanderstrasse 9 (today Kõuni tänav) at the corner Neumarktstrasse, (today Uuetuu tänav); map taken from the 1912 version of « Baedekers Russland ».



5. Registration in special post offices  
 5.4. Auxiliary post offices - private organizations; hotels



Registered cover despatched at the auxiliary post office in the hotel « Bristol » in Ekaterinoslav, sent to Copenhagen on January 18, 1916.

53 V. (35 M.) **Yekaterinosláv, Екатеринославъ.** — *Railway Restaurant.* — **HOTELS** (all in the Catherine Prospékt). *Lóndonskaya*, R. from 1½ rb., B. 60 cop., déj. (11-1) ¾, D. (1-5) 1½-2 rb.; *Bristol*, R. from 1¾, déj. (11-1) ¾, D. (1-7) ¾-2 rb.; *Yevropéiskaya*; *Frántzj* (same proprietor and terms as the *Lóndonskaya*). — *Izvóshtchik* from the railway station to the town 30, per drive within the town 20, per hr. 40 cop.; with two horses 60, 35, & 70 cop. — **ELECTRIC TRAMWAY** from the station through the Catherine Prospékt to the Cathedral Square (5 cop.).

Hotel « Bristol » mentioned in the 1914 English edition of « Baedeker's Russia ».



5. Registration in special post offices

5.4. Auxiliary post offices – private organizations; credit associations

Credit Associations or cooperative's banks have been a common way to lend money to their members, primarily farmers, craftsmen and small retailers. Auxiliary post offices can be found in the administrations of these organizations, but the majority does not seem to have their own datestamps. In addition many of them seem to provide no other services than selling stamps and accepting mail which was thereafter forwarded to regular post offices.



R



Registered cover from the auxiliary post office at Pasynetskoe Credit Association in Podolia, sent to Krasnoe on November 5, 1914.

Ex collection Jack Moyes.



5. Registration in special post offices
- 5.5. Suburb post offices

Although post offices situated in factories and stock exchanges look like auxiliary offices, they are regular suburb offices. This is especially evident if pre-1909 material can be seen.



Registered cover from the post office in the metallurgical factory in Tsaritsyn in Saratov gubernia (« Царицынский Металлургический Заводъ »), sent to Dijon on February 27, 1899. Use of a rare provisional 1899-type label.



Registered cover from the post office in the Bjelortskij factory in the Orenburg gubernia (« ВЪЛОРЪЦКІИ З. ОРЕНБ. Г. »), sent to St. Petersburg on October 3, 1902. Provisional registration handstamp.

Ex collection Harry von Hofmann.



5. Registration in special post offices
- 5.5. Suburb post offices



Registered cover from the post office in the Saratov stock exchange (« Саратовъ Биржа Саратов. Г. »), sent to Riga on December 9, 1895.

Ex collection Jack Moyes.



Registered cover from the post office in the village Nyrob in Perm gubernia (« С. НЫРОБЪ ПЕРМ. а. », where C abbreviates Selo or village), sent to Copenhagen on January 9, 1916.



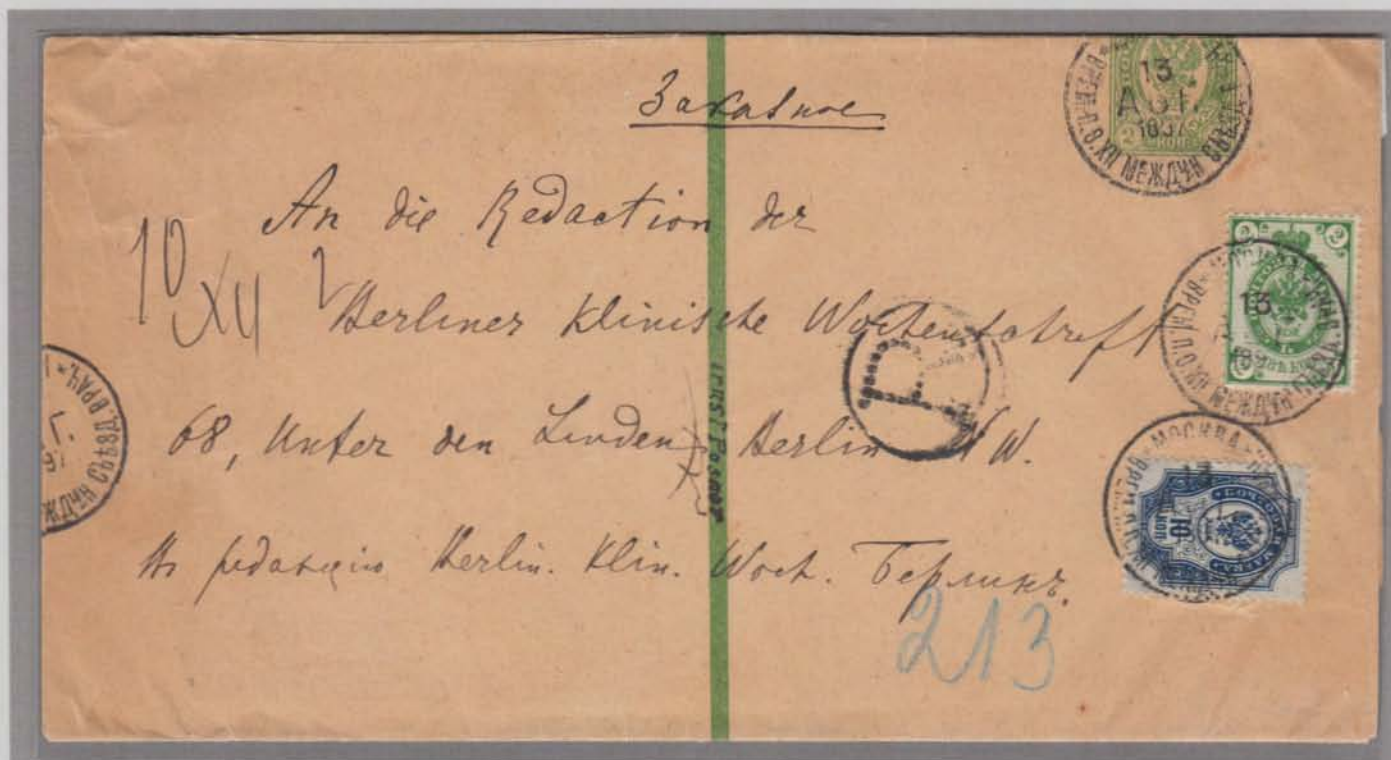
5. Registration in special post offices
- 5.6. Temporary post offices – fairs and congresses

Temporary post offices (временные почтовые отделения) such as those active during fairs and congresses provided the same postal services as any regular post office, including registration. Due to their short-lived nature, these usages are very rare, some unique.



R

Registered cover despatched at the post office of the St. Petersburg exhibition, vystavka in Russian («ВЫСТАВСКАЯ П. О. С.П.Б.»), sent on October 25, 1886 to Riga. **Only known usage** of this postmark in the literature.



Registered wrapper despatched at the temporary post office open during the 12<sup>th</sup> International Physician Congress in Moscow and sent on August 13, 1897 to the editorial office of the «Berlin Clinical Journal». The datestamp reads «ВРЕМ. П.О. XII МЕЖДУН. СЪЕЗД. ВРАЧ. ».

Both ex collection Harry von Hofmann.



5. Registration in special post offices
- 5.6. Temporary post offices - manoeuvres

Also the temporary post offices during manoeuvres belong in this category.

reverse (x 0.75)



**R**



Registered cover of the manoeuvre field post (« Скобелевский Лагерь Мин.Вр.П.Т.О. »; Skobelev camp Minsk gubernia temporary post and telegraph office), sent on July 21, 1911 to Kegel, forwarded to Neve Volost administration in Estland gubernia.

The manoeuvre camp was named after Mikhail Skobelev (1843-1882), a general famous for his conquest of Central Asia and heroism during the Russo-Turkish War of 1877-1878.





5. Registration in special post offices
- 5.6. Temporary post offices – Field post offices

Also the post offices during wars belong in this category.



reverse (x 0.75)



**R**

Registered cover during the **Russo-Japanese War** of 1904/05 despatched two months after the beginning of the war on April 9, 1904 from the Field Post Office no. 16 in Liaoyang Priamur District to Rome via the Italian Embassy in St. Petersburg, re-directed to the ship « Bon ». The datestamp reads « № 16 ПОЛЕВАЯ ПОЧТ. КОНТ. / ПРИАМУР ОКР. », the blue cachet on front is of the « Chancellery of Field Headquarters of the Manchurian Army ».

In Liaoyang, the first major land battle of the Russo-Japanese War took place from August 25 – September 3, 1904.

Ex collection Dr. Casey.



5. Registration in special post offices
- 5.6. Temporary post offices – Field post offices



reverse (x 0.75)



**R**

Registered cover during the Russian military evacuation after the lost **Russo-Japanese War**, despatched on July 8, 1906 from the Field Post Office no. 28 at the stanzia Handaokhetze of the Chinese Eastern Railway, sent to Bern. The datestamp reads « ПОЛЕВАЯ ПОЧТОВАЯ КОНТОРА/ № 28 », confirming the location of this Field Post Office. **One of two covers known.**

Ex collection Dr. Casey.



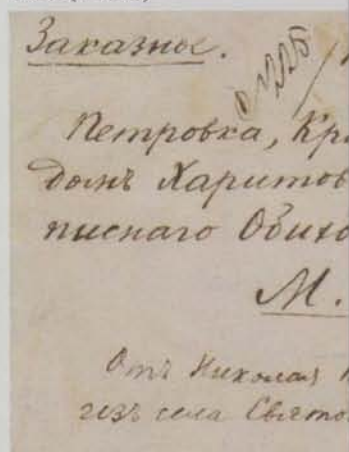
## 5. Registration in special post offices

### 5.7. Zemstvo post offices

In large rural areas there were no post offices of the Imperial Post. In these so called zemstvos the local authorities were allowed to establish a postal system outside the Imperial Post, the so called Zemstvo Post. It was possible to register mail within the same zemstvo, but also mail which left a zemstvo and entered the area of Imperial Post.

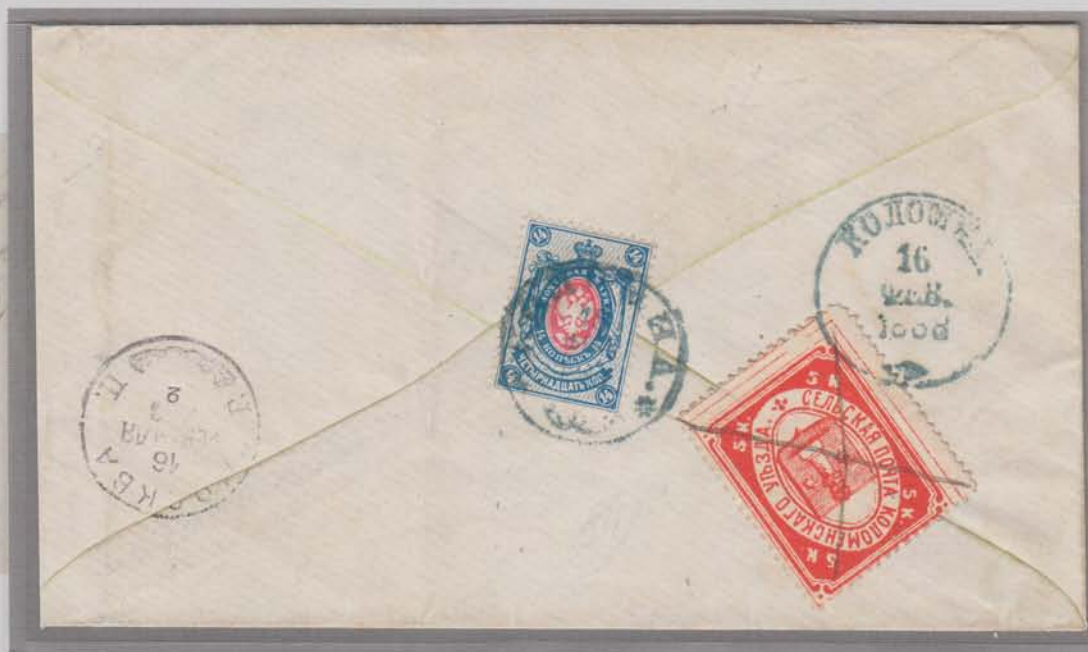
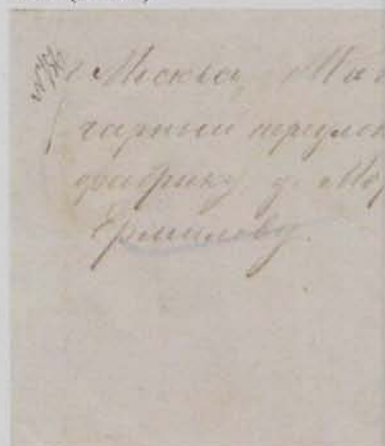
**R**

front (x 0.75)



**From the zemstvo to the Imperial Post:** Registered cover despatched in the village Svyatogorye in the Gрязовets district, Vologda gubernia and sent via the district capital Gрязовets to Moscow. On reverse, a 4 Kopek. zemstvo stamp (« Грязовецкой Земской Управы ») was attached to pay for the transport to the Imperial post office. The stamp was not cancelled as usual in this district up to 1890. Postage and registration fee were paid by a pair of Imperial 7 Kopek. stamps, cancelled in Gрязовets Imperial post office on April 25, 1885, where the cover was registered in the book. **Only three pre 1890 covers known from this district.** Ex collections Oleg Fabergé and Nikitin.

front (x 0.75)



**From the zemstvo to the Imperial Post:** Registered cover despatched in a village in the Kolomna district, Moscow gubernia and sent via the district capital Kolomna to Moscow. On reverse, a 5 Kopek. zemstvo stamp (« Сельская Почта Коломенского Уезда ») was attached to pay for the transport to the Imperial post office. The stamp was cancelled by pen according to the rules of this district up to 1892. Postage and registration fee were paid by an Imperial 14 Kopek. stamp, cancelled in Kolomna Imperial post office on February 15, 1888, where the cover was registered in the book. **In total 15 covers are known from this district.** Ex collection Nikitin.



5. Registration in special post offices  
5.7. Zemstvo post offices



**Within the zemstvo:** Registered cover, despatched in the village Kapustintzy in the Gadyach district, Poltava gubernia and sent on February 24, 1892 within the district to its capital. A pair of 3 Kop. zemstvo stamps («Гадячская Земск. Почта») was attached to pay postage and registration fee. The stamps were cancelled with a village handstamp in violet. Ex collection Nikitin.

**From the Imperial Post to the zemstvo:** Registered cover of the third weight rate from Tver to the village Titovka in the Vessiegonsk district, Tver gubernia on December 8, 1883. A 5 Kop. zemstvo stamp («Весьгонская Земская Почта») was added to pay for the transport within the zemstvo and cancelled «Unpaid». Corresponding arrival datestamp (December 11) alongside. **Rare incoming registered mail into this district.**

Ex collections Oleg Fabergé and Nikitin.

R





5. Registration in special post offices
- 5.8. Post offices abroad - Levant

The Russian post offices abroad accepted also registered mail. While the general rules were comparable to the mainland, there existed also some peculiarities.



Registered cover of the first weight rate from Constantinople (nowadays Istanbul, Turkey) to Odessa, sent on May 12, 1893.

Posted at the ROPiT (Russkoe Obshchestvo Parokhudstva i Torgovli; Russian Company for steam shipping and commerce) post office at Constantinople (« Р. О. П. и Т. – КОНСТАНТИНОПОЛ »; Tchilinghirian & Stephen, fig. 16). To mark this item as registered two marks of presumably private origin were applied (« CHARGÉ » and « Recommandé »). Use of a pair of 5 Kop. and two copies of 2 Kop. of the 1872 and 1879 Russian Levant issue, respectively. Odessa receiver on the reverse.

Ex collection Cihangir.

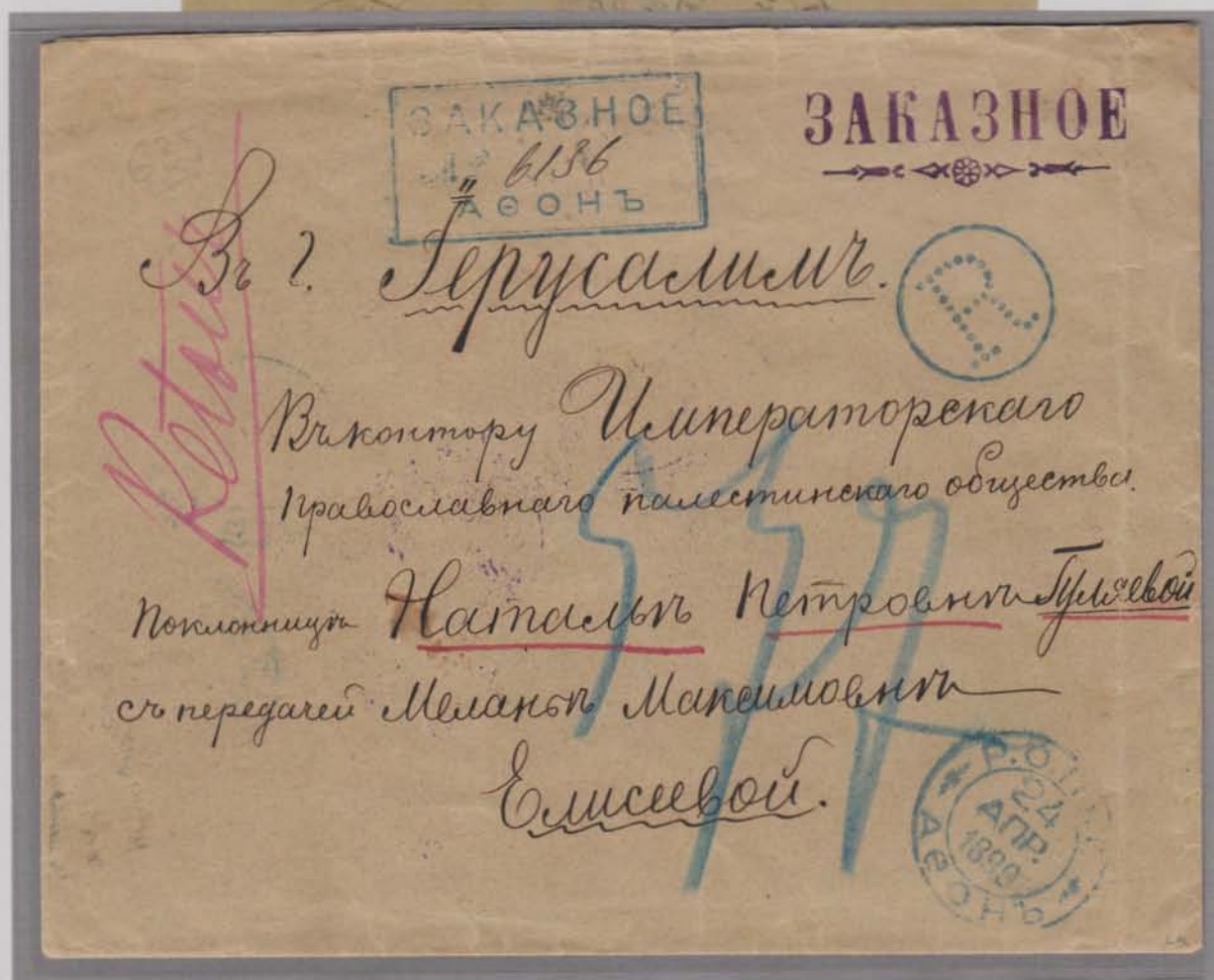
Interior rate (March 10, 1879) :  $7 + 7 = 14$  Kop.



5. Registration in special post offices  
5.8. Post offices abroad - Levant



reverse (x 0.75)



Registered cover despatched from **Mount Athos** on April 24, 1899 to Jerusalem, returned.

Posted at the ROPiT post office at Mount Athos it shows on the front a datestamp «Р. О. П. и Т. – АФОНЪ» (Tchilinghirian & Stephen fig. 183) and a numerator-like mark «ЗАКАЗНОЕ - АФОНЪ», both in blue. The cover was transported via Constantinople and Jaffa to its addressee who was obviously not found and the item returned to Mount Athos. Use of three 10 Kop. Levant stamps. The oval cachet on reverse «РУССКИЙ ИЛЬИНСКИЙ СКИТЪ НА АФОНЪ» is the sender mark of the Russian monastery of St. Iliya on Mount Athos. No usage of 1899 provisional registration labels.

Inland rate used abroad (March 8, 1889) :  $2 \cdot 10 + 10 = 20$  Kop.



5. Registration in special post offices  
5.8. Post offices abroad - Levant



Registered cover from Smyrna (nowadays Izmir, Turkey) to Isphahan (Esfahān, Iran) sent on July 31, 1901.

Posted at the ROPiT post office of Smirna («Р. О. П. и Т. – СМИРНА»; Tchilinghirian & Stephen, fig. 157) with «R» in dots. The cover was transported via Constantinople to Odessa. There it received a handwritten, provisional registration marking. Via Tabriz in Persia the item reached its addressee.

Rate (March 8, 1889):  
1 + 1 = 2 Pia.

Registered cover from Ordu on the Black Sea coast of Turkey to Constantinople sent on November 24, 1905.

At the ROPiT post office of Ordu it received a date postmark («Р. О. П. и Т. – ОРДУ»; Tchilinghirian & Stephen, fig. 753), the «R» in dots and a strike of a provisional «Ordou» handstamp.

Only eight covers known from the ROPiT office in this port from the years 1879-1914 (Berger, DZRP 95 (2011) 20-29).

Ex collections Liphschutz & Cihangir.





5. Registration in special post offices
- 5.8. Post offices abroad - Levant

Registered cover from Smyrna to Leipzig sent on October 21, 1910. Posted at the ROPiT post office of Smyrna («Р. О. П. и Т. – СМЕРНА»); Tchilinghirian & Stephen, fig. 157) with UPU-type R-label (but «R» on the right side).

Rare use of a marginal pair of ROPiT stamps commemorating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, here with «Smyrne» overprint.

Rate (March 8, 1889):  
1 + 1 = 2 Pia.



Registered cover from Mersina (Mersin on the Mediterranean Sea coast of Turkey) to London sent on September 11, 1914.

Posted at the ROPiT post office of Mersina it received a datestamp («Р. О. П. и Т. – МЕРСИНА»); Tchilinghirian & Stephen, fig. 194) and a UPU-type R-label (but «R» on the right side). Sent via Petrograd where censored.

Last month of foreign Levant post offices which were closed on October 1<sup>st</sup>.

Rate (March 8, 1889): 1 + 1 = 2 Pia (two 20 pa. stamps on reverse).



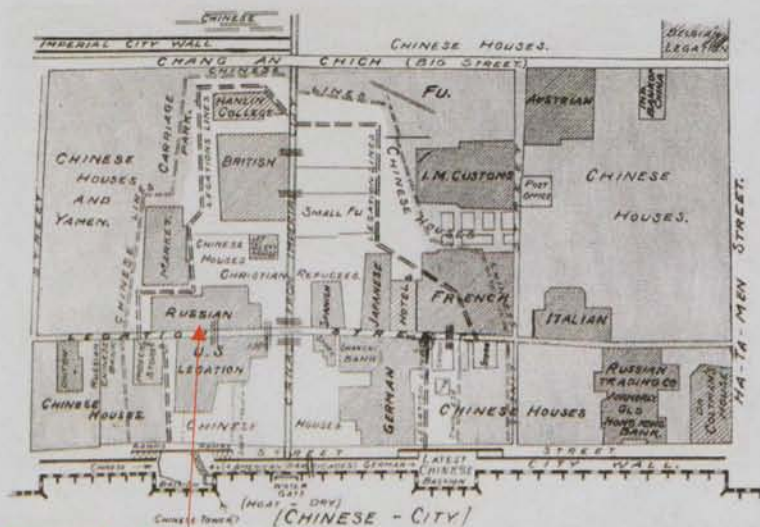
5. Registration in special post offices
- 5.8. Post offices abroad - China



reverse (x 0.75)



**R**



Russian Legation  
& PO

The Legation Quarter in Peking

Registered cover from **Peking to Hong Kong, re-directed to Manila**, sent on December 28, 1900.

Two 10 Kop. КИТАЙ overprinted stamps on reverse tied by **Emergency Cancellor** (Tchilinghirian & Stephen fig. 467), a locally made rectangular datestamp. Brought into use in the second half of 1900, after the siege of Legations in Peking during the **Boxer Rebellion** was lifted. Day and month added in manuscript, as usual. On front, a **provisional 'PEKIN' 1899-type registration label** was attached. Reverse with Russian post office datestamps of Tien-Tsin in red, Chefoo and Shanghai plus British post office in Hong Kong and finally US occupation datestamp of Manila on the Philippines in violet.

Rate abroad (March 8, 1889) : 10 + 10 = 20 Kop.

Ex collections Dr. Wortman and Dr. Casey.



5. Registration in special post offices
- 5.8. Post offices abroad - China



Registered cover from Shanghai to Vladivostok, sent on December 20, 1902.

Shanghai datestamp (Tchilinghirian & Stephen, fig. 493), UPU-type 3-label and « R » handstamp. The label shows the typical design used in China at that time. Use of three 7 Kop. Stamps with КИТАЙ overprint on reverse.

Interior rate (March 20, 1879):  $2 \times 7 + 7 = 21$  Kop.



Registered cover from Chefoo to Shanghai, sent on January 13, 1902.

Chefoo datestamp (Tchilinghirian & Stephen, fig. 503). Double registration of a Roman « Tschifou - China » mark and a Cyrillic « Чифу загр. - П. КОНТ. » label. A weak « PAQUEBOT » mark is seen on the bottom of the item. Use of two 7 Kop. Stamps with КИТАЙ overprint.

Interior rate (March 20, 1879):  $7 + 7 = 14$  Kop.



5. Registration in special post offices
- 5.8. Post offices abroad - China



Registered cover from the Russian post office in Peking to Stettin (Germany), sent on April 19, 1903. UPU-type 3-label. Three 10 Kop. stamp with КИТАЙ overprint.

Rate abroad (March 8, 1889) :  $2 \cdot 10 + 10 = 30$  Kop.



Registered picture postcard from the Russian post office in Hankow to Baden-Baden (Germany), sent on December 5, 1908. In addition to the UPU-type 3-label a local « R » handstamp without dots was applied. 14 Kop. stamp with КИТАЙ overprint.

Rate abroad (March 8, 1889) :  $4 + 10 = 14$  Kop.



5. Registration in special post offices  
5.8. Post offices abroad - Manchuria



Registered cover from the Russian post office in **Kharbin** in Manchuria to Suhl, Germany, sent on January 17, 1913. A very rare numerator registration mark of Kharbin on front, two definitives without КИТАЙ overprint on reverse.

Rate abroad (March 8, 1889) : 10 + 10 = 20 Kop.

Ex collection Harry von Hofmann.

R



5. Registration in special post offices  
5.8. Post offices abroad - Manchuria



R

Chinese Eastern Railway Subsidiary: Registered cover despatched to St. Petersburg on April 30, 1914 at the post office at the jetty in Kharbin, at the same time a stanzia of the Chinese Eastern railway.



R

Registered cover from the Russian post office in Kharbin train station to Hamburg, sent on January 20, 1913.



5. Registration in special post offices
- 5.8. Post offices abroad - Persia



reverse (x 0.75)



Registered cover from Imperial consular post office in **Tabriz** in northeastern Persia nearby the border to the Russian Empire, sent to Bern on November 10, 1916. Imperial Romanov commemorative stamps and Arms definitive in use in the Consular Post office were cancelled by « ТАВРИЗЪ РОСС. КОНСУЛЬСТВО 10 11 16 » datestamp, reverse with « Tavriz / Persiya » registration label. Petrograd censorship strips and Bern arrival mark (May 1<sup>st</sup>, 1917).

Although Persia was neutral during World War I, parts of northeastern Persia were occupied by Russian troops already in January 1915 to improve the military situation against the Ottoman Empire. The deteriorating military situation at the beginning of 1917 is reflected in the long transport duration of nearly six months for this cover.

Russian rate abroad (March 8, 1889) : 10 + 10 = 20 Kop.



6.

### 6.1. Acknowledgement of receipt – Avis de réception

Since 1895 registered letters could be accompanied by an Avis de réception. Upon arrival the acknowledgement form was signed by the post office of the addressee or the addressee itself and returned to the post office of the sender in a registered, non-franked letter. The fee for the Avis de réception was attached on the A.R. and the item was sometimes stamped with a special « A.R. » mark. These items cannot be identified without special postmark or notions on the item because the A.R. tariff part is attached to the form not the letter. Rarely found.



Registered letter with Avis de réception from Tshita (Siberia) via Moscow to Haywards Heath (UK) in January 1898. Framed « A.R. » and « R » in circle plus « Registered London ». Tariff : 20 Kop. for a letter up to 2 Loth (notion « 2 l. » on top left) + 10 Kop. for the registration ; 10 Kop. for the A.R. were directly attached to the acknowledgement form. Ex collection Baillie.



6.

6.1. Acknowledgement of receipt – Avis de réception



Reverse (x 0.75)



Registered letter with Avis de réception from St. Petersburg to Vienna in September 1910. Framed « A.R. » and « R » in dots plus UPU-style registration label. The acknowledgment form was directly attached to the reverse and is now detached.

Tariff: 10 Kop. for a letter up to 1 Loth + 10 Kop. for the registration ; 10 Kop. for the A.R. were directly attached to the acknowledgment form.



6.

6.1. Acknowledgement of receipt – Avis de réception

Бл. № 362.

Administration de  
Почтовое Управление  
H. Petersburg  
7 Декабря 98

*Handwritten signature*

*recd Jan. 14/99*

Avis de réception  
Уведомление о получении

d'une lettre assurée  
страхового письма  
d'un objet recommandé  
рекомендованного отправления

enregistré sous le № 16993 et adressé  
записанного под № 3498 адресованного

à M. Peter Fomin à H. Petersburg le 6/XII 1898  
на имя 65 " " " 1898

Le soussigné déclare (qu'une lettre assurée) à l'adresse susmentionnée  
Нижесподписавшийся заявляет, (что страховое письмо) по вышеозначенному адресу,  
(qu'un objet recommandé) (что рекомендованное отправление)

Timbre du bureau  
Штемпель почтового  
distributeur.  
места выдачи.

et provenant de  
отправленное из

*New York*  
*Milwaukee, Wis*

a été dûment  
надлежаще

livré le 1898  
выдано " " " 1898



Signature \*)  
Подпись

du destinataire:  
получателя:

du chef du bureau distributeur:  
Начальника почтового места выдачи:

*по доверенности получателя*  
*В. Фомин*

\*) Cet avis doit être signé par le destinataire ou, si les règlements du pays de destination le permettent, par le chef du bureau distributeur, puis être mis sous enveloppe et envoyé, если это дозволяется по правилам страны назначения, затем заклеено в конверт и отправлено за- sous recommandation, par le premier courrier, au bureau d'origine de l'objet qu'il concerne. казным порядком, с первой почтой, в почтовое место подачи корреспонденции.

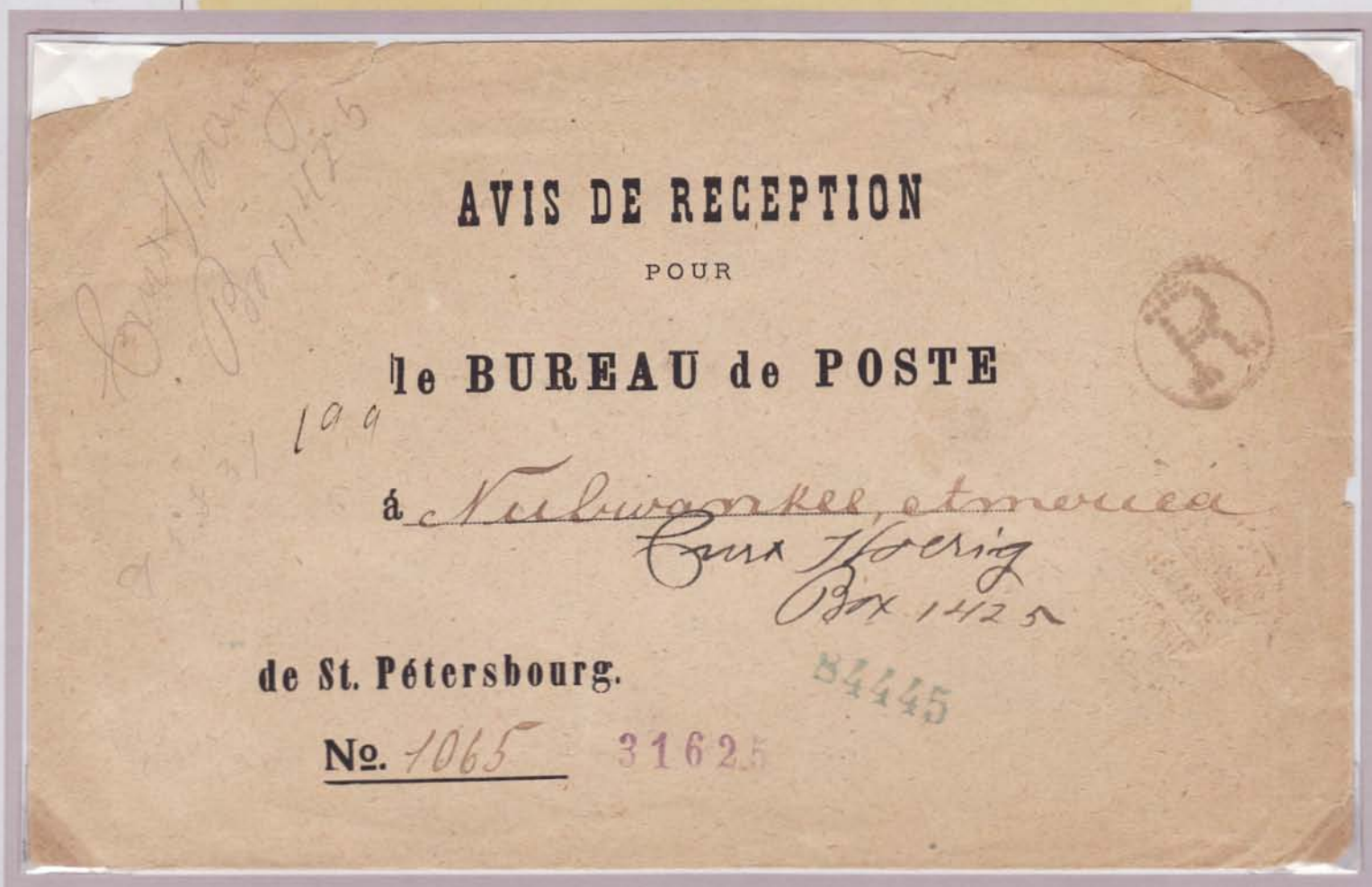


6.

6.1. Acknowledgement of receipt – Avis de réception



Reverse (x 0.75)



Official post office envelope for returning the Avis de réception form to the sender. Dispatched in 1900 from the 4. Otdyel of St. Petersburg (see paper seal on reverse), dotted « R » for registration. Transit via New York to Milwaukee. Ex collections Miskin & Baillie.



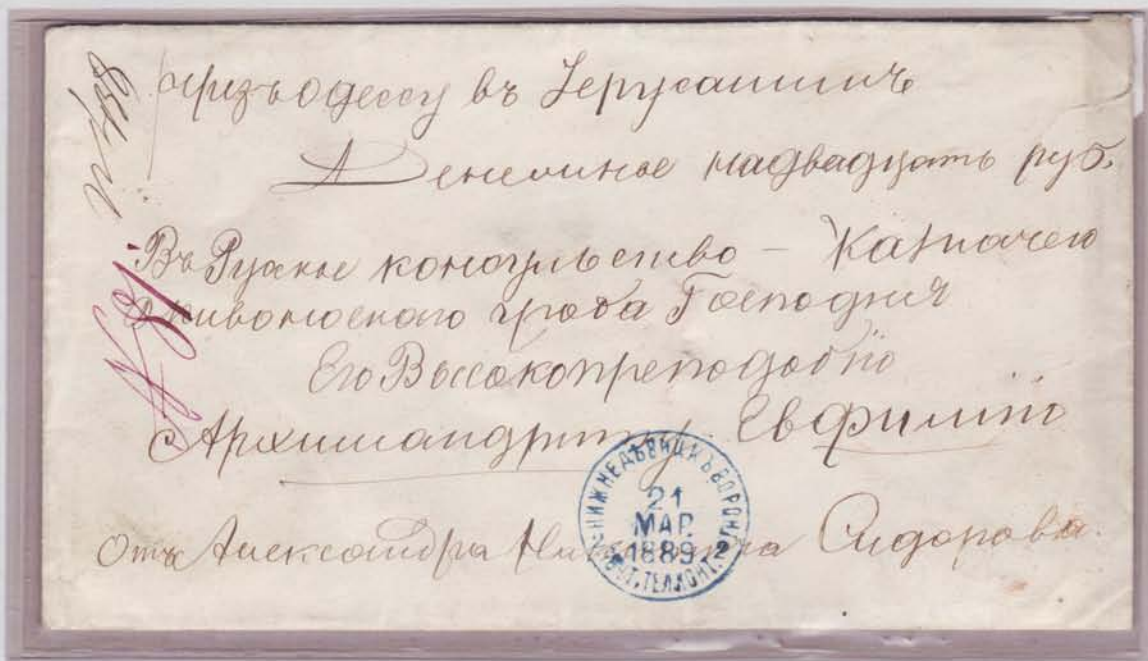
6.

## 6.2. Money letter - Wertbrief

Money letters are registered letters with a valuable content. The sender brought the open letter to the post office, the post-office clerk checked the value of the content, noted it on the envelope, closed the cover and sealed it. Alternatively the envelope could be closed and sealed by the sender. In addition to the postage and the registration fee an additional fee had to be paid in dependence from the value. Up to the end of June 1904 the postage of insurance letters was paid in cash at the post office when dispatching the letter and no stamps were affixed. Later on stamps were used.



Reverse (x 0.75)



Reverse (x 0.75)

Top : Money letter from the small train station (Stanziya) Boromlya in the Charkov Gubernia, sent May 18, 1878.

Bottom : Money letter containing 20 Rubels from Nishnedvitzky (Voronezh Gubernia) via Odessa to the Russian consulate in Jerusalem, sent in March 1889. The fee was calculated on the reverse to be 24 Kop. and was paid in cash. Like the cover above this one was closed with five wax seals depicting the impression of the post office stamp.



6.

6.2. Money letter - Wertbrief



Money letter containing 1 Rouble from Port-Arthur (today Lüshunkou, China) to St. Petersburg, sent in April 10, 1904.

Sender was a member of the 7<sup>th</sup> Reserve East Siberian Rifle Battalion of the Town of P.(ort)-Arthur. Port Arthur was attacked by the Japanese Navy in the night from February 8 to 9, 1904 which was the first stage of the Russo-Japanese war. This cover was posted during the ongoing Japanese attacks which lasted until May 1904.

Below the middle wax seal is a partially hidden mark reading « Depot of Her Majesty Empress Alexandra Fedorovna - From Active Army ». Presumably this mark was applied to postcards and envelopes stored at this depot and distributed to soldiers for their post-free mail. As money letters were not free of charge even for members of the active army, postage had to be paid. However, on this item is no indication that the fee was paid.



6.

## 6.2. Money letter - Wertbrief

Since January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1905, the insurance fees for money letters within Russia was 10 Kop. up to an insured sum of 10 Rub., 25 Kop. up to 100 Rub. and 15 Kop. for each further 100 Rub. or parts thereof. However the sender had not to pay a registration fee, different from the situation for money letters abroad (see next sheet).



Reverse (x 0.75)

Money letter with an insured sum of 200 rubles, sent from the auxiliary post office at the volost administration (see section 5.4.) of Polovoko-Ilovaiskoe to Rostov / Don on September 25, 1915. First rate cover with 10 Kop. postage fee, 25 Kop. insurance fee for the first 100 Rub. and 15 Kop. for the second 100 Rub., in total 50 Kop.

Money letter with an insured sum of 5 rubles, sent from the auxiliary post office at the volost administration of Nikolskoe in the Vologda gubernia to Kovno on March 27, 1913. First rate cover with 7 Kop. postage fee and 10 Kop. insurance fee for an insurance sum up to 10 Rub., in total 17 Kop.





6.

## 6.2. Money letter - Wertbrief

Since January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1905 the insurance fees for money letters abroad differed from country to country: To Germany, Austria-Hungary and Romania it was 4 Kop., to other European countries like the UK it was 10 Kop., and to all other UPU members 14 Kop. In addition the postage and the registration fee had to be paid.



Money letter (insured sum 50 rubles = 133.33 French francs) from Libava to Liverpool, sent December 11, 1907. In London the obligatory blue cross was added with a pencil as well as a R-label and a red label « Insured – Valeur déclarée ». With a weight of 15 gr. (= 1.17 Loth) the sender had to pay twice 10 Kop. postage fee, 10 Kop. registration fee, and 10 Kop. for each 112.50 Rub (=300 French Francs) or parts thereof.



Money letter (insured sum 10 rubles = 26.67 French Francs) from Kalvariya to Bremen, sent January 25, 1908. With a weight of 9 gr. the postage was composed the following way : 10 + 10 + 4 = 24 Kop.



6.

### 6.3. Cash on delivery - Nachnahme

The cash on delivery (COD) service enabled the direct payment of services or goods via the postman during delivery. The tariff consisted of the postage itself, the registration fee, and 2% of the collected amount (minimum 10 Kop.). Stamps or labels «НАЛОЖЕННЫЙ ПЛАТЕЖЬ» - COD were used for identification of these items. In addition or alternatively, registration or special green COD labels were attached.

Printed matter postcard used as COD to pay a journal subscription; sent from Saratov to Pernov with registration label and COD mark.



Comparable item from St. Petersburg to Raumo (Finland), forwarded to Heinola and back again. This time a red label «НАЛОЖЕННЫЙ ПЛАТЕЖЬ» and a rare green COD label from St. Petersburg was used. From this label only three pieces are known in Baillie & Peel (Type 9E5).

Tariff: 2 Kop. for the printed matter + 7 Kop. for the registration + 10 Kop. for the COD = 19 Kop.



6.

### 6.3. Cash on delivery - Nachnahme

Printed matter postcard used as COD. Sent from Vilna to Konetzpol. Special green COD label and inscription « НАЛОЖЕННЫЙ ПЛАТЕЖЬ ».

Tariff: 2 Kop. for the printed matter + 7 Kop. for the registration + 10 Kop. for the COD (2% of 3.65 rouble) = 19 Kop



Reverse (x 0.6)

Postcard used for a COD to pay a journal subscription; sent from Odessa to Tushin with special COD label inscribed « НАЛОЖЕН. ПЛАТЕЖЬ »

Tariff : 3 Kop. for the postcard + 7 Kop. for the registration + 11 Kop. for the COD (2% of 5.20 rouble) = 21 Kop.



6.

### 6.3. Cash on delivery - Nachnahme



Top : COD postcard from Riga to Bausk, sent November 18, 1912. A special Riga numerator mark in green color for COD mail was used, inscribed « Riga Zentr. KN. F. N°. 2-A ». Four items with this mark are known to me.

Tariff : 3 Kop. for the postcard + 7 Kop. for the registration + 11 Kop. for the COD (2% of 5.21 rouble) = 21 Kop.

Bottom : COD letter from Riga to Stomersee (Lifland Gubernia) on February 26, 1915. Handwritten « НАЛОЖЕННЫЙ ПЛАТЕЖЪ », a corresponding purple label and the special Riga numerator mark for CODs were used.

Tariff : 2\*10 Kop. for the letter + 10 Kop. for the registration + 56 Kop. for the COD (2% of 27.76 Rub.) = 86 Kop.



6.

### 6.3. Cash on delivery - Nachnahme



Reverse (x 0.75)



COD letter from Kiev to Kornikovka on April 21, 1916. Handwritten «НАЛОЖЕННЫЙ ПЛАТЕЖЪ», a corresponding purple label and a Kiev numerator mark were used.

Tariff: 10 Kop. for the letter + 10 Kop. for the registration + 88 Kop. for the COD (2% of 43.60 Rub.) = 108 Kop. The item is correctly franked.

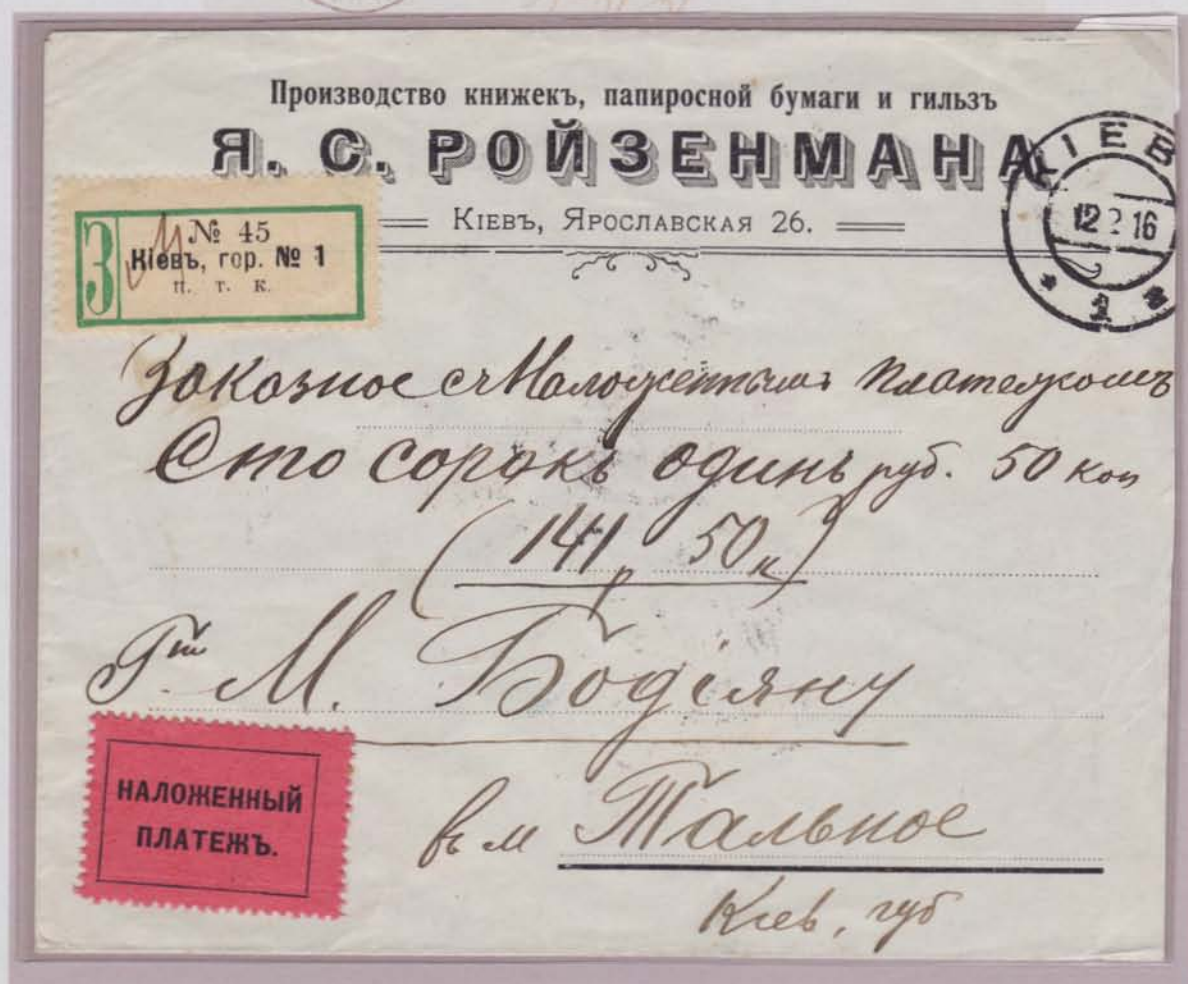


6.

### 6.3. Cash on delivery - Nachnahme



Reverse (x 0.75)



COD cover sent from Kiev to Talnoe in February 1916. Special green COD label from the 1<sup>st</sup> town post office of Kiev. Purple label «НАЛОЖЕННЫЙ ПЛАТЕЖЪ». Use of the 3 rouble of the Romanov series.

Tariff:

10 Kop. for the letter + 10 Kop. for the registration + 2.83 rouble for the COD (2% of 141.50 rouble) = 3.03 rouble. Overpaid by 1 Kop.



6.

6.3. Cash on delivery - Nachnahme



Reverse (x 0.75)



COD letter from Warsaw to Mtsenk on December 9, 1906, not accepted and returned to Warsaw where it arrived again on January 11, 1907. Handwritten « НАЛОЖЕННЫЙ ПЛАТЕЖЪ » and in addition a green label from Warsaw Tsentralnaya without COD notion was used.

Tariff: 7 Kop. for the letter + 7 Kop. for the registration + 5.37 Rub. for the COD (2% of 268.50 Rub.) = 5.51 Rub. The item is overfranked by 1 Kop. (14 Kop. on front and 5.38 Rub. on the reverse)



6.

6.3. Cash on delivery - Nachnahme



Reverse (x 0.75)



COD cover sent from Klintzi to Talnoe in April 1916. Normal red 3 registration label combined with a purple label « НАЛОЖЕННЫЙ ПЛАТЕЖЪ ». Use of the 2 and the 5 rouble values of the Romanov series.

Tariff :

10 Kop. for the letter + 10 Kop. for the registration + 8.58 rouble for the COD (2% of 428.85 rouble) = 8.78 rouble.



6.

6.3. Cash on delivery - Nachnahme



Reverse (x 0.75)



Cash on delivery cover with a collected sum of 1480 Rub. Sent from Bakhmut (Jekaterinoslav Gubernia) to Talnoje (Kiev Gubernia) in May 1918. It bears a total postage of 44.90 Rub. and a special COD label from Bakhmut inscribed « НАЛОЖЕННЫЙ ПЛАТЕЖЬ ». Use of Russian « arms » type stamps in the Ukraine occupied by the central powers.  
Ex collections Miskin & Baillie.

Tariff: 35 Kop. for the cover + 15 Kop. for the registration + 44.40 Rub. for the COD (3% of the collected sum) = 44.90 Rub. The cover is correctly franked.