

# THE SRSC NEWSLETTER



*The Santa Rosa Stamp Club: Promoting the study, knowledge, and enjoyment of stamp collecting.*  
*APS Chapter 1584*

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## **Editor's Note**

This edition of the club newsletter begins our third year of publication. The newsletter provides our members an opportunity to share their philatelic interests and knowledge. As a regular feature, we introduce a club member, this time one of our newest, Victor Ivashin, who tells us how he got started collecting and how he came to specialize in Russian stamps. Charles Stark provides a fascinating account of how he just missed acquiring one of the world's great stamp rarities, the so-called Perot Bermuda provisional. We conclude with a written version of Roger Acquistapace's very interesting presentation about the German Krim Feldpost parcel permit labels issued to German troops in the eastern front during World War II. I continue to be impressed with the wide and diverse knowledge possessed by our members; I urge you to share your collecting autobiography, your philatelic interests, and your expertise with your club members by submitting an article for our next edition.

*Dennis Buss*

## **Get to Know Your Stamp Club Members: Victor Ivashin**

I started stamp collecting at the age of 11 when my mother gave me her 1925 Scott International Album. She arrived in San Francisco (after a brief period in Hawaii) from Harbin, China in 1922 when the Chinese government kicked out all resident Russians as a result of the 1917 revolution. I was fascinated with the small squares of claimed value and immediately embarked on 56 years of collecting joy.

Jamestown Stamps was my early source of many enjoyable packets. Ten years later I realized that collecting the world with my Minkus Master Global Album was not the way to go and I started to focus on Russian (and hence Soviet Union) stamps. This was easy for me because I could read the Russian language. Married with children by the age of 22, my hobby was limited by my salary. As an electrical engineer my work took me to California where I soon started a company that did quite well and later went public. I sold it and became a world-traveling consultant, typically in countries where my language gave me an advantage – Russia and Poland. After receiving a Ph.D. from the Poznan PolyTechnic in Poland in 1975, I eventually worked for Advanced Fiber Communications in Petaluma. While deploying satellite systems in Russia and Siberia and living in Moscow, I “hired” two men to find stamps for me paying each of them \$20 a week. Wow! The rare items they were able to



find permitted me to gather a vast amount of Russia stock. My Russian collecting became more specialized by targeting Charity, Cinderella, Revenue and Zemstvo stamps.

I have four children in their 30s and 40s as well as a couple of grandchildren and I happily live in Oakmont, Santa Rosa with my loving wife Heather. She encourages my stamp collecting hobby and we both realize, with regret, that our children have absolutely no interest in stamps. I have been a member of stamp societies and clubs in Russia and Siberia but the Santa Rosa Stamp Club is my first U.S. based club membership where I am looking forward to many more years of stamp collecting and friends.

*Victor Ivashin*

### **Bermuda's Postmasters' Stamps: The One That Got Away**

The first colony stamps of Bermuda are known as the Postmasters' Provisionals. Prior to the issuance of these stamps, postal patrons brought their mail to the post office, paid the mailing fee, and the envelope was then ink-stamped paid with the date and year. The provisionals were issued between 1848 and 1860. The first of these became known as the "Perot Stamp" named after William Perot who was the Postmaster in the city of Hamilton. To attract new business, he had a slot cut in his door where people could drop letters along with the pennies for their postage while he was tending to his garden or was out on his mail run. By 1848, he discovered that while more mail was being dropped off, fewer pennies were being left behind. It was impossible to detect who was shortchanging him.



Using his date stamp, from which he had removed the plugs for the month and date, Perot created the first Bermuda postage stamps. The year and the words Hamilton Bermuda in circular format were stamped on sheets of writing paper, Perot wrote "one penny" above the year and his signature below. He sold the stamps individually or in sheets of 12. The imprints were black until early 1849, when the post office switched to red ink. The known examples of Perot stamps were dated from 1848 to 1856. The stamps were for local use between Hamilton and the capital city of St. George. James Thies, who was the colony Postmaster General in St. George, conceived the idea of making a simpler design using a double-lined circle topped with a crown image and reading "Paid at Hamilton Bermuda."

The Scott catalogue lists the stamps as follows:

- X1 - 1p Black, bluish paper, Hamilton+Bermuda (Perot), 1848
- X2 - 1p Red, bluish paper, Hamilton+Bermuda (Perot), 1856
- X3 - 1p Red, white paper, Hamilton+Bermuda (Perot), 1853
- X4 - (1p) Red, yellowish paper, St. Georges Bermuda (Thies), 1860

According to the 2011 Scott Classic Specialized Catalogue, X1 is valued at \$135,000, the X2 at \$175,000, the X3 at \$165,000, and the X4 at \$100,000.



The story of the discovery of these stamps was as romantic as the stamps themselves. Forty-nine years had passed before their discovery in 1897. Initially, there was much skepticism about their authenticity and some thought they were used as postage due stamps. Between 1910 and 1935 a few



more copies surfaced. Today, only 11 examples of the stamp have been found. Most of them are now owned by European royalty, including Queen Elizabeth herself.

I was a soldier near Chicago in late 1945 waiting to get my discharge papers. I was also considering whether to stay on in the Army as a code analyst. While there, I heard about a stamp show at the Sherman hotel. It was the last day of the show, so I jumped into my Jeep to see what I could find. I was looking at early Bermuda envelopes, when I spotted an X3 Red. It was listed as a postage due. A lady was looking over my shoulder and yelled "It's a Perot!" The dealer took my envelopes and said "these are not for sale until I check them." Later, I found out that the woman was the wife of Arthur Pierce who had acquired about eight or nine Perots. It is said that she bought the one I spotted as a Christmas present for her husband. As one that got away, I swore that this would never happen to me again!

Reference: <http://www.davidfeldman.com/2012/10/bermuda-postmaster-provisionals/>  
*Charles Stark*

### The Krim Feldpost Parcel Permit Labels

World War II Background. Following the Soviet offensive near Stalingrad in November, 1942, the supply lines of Axis forces in the Caucasus were threatened and a general retreat was ordered. The 1<sup>st</sup> Panzer Army pulled back toward Rostov while the 17<sup>th</sup> Army, the right wing of an army group in the south, pulled back to the Taman Peninsula between the Sea of Azov and the Black Sea.

At this time, the Army High Command considered it important to retain possession of the so-called Kuban Bridgehead on the Taman Peninsula. The front line of this bridgehead ran in a rough arc connecting the two bodies of water. The Feldpost (Fieldpost) Service for the 17<sup>th</sup> Army had previously been routed via Rostov. But now no land route was available. Torpedo boats and cargo ships were then used to transport from Kerch at the eastern end of the Crimea, across the narrow waterway to the Taman peninsula (*Figure 1*). Aircraft routes carried mail to and from the bridgehead via the Kerch airfield.

One benefit of this new defensive position for the troops, who existed on canned foods

for most of their advance, was an improved diet of local produce. They obtained sunflower oil, which was available in large quantities, and many decided to send the oil and seeds home where there was already a shortage of basic food supplies. Two other curiosities were found in the bridgehead region.

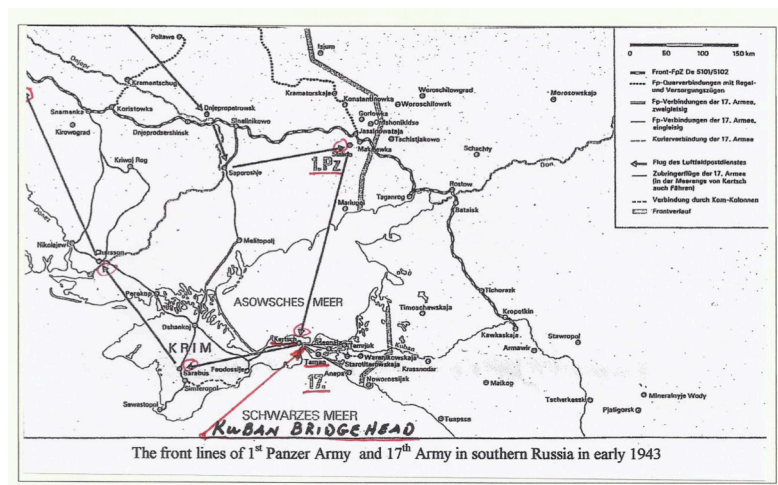


Figure 1

Sturgeon, the fish that produces caviar, was caught in the river estuaries near Temryuk where there was a cannery to process the fish. There were no preservatives so cans of caviar had a short shelf life. Nevertheless, soldiers frequently sent home these cans in Feldpost packages.

Also popular were small land turtles found in the foothills and quite a few packages reached Germany with a live turtle inside.

While mail to be transported from the bridgehead to Germany could only be sent by boat or by air, there were never enough ships or planes available. As time went by, cargo space became even more scarce. Feldpost was often left behind en route when supplies of ammunition or rations were given priority. The result was the delay of packages for the homeland and such packages piled up at various transport points. Many cans of caviar and other foodstuffs spoiled.

An embargo on private Feldpost mail weighing over 20 grams was proclaimed on February 18, 1943 (certain newspapers were excepted). The Luftfeldpost (airmail) was not affected so mail could be carried from the Crimea to the bridgehead. Frequently, however, mailbags had to be dropped from the planes owing to bad weather and a lack of sufficient aircraft for the bridgehead. This meant that homeward bound mail often could not be forwarded.

The Krim Package Permit Label. By the end of September 1943 increasing Soviet attacks had caused the 17<sup>th</sup> Army to withdraw from the Kuban bridgehead to take up new defensive positions on the Crimean peninsula. As there was a general withdrawal of German positions along the eastern front, the transport network suffered frequent breakdowns and delays to Feldpost deliveries. On October 2, 1943 such deliveries had to be halted because Soviet air attacks had severely damaged the rail network. By October 27, the situation had deteriorated to such an extent that land transport links to the Crimea had been cut and Feldpost services had become dependent on airmail and sea mail services from Odessa.

The Crimean peninsula with its remaining German forces had become a virtual island. By November 7, these links had allowed Feldpost services to resume but there was insufficient cargo space for packages and, in late November, it was announced that a new parcel permit label would be used to limit the number of packages sent from the Crimean peninsula. These new Crimea labels were printed by the local army newspaper. At the offices of *Der Kampf* un gummed sheets of 100 (10x10) labels were given the three-line text shown in *Figure 2* and then roughly perforated so that the labels could be separated at the Feldpost offices. According to a letter from the Army Feldpostmeister, dated December 1, 1943 and sent to Feldpost offices, the initial issue of permit labels had been interpreted by many commanders as a means of allowing troops to send Christmas packages home. So, in spite of the severe transport problems, on December 13, 1943 the Army leadership ordered that these additional permit labels should be issued.



Figure 2

At this time changes in the overall tactical situation required that homeward bound mail had to be sent from the Crimea to Vienna via Bucharest and Budapest. In early February, 1944 the transport of Feldpost parcels again became possible and a further issue of two labels per person was made. This was an important morale boost for the troops in the Crimea and in this month alone, 13,606 mailbags filled with packages to Germany were accepted and processed by Feldpost offices in the Crimea.

*Roger Acquistapace*

## The Santa Rosa Stamp Club

Membership is open to anyone interested in stamp collecting and who agrees to abide by the club By-Laws. The new member fee is \$10.00 which includes \$5.00 dues for the first year of membership. Meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm in the Lodge at Paulin Creek, 2375 Range Avenue, Building D, Santa Rosa. For information about club membership call: 707- 774 – 6296 or send an email to: srsc2012@yahoo.com

### SRSC Officers

President	Paul Von Gottfried
Vice President	Don Test
Secretary	Dennis Buss
Treasurer	Susan Dixon
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### Executive Committee Members

Paul Von Gottfried	Dennis Buss
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### Advertising and Public Relations

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### Newsletter Editor

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### 2014 Presentation Program

May 6	Show and Tell Session
June 3	George Shalimoff: Highlights from the Westpex Rossica Society Exhibits
July 1	Victor Ivashin: Charity Stamps of Russia
Aug. 5	Silent Auction
Sept. 2	Paul Von Gottfried: British Empire Revenues
Oct. 7	Steve Brett: Insuring Your Stamp Collection
Nov. 4	Show and Tell Session
Dec. 2	George Land: Philatelic Quiz