
My Favorite Perfins

Dick Scheper (#3311)

One of my most favorite perfin areas is formed by the perfins of Tsarist Russia.

About 18 years ago, being a collector of Russian postal history, I sometimes came across Russian stamps with perfins. What first attracted me to these perfins was their obscurity. Very few people outside the well-informed circle of Russophile philatelists know anything about the use of perfins in the postage stamps of Tsarist Russia. Of course, the near total lack of literature about this subject is the primary culprit.

Now, after having studied Russian perfins and their related postal history for a number of years, my knowledge has grown significantly, but there are still things shrouded in darkness. By putting bits and pieces together from many sources, my research made it possible to get at least a certain picture to help understand the different motives for the use of all kinds of Russian perfins.

Based on those different motives my collection is divided into seven chapters. Following are four pages from one of these chapters - *Official perfins in Russian postage stamps*. While the pages are written in Dutch, I have translated the relevant information below.

Bulletin Page 39. Perfins of the Moscow post offices can be recognized by the initials "M.P." (in Cyrillic letters), followed by the Latin number of that particular Moscow sub office. Most Moscow sub offices only used one perforator. Thus, for those sub offices only one perfin pattern is known. However, a very few sub offices used two different perforators. The reason for using a new perforator could be that the original perforator had to be repaired or that the original perforator was lost and had to be replaced. Therefore, for some Moscow sub offices we encounter two different perfin patterns. Page 39 shows different multiple perfin patterns of the Moscow sub offices No. 9, 12, and 34.

Bulletin Page 40. This page presents perfin "M.P./23" of the Moscow sub office No. 23 in a variety of Russian postage stamps issued during 1902 to 1917. The imperforate high denomination stamps 3.50 ruble (light green & claret) and 7 ruble (pink & blue-green), issued in 1917, are the only recorded examples of these two stamps with a Russian perfin.

Bulletin Page 41. The Central Post and Telegraph Office in Lodz used the perfin "L Ts P T K". The Cyrillic letters stand for: **L**odz **T**sentralnaja **P**ochtove-**T**elegrafnaja **K**ontora. You need two connecting large stamps to show this complete perfin pattern. The bottom row on this page shows four perfins "L.O." (**L**odz **O**krug or **L**odz **O**tdelenie), a sub office of the Lodz Head Post Office.

Bulletin Page 42. This page shows another large perfin pattern. It is the perfin "MINSK" in Cyrillic letters. The Russian post offices were free to choose the perfin text that they wanted to use. Many of these post offices used perfins with perforated initials only, like the Moscow post offices. However, the post offices of Minsk and Kiev used a perforator that produced perfins showing the name of the town where the post office was located. The document on page 42 has four complete perfin patterns punched completely through the stamps and document. It is the only one recorded with perfins of the Minsk post office.

I am preparing a handbook & catalogue of Russian perfins which I intend to publish later this year. If you have any Russian perfin(s) in your collection, I would appreciate it very much if you would send me a scan or a clear photocopy. Documents are rare, but if you have any please send me a scan or photocopy of front and back of those also. My contact information is: Dick Scheper; Hogeland 1; NL-2264 JX Leidschendam; NETHERLAND or email me at dick.scheper@planet.nl.

De perfin van Rusland

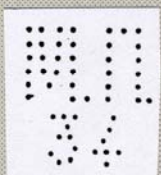
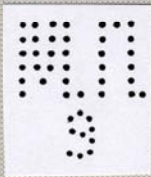
3. Ambtelijke perforaties van postkantoren

3.4 De perforatie vormt de initialen van het postkantoor

Moskou

Van de meeste postkantoren in Moskou is bekend dat zij een eigen perforator hebben gebruikt. De perfin bestaat uit de Cyrillische letters M.П. (M.P.) van Moskou Pochtamt (hoofdkantoor), gevolgd door het nummer van het (hulp) postkantoor (nummers 1 t/m 69).

Per kantoor vertonen de letters en/of cijfers soms kleine verschillen waardoor het aantal perforatiegaten varieert.



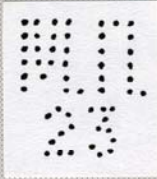
De perfin van Rusland

3. Ambtelijke perforaties van postkantoren

3.4 De perforatie vormt de initialen van het postkantoor

Moskou (hulp)postkantoor No. 23
M.P. = Moskou Pochtamt

1910-1918



De perfins van Rusland

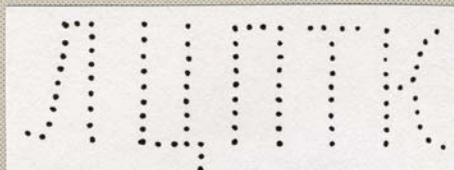
3. Ambtelijke perforaties van postkantoren

3.4 De perforatie vormt de initialen van het postkantoor

Lodz centrale post- en telegraafkantoor

1911-1913

L Ts P T K = Lodz Tsentralnaja Pochtovo-Telegrafnaja Kontora



P T K



L Ts



K L



Ts P T



L Ts



T K



L Ts P

Lodz districtkantoor

1915

L.O. = Lodz Okroeg

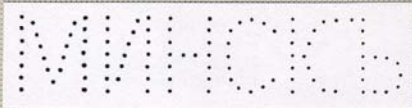


De perfins van Rusland

3. Ambtelijke perforaties van postkantoren

3.5 De perforatie vormt de plaatsnaam van het postkantoor

Minsk postkantoor



27-2-1915 Postwissel van 2.047 roebel en 3 kopeken. Verzonden van Dolginovo (in Litauen) naar de Kamer van Financiën in Minsk. De perfin 'MINSK' is viermaal in de postwissel en de zegels aangebracht.