

# Over the Century old Interesting Cover

By Igor Grigorian

Recently, a cover mailed from Yerevan to Berlin came to my attention. So nice were the wax seals on the back of the cover that I obtained it from a dealer in Russia (thanks to my friend Greg Balagian, who bartered the deal).

Now came the time to closely examine it.

The first thing that hits one's eyes is five wax seals that are placed in key places to prevent the envelope from opening by an unintended "addressee" (fig. 1). Four of them bear seal with the letters **Эриванская П.Т.К.** (or Erevan P. (ostal) T. (elegraph) O. (ffice) in English ) along the upper rim, while abbreviation **Част. (ный) Кор.(пус),** or Private Corps in English is along the lower rim.

The middle wax seal is different; it letters **Эриванская** (Erevan) OFFICE (the letter being spelled out this time). Across the seal are abbreviation **СТР** (unknown - IG ) and **КОР**, which stands for **Корпус** (corp, as we already established above).

All five seals have Russian Imperial Double-Headed Eagle and two post horns underneath symbolizing Imperial Postal and Telegraph Authority.

fig.1



On the back, the cover is franked by four standard stamps, 1, 3, 5 and 25 kopeks which cover international delivery of 34 kopeks. Each of the stamps is cancelled with Erevan calendar round cancellation on 05/10/1907 . There is also a receiver cancellation on November 21, 1907 at the Charlottenburg post office in Berlin.

Now let's look at the front of the cover (fig.2). It is pre-printed with the name Barsegh Egievich Egiazarov in Yerevan in Russian and Armenian. The addressee's name (Ovakim Melikianz in Russian and Latin alphabets) and his address

(382 Wilmersdorfer strasse, Charlottenburg, Berlin in Latin and Germany in Latin) are hand written. The front also bears *Erivan* violet stamp and Erivan cancellation. It also bears hand-written inscription *With Incretion of 100 rubles From Barsegh Egiazarov.*

The only reference to the Second Guide Erevan Merchant Barsegh Egievich Egiazarov places him as keeper of Delijan-Nakhichevan route postal station. He was mentioned in I.Y a. Semenov's book *Russians in the History of Armenia* in regards to his complaint to the head of the Erevan Post & Telegraph office that due



