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CERTIFICATE

Reference No. 0005 30.09.2014
Zemstvo combination cover from
Sapozhok S5 / Bogorodsk S48,
18.08.1889

Description of the examined item: Imperial Russia, Zemstvo, Postal History

The item submitted for expertisation is the cover of a combination letter sent from some village in the Sapozhok district (Ryazan province). The cover is addressed to the village of Afanassovka (Афанасовка) in the district of Bogorodsk (Moscow province). According to the rules, the mail couldn't be carried by the Zemstvo post from one district to another but had to be transferred to the Imperial Post first. To pay for the service of the Imperial Russian Post, one blue 7-kopek stamp (Mi 33, issued in 1889) has been affixed and cancelled by Sapozhok imperial postmark on 18th Aug. 1889.

To pay for the preliminary service of the Sapozhok Zemstvo Post, the cover is franked by 5 k red and black S5 [1], unknown by Chuchin [2] and endorsed by pen and ink in manuscript showing a cross as always before 1890, if at all. The stamp can also be considered as used as a seal, accounting on its position on the cover. The cover arrived at the city of Bogorodsk on 19.08.1889, and was transferred to the Bogorodsk Zemstvo Post head-office. Here, a red 5-kopeck postage-due Zemstvo stamp of Bogorodsk was affixed to the cover (S48=C46 [1,2]), and cancelled on 22.08.89 with a black SSt-01 postmark of the Bogorodsk Zemstvo Post. The addressee finally had to pay the 5 kopecks to receive his mail. The cover is addressed to a certain Avdotia Firsavnoi Vastrudinoi (Авдотия Фирсовной вострудиной) with the mention « very much necessary (очень нужно) ».



The reverse side of the cover bears an ink mention which is unreadable but very similar to those found on many Sapozhok covers and all the Sapozhok-Empire-Bogorodsk genuine triple franking covers known. It obviously comes from the Sapozhok Zemstvo Post.

The cover is in the collection of Igor Orobchenko (Clichy, France), who bought it in France a long time ago.

Results of the examination:

In my opinion, the cover is genuine in every aspect. Its preservation is good. Such triple frankings are very rare. I know only 4 Sapozhok-Empire-Bogorodsk covers (RRR, 4-8 items known).

References:

- [1] Schmidt, Carl: „Die Postwertzeichen der russischen Landschaftsämler – Beiträge zur Kunde dieser Marken“ (Deutsch), Berlin-Charlottenburg (1932).
- [2] Chuchin, F. G.: “Russia – Zemstvos” (English), European Philately series No. 15, revised reprint of the original “Catalogue of the Russian Rural Postage Stamps” (Russian and English, Moscow 1925), published by J. Barefoot Ltd., York, England (1988).

Avignon, 30.09.2014

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Furnon', with a long horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the signature.

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Bernard Furnon, expert for zemstvo philately