

North Pole Russian Drifting Stations: from NP1 to NP31

Background

The first presence of men at the North Pole after the tragic mission of Commander Nobile in 1926 was a secret Russian mission named NP 1 (North Pole 1). The endeavor was realized by four men with minimal equipment: a tent and a radio transmitter. They sat on a block of ice drifting for eight months from May 21, 1937 to February 18, 1938. The mission had a scientific aim (meteorological and medical) but it was mostly military, in order to test the mental and physical behavior of the men in extreme conditions and to experiment with new materials, technologies and perform tests of radio transmissions. After the first mission other thirty will follow under the Soviet Union Empire and further its dissolution the missions were stopped from 1991. Restarted on 2002 with NP32 under Russian Federation, those mission were managed under AARI were on 2015 with the 40th mission

Purpose and Scope of the Exhibit

This collection has the purpose to show through a wide and complete series of postal documents, manuscripts, maps, radiograms and original photographs, to telling the history of North Pole Drifting stations carried out under the Soviet Union Empire from NP1 to NP31.

Personal research and publication

As President National Association and member of AEP European Philately Academy I had the opportunity to meet the most important collectors of Arctic Postal History with I exchange knowledge and experiences. More than 25 years that I do search, study this topic and I exchange documents with worldwide collectors. The topic has been the subject of the following conferences:

- Milan (Italy) 18th December 2010 – Conference to AISP the Italian Association of Postal History
- Prato (Italy) 13th February 2016 – XIII Postal History Conference – Institute Postal History Studies
- Palermo (Italy) 24th September 2016 – Conference at PAFIL 2mila16 of Sicilian Philatelic Union
- Calais (France) 23rd April 2017 – Conference at 90th Anniversary of Calais Philatelic Society
- Milan (Italy) 18th October 2018 – Conference at Federmanager – National Ass. of Italian Manager
- "The deathly cold and the echoes of silence" by Claudio E. Manzati - OPUS N° XVII page 110 -122

Rarity Statements

These are based on international auction catalogues (Christoph Gartner) and by list circulating among Italian collectors, and of course by acknowledgment as national jury of exhibit evaluated.

Outstanding pieces

The exhibit shows some of the rarest documents of the first four bases, particularly:

- NP1 Illustrative notebook of NP 1 - Page 8
- NP1 Radiogram of Papanin - Page 9
- NP2 Daily diary recording by commander when crew members arrived - Page 12
- NP3 Handwrite map of the base - Pag 14
- NP4 Photography of NP 4 - Page 16
- NP4 Cover with text and photo send by a school to the base - Page 17
- NP15 Cover with dates and signatures of all the commanders from NP1 to NP15 - Pag 48



NORTH POLE MAP dated 1628

Color Convention

- Important information in **Bold**
- **Rarity Statements in Red**
- Story line in **Blue**

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Chronology Steps (Plan of the Collection)

- I. The journey towards the North Pole and the return 2-6
- II. NP 1 to NP 3: Stations without post officer 7-14
- III. NP 4 to NP 9: Stations with two special postmarks 15-40
- IV. NP 10 to NP 31: Stations with one special Guller postmark 41-64

Source and References

Beside personal research and studies mentioned below, information, statistic and data come directly from Dr. Franco Giardini, Prof. Enrico Garrou and Federico Masnari

Bibliography

- North Pole is conquest! From Radio Front N° 11 June 1937
- The life on block ice: NP1 History by Ivan Papanin - 1938
- The drifting stations "The North Pole" (1937-1991) I. Romanov, J. Kostantinov, N. Kornilov - Publisher Ghidrometeoizdat - S. Petersburg - 1997
- Islands of ice drifting by F. Giardini, E. Garrou, F. Mansari - Publisher Tucano Gribaudo - 1998
- Official website of AARI (Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute) www.aari.nw.ru

MANZATI Claudio Ernesto Mario – ITALY

Class 5A

NORTH POLE RUSSIAN DRIFTING BASE: NP1-NP31

North Pole Russian Drifting Stations: from NP1 to NP31

Background

The first presence of man at the North Pole after the tragic mission of Commander Nobil in 1926 was a secret Russian mission named NP 1 (North Pole 1). The endeavor was realized by four men with minimal equipment: a tent and a radio transmitter. They sat on a block of ice drifting for eight months from May 21, 1937 to February 18, 1938. The mission had a scientific aim (meteorological and medical) but it was mostly military, in order to test the mental and physical behavior of the men in extreme conditions and to experiment with new materials, technologies and perform tests of radio transmissions. After the first mission other thirty will follow under the Soviet Union Empire and further its dissolution the missions were stopped from 1991. Restarted in 2002 with NP32 under Russian Federation, those missions were managed under AARI were on 2015 with the 40th mission.

Purpose and Scope of the Exhibit

This collection has the purpose to show through a wide and complete series of postal documents, manuscripts, maps, radiograms and original photographs, to telling the history of North Pole Drifting stations carried out under the Soviet Union Empire from NP1 to NP31.

Personal research and publication

As President National Association and member of AEP European Philately Academy I had the opportunity to meet the most important collectors of Arctic Postal History with I exchange knowledge and experiences. More than 25 years that I do search, study this topic and I exchange documents with worldwide collectors. The topic has been the subject of the following conferences:

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- Milan (Italy) 18th October 2018 – Conference at ~~Exposition~~ – National Ass. of Italian Manager
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Rarity Statements

These are based on international auction catalogues (Christoph Gartner) and by list circulating among Italian collectors, and of course by acknowledgment as national jury of exhibit evaluated.

Outstanding pieces

- The exhibit shows some of the *rarest* documents of the first four bases, particularly:
- NP1 Illustrative notebook of NP 1 - Page 8
 - NP1 Radiogram of ~~Exposition~~ - Page 9
 - NP2 Daily diary recording by commander when crew members arrived - Page 12
 - NP3 Handwrite map of the base - Page 14
 - NP4 Photography of NP 4 - Page 16
 - NP4 Cover with text and photo send by a school to the base - Page 17
 - NP15 Cover with dates and signatures of all the commanders from NP1 to NP15 - Page 48



NORTH POLE MAP dated 1928

Color Convention

- Important information in **Bold**
- Rarity Statements in **Red**
- Story line in **Blue**

Chronology Steps (Plan of the Collection)

- The journey towards the North Pole and the return 2-6
- NP 1 to NP 3: Stations without post office 7-14
- NP 4 to NP 9: Stations with two special postmarks 15-40
- NP 10 to NP 31: Stations with one special ~~Cover~~ postmark 41-64

Source and References

Beside personal research and studies mentioned below, information, statistics and data come directly from Dr. Franco Gardini, Prof. Enrico ~~Gespos~~ and Federico ~~Manzoni~~.

Bibliography

- North Pole is conquered! From Radio Front N° 11 June 1937
- The life on block ice: NP1 History by Ivan ~~Exposition~~ - 1938
- The drifting stations "The North Pole" (1937-1991) I. Romanov, I. ~~Exposition~~, N. Kozlov - Publisher ~~Golovinskiy~~ - S. Petersburg - 1997
- Islands of ice drifting by F. Gardini, E. ~~Gespos~~ - Publisher Tascari ~~Golovinskiy~~ - 1998
- Official website of AARI (Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute) www.aari.ru

PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE EXHIBIT

The exhibit has the purpose to show through a wide and complete range of postal documents, manuscripts, maps, radiograms and original photographs, to telling the history of North Pole Drifting stations carried out since 1937 under the Soviet Union Empire, named from NP1 to NP31.

IMPORTANCE

The first presence of men at the North Pole after the tragic mission of Commander Nobile in 1926 was a secret Russian mission named NP 1 (North Pole 1). The endeavour was realized by four men with minimal equipment: a tent and a radio transmitter. Beside the importance for the Story of the Humanity the conquest of the North Pole by 4 men leaving on a block of ice drifting for eight months from May 21, 1937 to February 18, 1938, the collection it narrates the reaching of the North Pole through forced stages, which are testified by the radiograms that were sent from time to time. The collection then continues showing the human presence at 90° through original vintage documents (picture, manuscripts, newspapers, etc) and starting from NP4 through the testimony of letters that were exchanged between the polar base and the mainland, both shipped for official reasons of service and private one between the polar explorers and their families.

The exhibit will cover the period 1937 of the first Polar Base NP1 up the NP31 on 1991 when the Soviet Union Empire was dissolved.

TREATMENT

As Postal History Exhibit the subject is treated chronologically, after the 1st Frame (CAPTER 1) that describe the “the journey towards the north pole” through five steps do show all the 31 Polar Missions carryout from 1937 up 1991.

KNOWLEDGE AND PERSONAL STUDY

The exhibit represent more than twenty years of research and studies, as Past President of National Association CIFO and member of AEP European Philately Academy I had opportunity to meet the most important scholars and researcher of this topic. I did to Postal Institute of Postal History Study of Prato (ITALY) and Association of Industrial Manager, lecture on this topic and other offical events as Palermo 2016, Bergamo 2017, Calais (France) 2017, Palermo . As Editor in Chief of “Francobollo Incatenato” the CIFO’s Magazine I some articles related at this topic, and published on 2016 on OPUS Magazine of Académie Européenne des Philatélie.

CONDITION

The letters and the other objectives display are the result of careful selection among documents of identical postal relevance, the aim of which was to pick the best available quality and show an ensemble of great freshness.

RARITY

Is based on auction catalogues (mainly David Feldman International, Bolaffi, Corinthila, Spinks and Viennaphil) and a list circulating amongst collectors of Arctic Postal History

The exhibit shows some of the rarest documents of the first four bases, particularly:

- NP1 The radiogram sent from any or the 5 over before to reach North Pole
- Vintage pictures and newspaper about the Journey to NP 1 and evacuation
- NP1 Radiogram of Papanin (Commander in Chief)
- NP2 Daily diary recording by commander when crew members arrived - Page
- NP3 Handwrite map of the base
- NP4 Photography of NP 4 and first cover mailed to and from PN4
- NP4 Cover with text and photo send by a school to the base
- NP15 Cover with signatures of all the commanders from NP1 to NP15

PRESENTATION

Special care has been taken with the layout to facilitate the chronological pathway with headline on the top left indicating the Polar Base number, with the timing when starts and when it was closed with the kilometer traveled. In addition the map of the base drifting.

NP 1	21 May 1937 to 19 February 1938 274 days – 1.750 drifted km
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A Color Convention was used as follow:

- **Important information in Bold**
- Rarity Statements in Red
- Story line in Blu



STRUCTURE OF THE 8 FRAMES

Plan of the Collection, presented in A3 sheets (64 sheets), according the following equilibrate Postal History steps:

- I. The journey towards the North Pole and the return (2-6)
- II. NP 1 to NP 3: Stations without post officer (7-14)
- III. NP 4 to NP 9: Stations with two special postmarks (15-40)
- IV. NP 10 to NP 31: Stations with one special Guller postmark dedicated 41-64

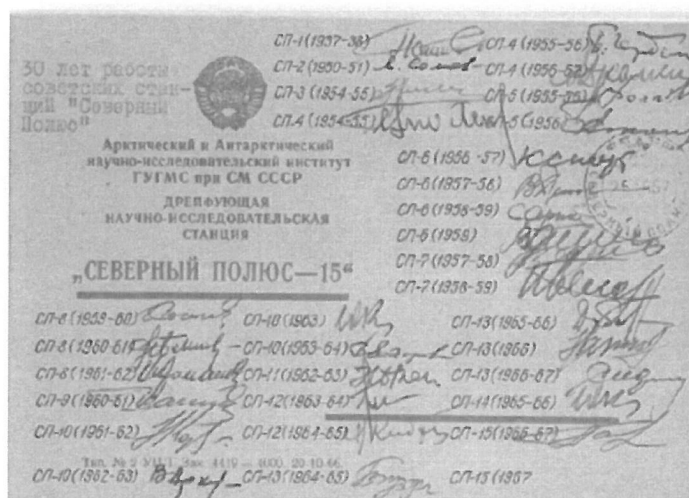
PREVIOUS AWARD

- Montecarlo 2015 (Polar Salon) Gold
- Vastophil 2016 Gold
- Nordia 2017 LV

IMPROVEMENTS FROM NORDIA 2017

Reviewed the structure, introduced all the marks used at the base, and the exhibit was totally remounted.

It was introduce a new chapter for the Journey toward the North Pole, and introduced additional rare postal documents a vintage newspaper and pictures.



Official service envelope of NP15 type 1B, April 26, 1967, on which it was typed in red at the top left "30 years of work on the Soviet stations at the North Pole" and all tours of all the Soviet stations printed with the dates and signatures of the commanders of the tours. Stand tall in NP-1 with the signature of Papanin, followed by NP 2 with the signature of M. SMOV and NP 3 with the signature of A. Treshnikov