

## Airmail stamps of RSFSR and USSR 1923 - 1940.

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The presented exhibit tells about the development of airmail and air communication in the RSFSR and the USSR. The development of air communication was of great importance for the development of any country at that time. The entire development of mankind depended on the rapid delivery of messages and postal correspondence. The discovery of new lands, new air routes, record flights on new models of aircraft, airships, stratospheric balloons, all of which were reflected on the postage stamps of the USSR.

The expeditions of the icebreaker «Malygin» to meet the airship Graf Zeppelin, the rescue of the expedition «Chelyuskin», the record flight on the stratospheric balloon «SSSR-1», the record-breaking flights across the North Pole to America in terms of speed and range - all this was reflected in philately.

The exhibit tells about stamps printing process, shows pre-printing preparation of stamps: essays, proofs, projects, specimens and stamps, features postal usage of airmail stamps, printing flaws and varieties. Personal research and discoveries are marked «DF», stamps which have a certificate of authenticity are marked «E». The exhibit demonstrates **12 personal discoveries** and **60 items, probably unique at present time, 38 items are known in few copies known at present time.**

### **The most well known rarities in an exhibit:**

1. Double overprint on connection 5 RSFSR airmail stamps. Page 5.
2. Airmail envelope sent airmail from Moscow to Berlin, with arrived Berlin airmail postmark. Page 8.
3. Projects of the first airmail stamps of the USSR. Page 9.
4. Sheet of 25 stamps surcharge on stamp with «wide 5». Page 22.
5. Block of four with inverted surcharge «20 коп. зол.». Page 19.
6. Cover franking stamp with inverted surcharges «20 коп. зол.». Page 19.
7. The first airmail conference in Hague gutter pairs. Page 27.
8. Cover franking in pairs «5 in 4 year» imperforate. Page 36.
9. Block of four 50 kopecks «Polar year» perforated 12 ½ - 12 - 10 ½ - 12. Page 49.
10. 50 kopecks black blue imperforated. Page 50.
11. 15 kopecks engraved orange color, perf. 10 ½ project. Page 55.
12. Polar year. 50 kopecks block of four perf. 10 ½. Page 67.
13. Civil aircraft and airmail, 80 kopecks pair imperforated between. Page 76.
14. Stratosphere pilots pair 20 kop. with the combined perforated. Page 80.
15. Levanevsky block of four with inverted surcharges. Page 107.
16. Airmail postcard with franking stamp Levanevsky with inverted surcharged. Page 108.
17. Pair 1 rub. «planes» imperforate with watermark on margin sheet. Page 115.
18. Pair 10 kop. without red color. Page 120.
19. Essay stamp 40 kop. with inverted map flight. Page 122.

### **Plan of the exhibit:**

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|---|-----------|
| 1. Airmail stamp of RSFSR.  | 2 - 8     |
| 2. The first airmail stamps of the USSR, and surcharge new face value in gold calculation.                                      | 9 - 22    |
| 3. The first airmail conference in Hague (Holland)  | 23 - 27   |
| 4. Development constructs a dirigible balloon to the USSR, and flights of dirigible balloon LZ 127 «Graf Zeppelin» in the USSR. | 28 - 64   |
| 5. Commemorative issues of the USSR airmail stamps.   | 65 - 99   |
| 6. Levanevsky flight along the route Moscow (USSR) - San Francisco (USA) through North Pole.                                    | 100 - 108 |
| 7. Planes of the USSR.  | 109 - 116 |
| 8. Record flights of the Soviet pilots through North Pole in the USA.   | 117 - 127 |
| 9. Day of aircraft.   | 128       |

### **Publications:**

Dmitro Frenkel. Philatelic features of airmail stamp of RSFSR // Magazine of the Russian, Ukrainian and Soviet philately. 2011. № 1.

Dmitro Frenkel. Flight S. A. Levanevskogo and V. I. Levchenko on route Los Angeles (USA) - Moscow (USSR) in 1936 // Magazine of the Russian, Ukrainian and Soviet philately. 2012. № 2.