

# Russia No. 1 Extracts from the "Elin" Collection

386<sup>th</sup> Heinrich Köhler-Auktion Thursday, 18 September 2025, 3:00 p.m.

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# Census of the 1857 10-Kopeck Imperforate Stamp of Russia

# Guido Craveri

For those eager to delve deeper into this captivating story, Guido Craveri's "CENSUS OF THE 1857 10-KOPECK IMPERFORATE STAMP OF RUSSIA" offers an invaluable and beautifully illustrated resource. This book, a testament to the ongoing fascination with this legendary stamp, can be purchased at a special collector's price of EURO 80 (plus postage), a significant discount from its original price of EURO 200.

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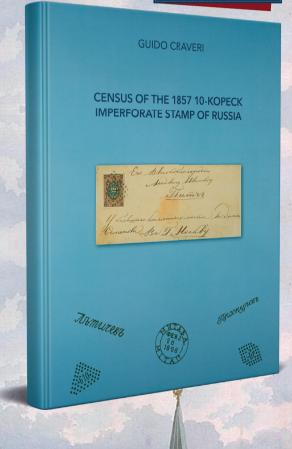
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#### Foreword

#### The legendary Russia Number 1 -

#### Extracts from the "Elin" Collection

Step back in time to December 1857 and witness the birth of a legend: the first postage stamp of the Russian Empire. For over 150 years, this humble stamp has captivated philatelists and historians, not just as a piece of paper, but as a symbol of a new era in Russia's postal history.

The "Russia Number 1" revolutionized communication in the vast Tsarist Empire. By simplifying postage, it made the mail system accessible to the general public, a significant leap forward in a time when postal fees were often confusing and complex. This small, imperforate stamp was a catalyst for progress, paving the way for a modern postal administration.

The first use of the stamp is documented for 31 December 1857, one day before the officially announced date of first use.

What makes its story so intriguing is the tale of its creation. A broken perforating machine, specially imported from Vienna, forced a last-minute change in plans. To meet the official launch date, the smallest denomination (10 kopeck) was distributed unperforated to remote areas. This act of necessity created the very rarity that collectors now treasure. While the machine was quickly repaired, allowing for the widespread use of a perforated version, this initial, imperforate issue—known as the "Russia Number 1"—became a true philatelic rarity.

This close connection between the first and second stamps of the Russian Empire is fascinating. Though they share the same printing plates, their stories diverge at a single, crucial point: perforation. The first stamp, born of urgency, remained unperforated and had a very limited print run. The second, produced after the machine was fixed, was perforated and mass-produced. This seemingly minor technical difference is the key to their respective values, turning one into a highly sought-after collectible and the other into a more common, though equally important, piece of history.

Today, the "Russia Number 1" remains a prized possession for collectors worldwide. The scarcity of used examples on original letters is staggering; according to Guido Craveri's 2021 census, only 458 such items are known to exist. This contrasts sharply with other famous stamps, like the "Penny Black," which has hundreds of examples from its first week of use alone. This rarity, combined with the stamp's simple elegance and the enduring popularity of classic Russian philately, contributes to its extremely high collector's value. Each letter bearing this stamp is more than just a piece of mail—it's a tangible piece of Russian history, a testament to a unique moment in time.

Acknowledging the inherent risks associated with collecting classical stamps, the collector took the precautionary measure of securing certificates for all important lots. The chosen experts were Mikulski or Buchsbayew, and the validity of their certificates is legally binding upon buyers.

Tobias Huylmans Geschäftsführer · Managing Director Dieter Michelson
Geschäftsführer · Managing Director

Michael Hilbertz Chefphilatelist · Senior Philatelist



# **RUSSIA NO. 1**

## Extracts from the "Elin" Collection



General Post Office in St. Petersburg

#### **RUSSIA**

#### 1857, 10 KOPECK BROWN AND BLUE



Lot No. Mi.-No.

501° 1

10 kopeck brown and blue, close at lower right and possibly tiny touched, otherwise good to mostly wide margins, obviously unused with large parts of original gum and no traces of any kind of cancellation. A very attractive copy and extremely rare in this condition. This lot will be sold

1000



on the merit of the certificate Ferchenbauer (1988) .

TO III. 3A AVE

503

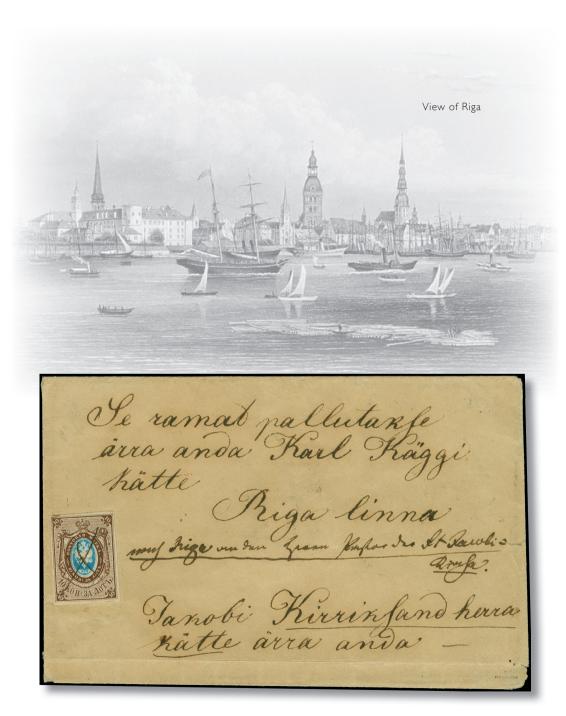
502° 1

10 kopeck brown and blue, ample to mostly wide margins, appears unused, but pen cross excellently removed, non-original gum on reverse, very fine.

503° 1

10 kopeck brown and blue, wide margins, used by pen cross. Very fine. Signed Buchsbayew.





Lot No. Mi.-No.

505° 1

 $\bowtie$ 

10 kopeck brown and blue, nice colour and ample to large margins, used with pen cross on envelope without dispatch mark, to Riga, with arrival mark of March 17, 1858. Envelope with filing fold at bottom, not affecting the stamp, otherwise fine. Signed Pfenninger and Certificate Buchsbayew 2018.





Lot No.	MiNo.		506 507	Start price
506°	1	•	10 kopeck brown and blue, good to wide margins with 3.5 mm sheet margin at left, used by undefined dotted circular postmark. Very fine. Certificate Buchsbayew (2021)	400
507°	1	•	10 kopeck brown and blue, clear at top, otherwise wide margins with ca.3.5 mm sheet margin at left, used by double line pre-philatelic postmark. Very fine. Certificate Buchsbayew (2013)	300









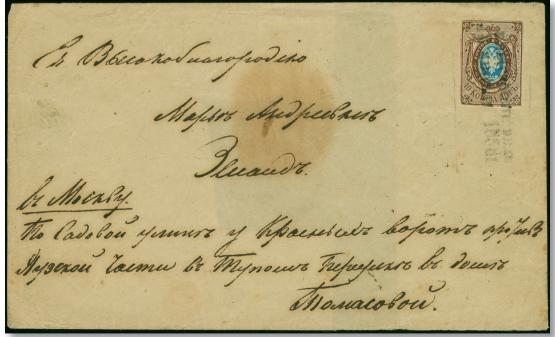












Lot No. Mi.-No.

516° 1

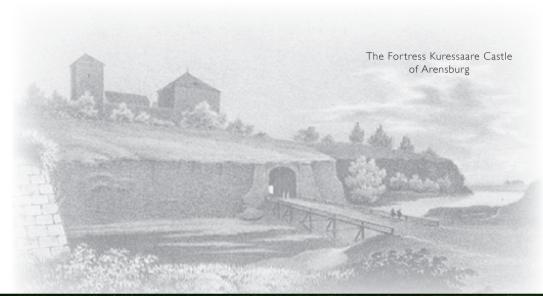
10 kopeck brown and blue, touched on all sides, tied by unreadable two-line datestamp to envelope to Moscow, with arrival mark. Wax seal on reverse cut out. Certificate Buchsbayew (2018)

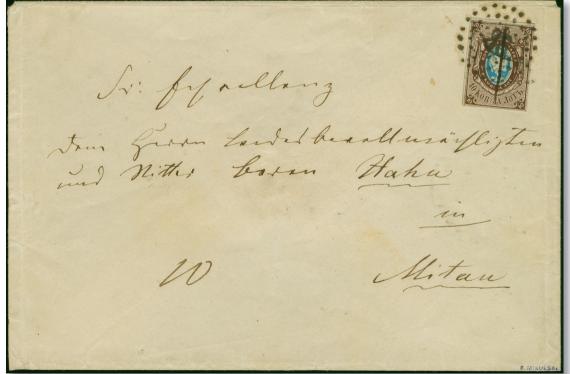


Lot No. Mi.-No. Start price

517° 1 var •

10 kopeck brown and blue, variety ,large watermark' (4mm instead of 3,5 mm wide), large margins, used with unclear pre-philatelic cancellation. Very fine. A great rarity; just one further copy of this watermark variety has been recorded. Certificate philatelic foundation of Russia (2010)





Lot No. Mi.-No.

518° 1

1 🖂

ARENSBURG (Island Saaremaa, Estonia): 10 kopeck brown and blue, ample to good margins, used with pen cross on envelope with reverse side bilingual dispatch mark, to Mitau (Latvia), with arrival mark. This stamp additionally cancelled and tied in transit by clear dotted circle "38" RIGA. Very fine. A very interesting and rare cover; the only recorded entire from Arensburg. *Provenance: Mehrtens* 



Lot No. Mi.-No.

519° 1

◁

BALTISCH-PORT (Paldiski, Estonia): 10 kopeck brown and blue, clear to ample margins, used on lettersheet with reverse side white label "BALTISCH-PORT" with manuscript "10/22 April 1858", to Borga, Finland. The stamp cancelled by faint straight-line "REVAL" and additionally tied by clear boxed "REVAL 12 APRIL 1858". A fine and rare entire; the only recorded from Baltisch Port. Certificate Buchsbayew 2022)

Note:This method of using a label instead of dispatch handstamp is unique in the entire Russian Empire



Lot No. Mi.-No.

520° 1

BELOSTOK (Poland): 10 kopeck brown and blue, good to large margins, used with pen cross and tied by boxed "BIALYSTOK 1858...", to blue piece. A very fine and rare usage on Polish soil. Signed Buchsbayew with certificate (2014)

Start price

200



521° 1 BELOSTOK (Poland): 10 kopeck brown and blue, good to large margins, used on lettersheet with reverse side dispatch mark"BIALYSTOK 8 AUG.1858", to Warzaw; the stamp cancelled upon arrival twice by red c.d.s. "WARRSZAWA 21/8). Usual filing fold, not affecting the stamps. A fine and very rare entire; just few No.1-entires have been recorded from todays Polish soil. Certificate Buchsbayew 2014)





Lot No.	MiNo.		SZZ SZS	Start price
522°	1	•	BERDICHEV: 10 kopeck brown and blue, large margins, used with 2 clear strikes of boxed handstamp of March 24. Horizontal crease, very fine appearance.	200
523°	1	Δ	BERDICHEV: 10 kopeck brown and blue, ample to large margins, used with clear strikes of italic type pre-philatelic handstamp on small piece. Very fine.	300

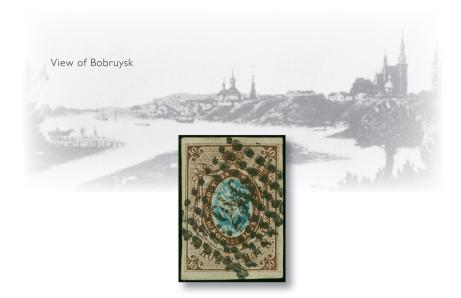






BERDYANSK: 10 kopeck brown and blue, cut into at base, otherwise good margins, tied by prephilatelic double line "BERDYANSK 18 APRIL 1858", to Odessa. Despite the small imperfection very fine.

 $\square$ 



Lot No. Mi.-No.

•

Start price

527° 1

BOBRUYSK: "246", dotted rectangular, almost complete on 10 kopeck brown and blue, good to large margins. Very fine. Signed Buchsbayew.

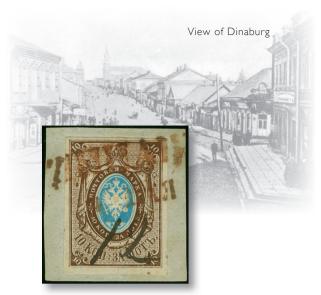
300



Provenance: Liphschutz 1500



529° 1 O CONSTANTINOPLE (LEVANTE): 10 kopeck brown and blue, good to large margins, used with almost central blue boxed "FRANCO". Very fine. A great rarity of Russian Post in the Levante; no further No.1 with this cancellation has been recorded.



Lot No. Mi.-No. Start price

530° 1 DINABURG: 10 kopeck brown and blue, good to large margins, tied by red double line "DINABURG 4 MAI" and manuscript "12" to small piece. Very fine and rare. Signed Mikulski with certificate (1986) and certificate Philatelic Foundation of Russia (2012)





531° 1 © DORPAT: 10 kopeck brown and blue, clear to large margins, used with large double circle. Fine.

532° 1 © DORPAT: 10 kopeck brown and blue, good to large margins, used with large double circle. Very fine. Signed Buchsbayew.





Lot No. Mi.-No.

5340 1

DROMCHIT: "96", dotted truncated triangle, central and upright strike on 10 kopeck brown and blue, ample to large margins. Very fine. This cancellation type is very rare on No. 1. Signed Buchsbayew

600

Start price



535° 1 OUKHOVSHCHINA: "436", dotted rectangular, on 10 kopeck brown and blue, good to large margins. Fine. Signed Rohr.

300



300



GROBIN: 10 kopeck brown and blue, good to large margins, used with small pen cross (slightly cleaned) and clear blue double line "GROBIN..JUNE 1858". Very fine. one of only 2 recorded stamps with this coloured cancellation. Certificate Buchsbayew (2014)





538





KHARKOV (Ukraine): 10 kopeck brown and blue, horizontal pair, tied by boxed "KHARKOV 4 MAI 1858" to entire letter to St Petersburg, with arrival mark of May 10. This stamp with horizontal filing crease at top and the left stamp with small part missing at upper right, otherwise fine. A rare entire. Just about a dozend No.1 pairs on entire have been recorded and just 2 further No.1 entires exist from Kharkov. Certificate Buchsbayew (2015)

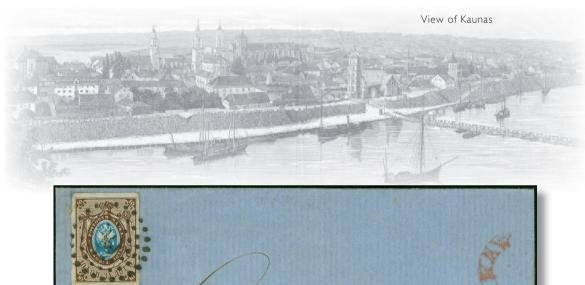


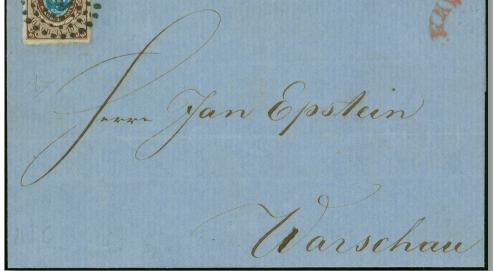
Lot No. Mi.-No. Start price

541 o KLINTSY: 10 kopeck brown and blue, good to large margins, used with purple double line

cancellation. Signed Buchsbayew

Provenance: Z.S. Mikulski (Cherrystone 2006)





542° 1 KOWNO (Kaunas, Lithuania): 10 kopeck brown and blue, good to mostly large margins, tied by clear dotted circle "19" to lettersheet with reverse side dispatch mark "KOWNO 1858 AUGUST 15" to Warzaw, with arrival mark. Very fine and scarce. Certificate Buchsbayew (2022)

Provenance: Goss, Lea, 'Alexander'

2000



Lot No. Mi.-No.

543° 1

MURSK: 10 kopeck brown and blue, good to mostly large margins, tied by clear boxed "KURSK

24 MAR 1858" and with additional small pen cross, on entire letter to Odessa, with frontside boxed arrival handstamp "3 April 1858". An attractive and very fine entire. Just 2 other entires have been recorded with this cancellation on No.1. Certificate Buchsbayew (2014)

Provenance: Liphschutz (Harmers, Lugano 1993)

3000



Lot No. Mi.-No.

544∘ 1 🖂

LENZENHOF (Latvia): 10 kopeck brown and blue, large margined lower right sheet corner with about 5/6 mm sheet margins at right and base, tied by clear purple pre-philatelic double line "LENZENHOF 4 APRIL 1858" to lettersheet to Lemsal. The stationery paper cleaned and still some remaining staining, but altogether fine and attractive. The only recorded No.1-entire with

this coloured cancellation and one of the most spectacular and important cover with a single No.1. Signed Emilio Diena and Alberto Diena, certificate Mikulski (1995, stating the address being improved)

Start price



Lot No. Mi.-No. Start price

545° 1 •• LEBEDYAN: "473", dotted rectangular, central and upright strike on 10 kopeck brown and blue, ample to large margins. Very fine. Signed Buchsbayew



200

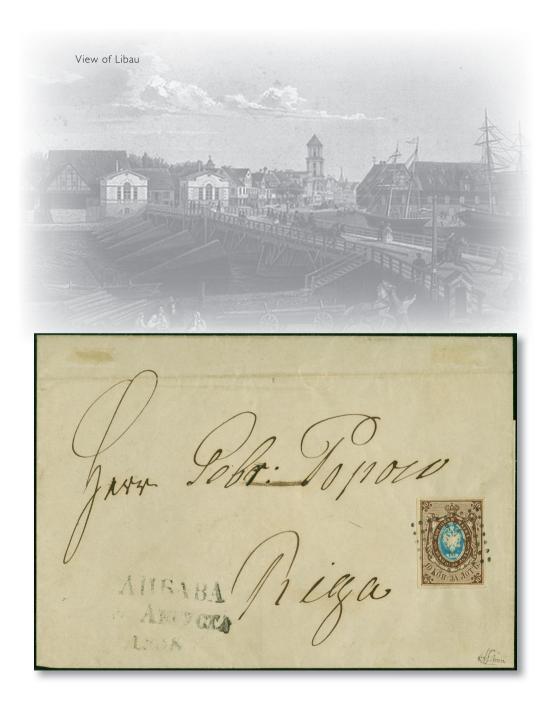
300



547° 1 LIBAU (Latvia): 10 kopeck brown and blue, large margins, tied with 3-line "LIBAU 27 MAI 1858" to piece. Very fine.

300



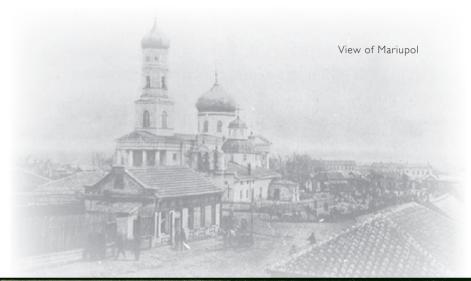


Lot No. Mi.-No.

549∘ 1 🖂

Start price

LIBAU (Latvia): 10 kopeck brown and blue, good even margins, tied by dotted rectangular "239" to lettersheet with adjacent 3-line "LIBAU 6 AUGUST 1858", to Riga, with arrival mark. A very fine and scarce entire. Signed Brun with certificate (2015) and certificate Buchsbayew (2022) *Provenance: Baughman, Lea* 





Lot No. Mi.-No.

550° 1

 $\square$ 

MARIUPOL (Ukraine): 10 kopeck brown and blue, cut into at base, otherwise clear to good

margins, tied by pre-philatelic double line "MARIUPOL 19 JUNE 1858" to lettersheet to Odessa. This stamp with tiny corner crease at upper right, resulting in the tiny marginal tear. Still attractive and rare, just 2 further No.1 entires have been recorded with this cancellation.

1200



Lot No. Mi.-No.

551° 1

MITAU (Latvia): 10 kopeck brown and blue, good margins, used with complete strike of prephilatelic single line "MITAVA". Very fine. Certificate Buchsbayew (2013)



552∘ 1 ⊠

MITAU (Latvia): 10 kopeck brown and blue, clear to large margins, tied by pre-philatelic single line "MITAVA" to entire letter to Pernau, with reverse side dispatch- and arrival marks of March 1858. Very fine and rare; 1 of 4 covers recorded with this cancellation. Certificate Buchsbayew (2015)

Start price



Lot No. Mi.-No.

553° 1  $\square$ 

NEZHIN: 10 kopeck brown and blue, good to large margins, tied by pen cross to entire letter with reverse side dispatch Mark "NIZHIN 6 Februrary 1858" to Riga, with arrival mark. Light ink staining, still very fine. A rare entire, just one further recorded with No.1 from Nezhin. Certificate Buchsbayew (2019)



Lot No. Mi.-No.

554∘ 1 🖂

NOVOKHOPERSK: 10 kopeck brown and blue, good to large margins, tied by pen cross to envelope with reverse side straight-line "NOVOKHOPERSK", with manuscript date "26 Februrary", to Moscow. A very fine and rare entire, just two further No.1 entires recorded from

this city. Certificate Buchsbayew (2018)



Lot No. Mi.-No. Start price

555° 1

•

ODESSA: 10 kopeck brown and blue, horizontal strip of 3, nice fresh colour and clear to good margins, used with central strike of boxed "ODESSA. JUNE 1858". Very fine. A great rarity; just six No.1 strips of three (off cover) have been recorded, of which only another three are used with a postmark. Signed Köhler, Gilbert and Alberto Diena, certificate Buchsbayew (2014)

Note: Just one larger multiple of Russia No.1 has been recorded in private hands.

Provenance: Liphschutz (Craveri 1993) Paolo Bianchi (Craveri 2008)

12000



556° 1 Dessa: 10 kopeck brown and blue, clear to good margins, tied by boxed "ODESSA 19 APRIL 1858" to lettersheet to Wiborg, Finland. A fine and scarce entire with unusual destination. Certificate Mikulski (1998)

Provenance: "Sarah" (105. Corinphila-Auction, 1998)



Lot No. Mi.-No.

557° 1

•

OVRUCH: "133", dotted rectangular, good and complete strike on 10 kopeck brown and blue, ample to wide margins. Very fine and rare.

Start price

300





558∘ 1 🖂

PERNAU (Estonia): 10 kopeck brown and blue, good to large margins, tied by pen cross and additional arrival mark "POLUCHENO 26 JAN. 1858" to lettersheet with reverse side dispatch mark "PERNAU 1858 JAN 25", to Reval. Very fine and fresh. A rare early entire. Certificate Buchsbayew (2014)

Provenance: Liphschutz (Craveri 1994)



Lot No. Mi.-No.

Start price

5590 1

PETROVSK: "419", dotted rectangular, upright central strike on 10 kopeck brown and blue, good to large margins. Very fine. Signed Buchsbayew.









Lot No. Mi.-No.

5610 1  $\bowtie$  Start price

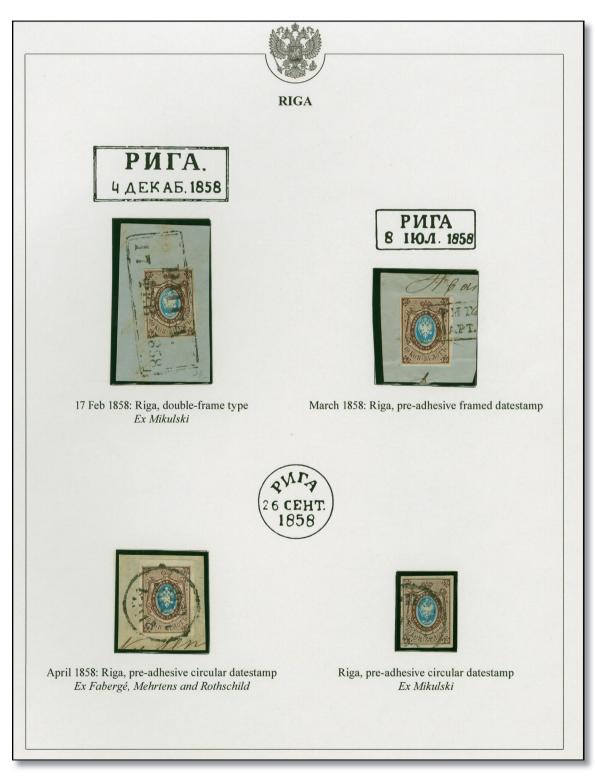
REVAL (Estonia): 10 kopeck brown and blue, ample to large margins, used with pen cross (slightly reduced) and tied by additional boxed "REVAL 21 MAI 1858" to letter sheet to Port Kunda. A fine entire. Certificate Buchsbayew (2017)



Lot No. Mi.-No.

562° 1  $\bowtie$ 

REVAL (Estonia): ,,37", dotted circle, clear strike, together with pen cross on 10 kopeck brown and blue, good to large margins, tied to lettersheet with reverse side clear dispatch mark "REVAL 2 APRIL 1858", to Hapsal.The finest of 5 recorded No.1 entires with this cancellation. Certificate Buchsbayew (2017)



Lot No. Mi.-No.

Start price

563° 1

Al O RIGA (Latvia): 10 kopeck brown and blue, 4 single copies (3 on piece), all with good to large margins, used with large double framed boxed cancellation, small single framed boxed cancellation resp. c.d.s. A very fine and attractive group. All signed Buchsbayew, one piece with certificate (2013)





Lot No. Mi.-No.

564° 1 ⊠

RIGA (Latvia): 10 kopeck brown and blue, good to large margins, used with pen cross on lettersheet with adjacent "POLUCHENO 16 JAN: 1858" and reverse side dispatch mark "RIGA

lettersheet with adjacent "POLUCHENO 16 JAN: 1858" and reverse side dispatch mark "RIGA 14 JAN 1858", to Reval. An attractive and rare entire of the 2nd week of circulation. Certificate Buchsbayew (2014)



Lot No. Mi.-No.

565° 1

 $\bowtie$ 

Start price

RIGA (Latvia): 10 kopeck brown and blue, good to large margins with sheet margin at top, tied by pen cross to letter sheet with reverse side dispatch mark "RIGA 7 FEB. 1858", to Pernau, with bilingual arrival mark. Some light usual toning/ageing along the filing fold. A fine and attractive entire. Certificate Buchsbayew (2014)

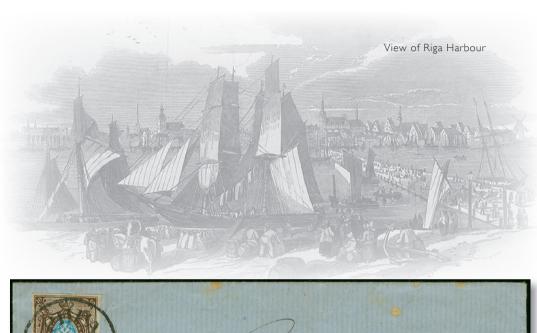
Frank Diede Schmidt

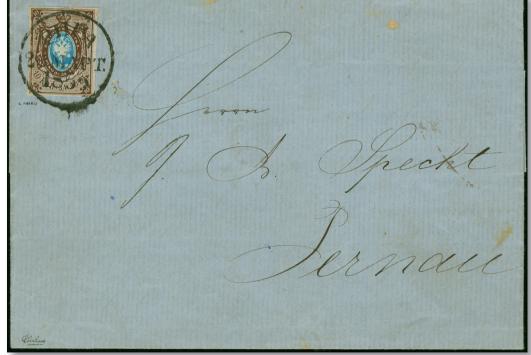
Serman

566° 1 ⊠

RIGA (Latvia): 10 kopeck brown and blue, good to large margins, tied by c.d.s. "RIGA 22 APRIL 1858", to letter sheet to Pernau, with bilingual arrival mark. The stamp shows tiny tear at lower right, not touching the design.. A fine and attractive letter. Certificate Buchsbayew (2014)

Provenance: Z.S. Mikulski (Cherrystone, 2006)





Lot No. Mi.-No.

 $\square$ 

Start price

567° 1

RIGA (Latvia): 10 kopeck brown and blue, good to large margins, tied by clear and upright c.d.s. "RIGA 25 MAR. 1858", to letter sheet to Pernau, with bilingual arrival mark. Very fine and attractive. Certificate Buchsbayew (2013)





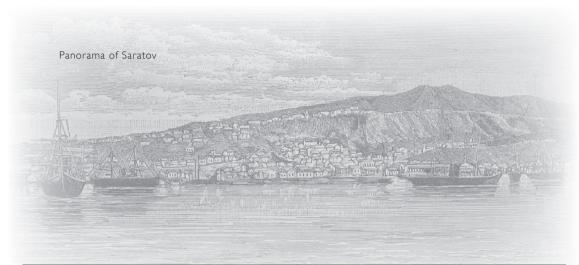
Lot No. Mi.-No.

568° 1 ⊠

Start price

SAMARA: 10 kopeck brown and blue, clear to large margins, tied by pencross to letter sheet with reverse side dispatch mark "SAMARA 25 JAN. 1858", to Saratov, the stamp additionally tied by arrival mark "RECEIVED IN SARATOV 1858 JAN. 28 ". Very fine. Very rare entire; just 4 No.1-entires recorded from Samara. Certificates Dobin (2008) and Buchsbayew (2021)

Provenance: Z.S. Mikulski (Cherrystone, 2006)





Lot No. Mi.-No.

Start price

569° 1

SARATOV: 10 kopeck brown and blue, clear to good margins, tied by pencross and additional oval "SARATOV MAI 9 1858" to envelope (back flap missing), to Kiev.A fine and rare entire; just 2 more No.1-entires have been recorded from Saratov, of which just one also shows the oval handstamp. Certificate Buchsbayew (2021)





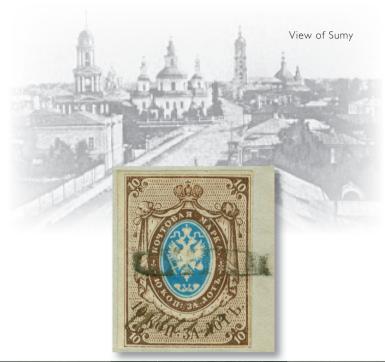
Lot No. Mi.-No.

570∘ 1 🖂

Start price

SMORGONY (Belarus): 10 kopeck brown and blue, ample to large margins, tied by pre-philatelic double line "SMORGON 1858/ AUGUST" with "20" added by hand, to small envelope to Warsaw, with arrival marks. The envelope with small imperfections, otherwise fine. A rarity. Just one further No.1-entire recorded from this city. Certificate Buchsbayew (2013)

Provenance: Fabergé (Harmer 1939) 'Pavlovsk' (Corinphila 1996)





Lot No. Mi.-No.

571° 1

 $\bowtie$ 

SUMY (Ukraine): 10 kopeck brown and blue, clear to good margins, tied straight-line "SUMY" with additional manuscript notation (date), to letter sheet (docketed inside "Bobrick, 10 May ,1858"), to St. Petersburg. One of two recorded No.1-entires with this cancellation. Certificate Buchsbayew (2017)

Start price





Lot No. Mi.-No.

572° 1 ⊠

Start price

SUPRASL (Poland): 10 kopeck brown and blue, good to large margins, with sheet margin at right, tied by merchants handstamp "...SUPRASL" and in transit by boxed "BELOSTOK ...", to lettersheet to Warsaw. The name in the address cut out, otherwise fine. The only recorded No.1-cover from this small village one of very few entires recorded from todays Polish soil. Certificate Buchsbayew (2018)

Provenance: H.C. Goss (Robson Lowe 1958)



Lot No. Mi.-No. Start price

573∘ 1 🖂

TAUROGGEN (Lithuania): 10 kopeck brown and blue, clear at lower left, otherwise good to mostly large margins, tied by boxed "TAUROGEN 28 APR.1858" to letter sheet to Riga. The letter slight age wear, still very fine. Certificate Buchsbayew (2017)

Provenance: Goss (Robson Lowe, 1958) 2500



574° 1 MAR.1858" to letter sheet to St Petersburg. Very fine and scarce. Signed Bolaffi, Alberto and Enzo Diena and certificate Buchsbayew (2018)

Provenance: R.W. Baughman (Siegel, 1971)





Lot No. Mi.-No.

575° 1  $\boxtimes$  Start price

TAUROGGEN (Lithuania): 10 kopeck brown and blue, cut into upper frame, otherwise good to mostly large margins, tied by boxed "TAUROGEN 20 JUNE.1858" and additional merchant's handstamp "GEBR:LEVI&Co. TAUROGGEN" to letter sheet to St Petersburg. Despite the mentioned very fine and fresh. A very attractive entire. Certificate Buchsbayew (2022)



Lot No. Mi.-No. Start price

576° 1 O TAUROGGEN (Lithuania): "9", dotted oval, clear and central strike on 10 kopeck brown and blue, ample to mostly large margins. Very fine. Signed Buchsbayew, v.d. Weid and Thier





577° 1 Mathematical TAUROGGEN (Lithuania): 10 kopeck brown and blue, large margins, tied by dotted oval "9" to lettersheet with reverse side boxed "TAUROGEN 20 JULY.1858" and oval handstamp "SPEDITIONS-GESCHÄFT JOHN G. KNIEP/TAUROGGEN", to Riga, with arrival mark. Supposed to origin from (most likely) German soil and forwarded. Just 13 No.1-entires have been recorded with dotted oval (border post office) cancellations and just four similar entires with the Kniep handstamp. Certificate Mikulski (1986, not mentioning forwarder)

Note: The Forwarding Agents handstamp is discussed in Guido Craveri's Census, page 11





Lot No. Mi.-No.

578° 1+3

Start price

USTYUZHNA: 10 kopeck brown and blue, good to mostly large margins, in combination with 1858, perforated issue 20 kopeck blue/orange, tied by 3 strikes of straight-line "USTYUZHNA" to small piece. A very fine mixed franking of greatest rarity.

Provenance: Fabergé (Harmer, 1939) Z.S. Mikulski (Cherrystone, 2006) Paolo Bianchi (Craveri, 2008)



Lot No. Mi.-No. Start price



Provenance: 41. Corinphila-Auction (1953)

Marane la fambie John Mostowska

Nui Ja Gunther

Doin A! Pourdruckiegs a' Narsowie

Provenance: Z.S. Mikulski (Cherrystone, 2006)

2000

300



Lot No. Mi.-No.

5820 1

YANOV: "103", dotted truncated triangle, clear and almost complete on 10 kopeck brown and blue, good to large margins. Very fine. This cancellation type is very rare on No. 1.

Start price

600

Panorama of St. Petersburg



583° 2 THE EARLIEST RECORDED USE OF A PERFORATED STAMP IN RUSSIA: 1858, 10 kopeck brown and blue, tied by pen cross to entire letter, dated inside "St Petersburg 7. Jan. 1858" and showing on front boxed red handstamp with the same date, to Wasa, Finland. Very fine and fresh. An absolutely outstanding and unique item. Certificate Mikulski (1991)

Provenance: Paolo Bianchi (Craveri, 2008)