

MINERALS AND GEMSTONES ON THE ADDRESSED CORRESPONDENCE OVER THE WORLD (personal exhibition, 28.01-02.03.2023)

@ Vladimir Morov, Russia, Togliatti

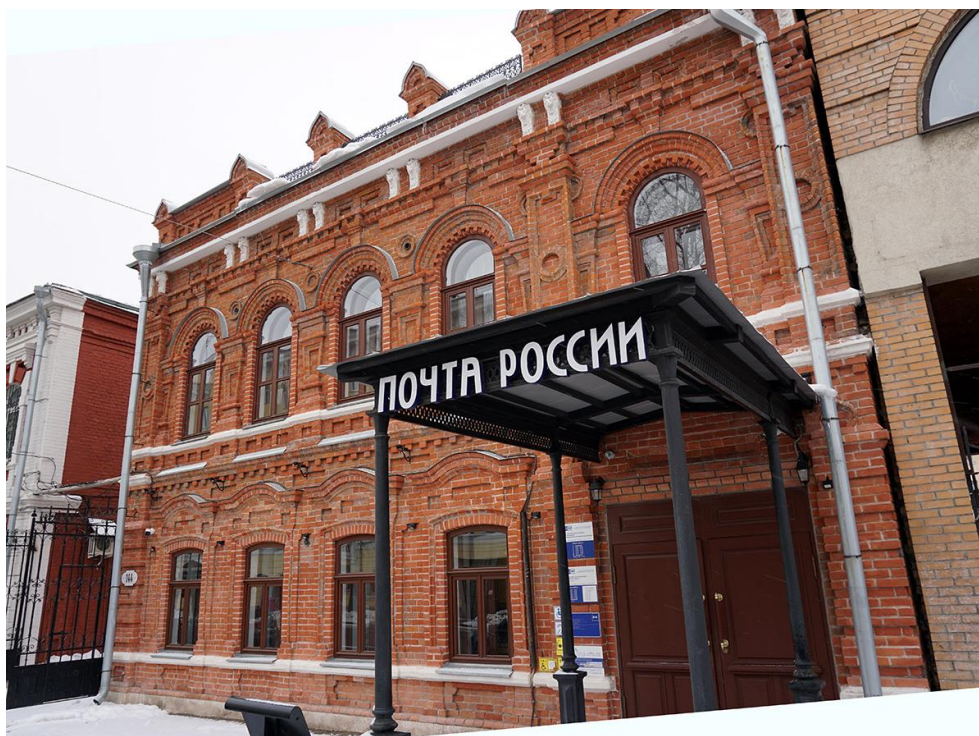
Exhibition content:

- Brief history of the development of mineralogical themes on postage stamps of the world as exemplified by postal items;
- Postal items with stamps of this subject of the USSR, Russia, former USSR republics;
- Precious stones and their products on postal items: emerald.
- Minerals on postal items: calcite, aragonite.



The material was exhibited in Samara Postal Museum, the first floor.

The museum is placed in the house of the Merchant Alexey Ivanov, built in 1898.
The address: Samara, Molodogvardeyskaya str., 144.



The ground floor of the building is a stylised 19th century working post office of the Russian Post with historic interiors and operators in period costume.



The first floor is an exhibition space dedicated to the history of the Russian Post. On the second floor there is a philatelists' club and an intercontinental postcrossing room.



МИНЕРАЛЫ
на почтовых отправлениях мира

[illegible]

MOIOW

6608

[illegible]

The exhibition was supplemented with natural samples of relevant minerals, predominantly from occurrences in the Samara region.



The full content of the exhibited material

The pioneers (1932):



Colombia. Beryl/emerald (3; 5)

MINERALS

on the world's addressed coespondence

Dear Visitors,

Many of you have admired these or similar postage stamps in the pages of the stamp albums. But very few of you have seen them in a place where they are much more suitable – on envelopes or on postcards delivered by post to the addressee. The collection presented to your attention is non-standard as in principle it ignores the most rigid canons into which the traditional collectors of stamps, their official associations and any philatelic exhibitions were initially driven. It has no analogues in Russia, and only a small number of similar ones are collected in the world.

Mineralogical theme at the dawn of motive collecting were officially recognized as only a small part of mining and geological themes. However, from about the 80s of the twentieth century it stood out as a completely independent subject of the world organized philately.

The task, which the author set himself, was to present in maximum variety the indicia carrying images of minerals in the example of mailed covers, postcards, etc. ("postal history"). Obviously, it is difficult to establish a framework of strict conformity of the material to the theme. In addition to illustrations of the minerals themselves in their natural "wild" appearance, the collection consists of images of products made from them. A smaller part of the material is represented by drawings of rocks. The covers presented are franked with stamps, complete series and their parts, postal blocks or their fragments, and cancelled envelopes with the original stamp. Of course, commemorative stamps dominate sharply over standard ones: the number of standards is limited, and placing minerals on them (like the Kenya, Zambia, or South-West Africa series) is not usually the practice. And what we don't see in this collection (with a few exceptions) are First Day Covers, special cancellations and images on illustrated envelopes. And there are no stamp or perforation defects so beloved by philatelists - "varieties", "mistakes", omissions, etc.

The material presented has neither investment or prohibitive commercial value, nor any speculative components based on the frenzied demand from the heyday of philately, as well as the financial interest of stamp catalogues compilers. The uniqueness of the collection lies only in the selection of material. Often one can search for years for franking with a stamp cheapest at catalogue prices, but as for issues overvalued in catalogues – then, no problem. By the way, finding the right assortment of modern Russian stamps on postal items is not always a trivial task.

The real trouble for those philatelists who respect postal history is the imposed classification that divides all items into "commercial" (i.e. sent by or addressed to a business / institution), private and "philatelic". The result is a practice of tailoring this or that material to the terminology in question. Why the lovingly fitted franking of an empty envelope sent by a philatelist through an office secretary is considered commercial, while the pasting of a commemorative, chosen from one's own stock, on a letter not quite at the rate to a friend is declared "philatelic" – defies logic. On the other hand, the obviously artificial and micronized franking, plus the envelope's hand painting is alarming. In examining this issue you should be

aware that the collecting principles developed for the former multi-million issues of each stamp are categorically inapplicable to modern conditions, in which a few thousand commemorative stamps are almost entirely deposited in collectors' albums and are unavailable in the vast majority or all post offices on the territory of the issuing country. In reality, it is not the philatelist or the world catalogue that determines the postage value of issued stamps, but the postal authorities of the territory.

Postal use of stamps in most countries has certain limitations. This is primarily due to inflation, which makes the denomination too small for franking, secondly to counterfeiting, thirdly to redenomination of the currency or introduction of the new one (in the latter case surcharging is not uncommon), and finally to political reasons. Restrictions can be hard (prohibition of circulation and even destruction of printed run remnants) or soft – for example, redenomination of face value without surcharging, with possibility of further use, including mixed franking. Examples of the soft ones are found in modern Russia and France. A number of countries (USA, Colombia, etc.) still allow the use of stamps of all times. And in some states (e.g. Saudi Arabia, Cambodia) in recent years franking with stamps has been abolished by the postal service altogether. It has become a common practice around the world (even here) to neglect stamp cancellation when going through the post office.

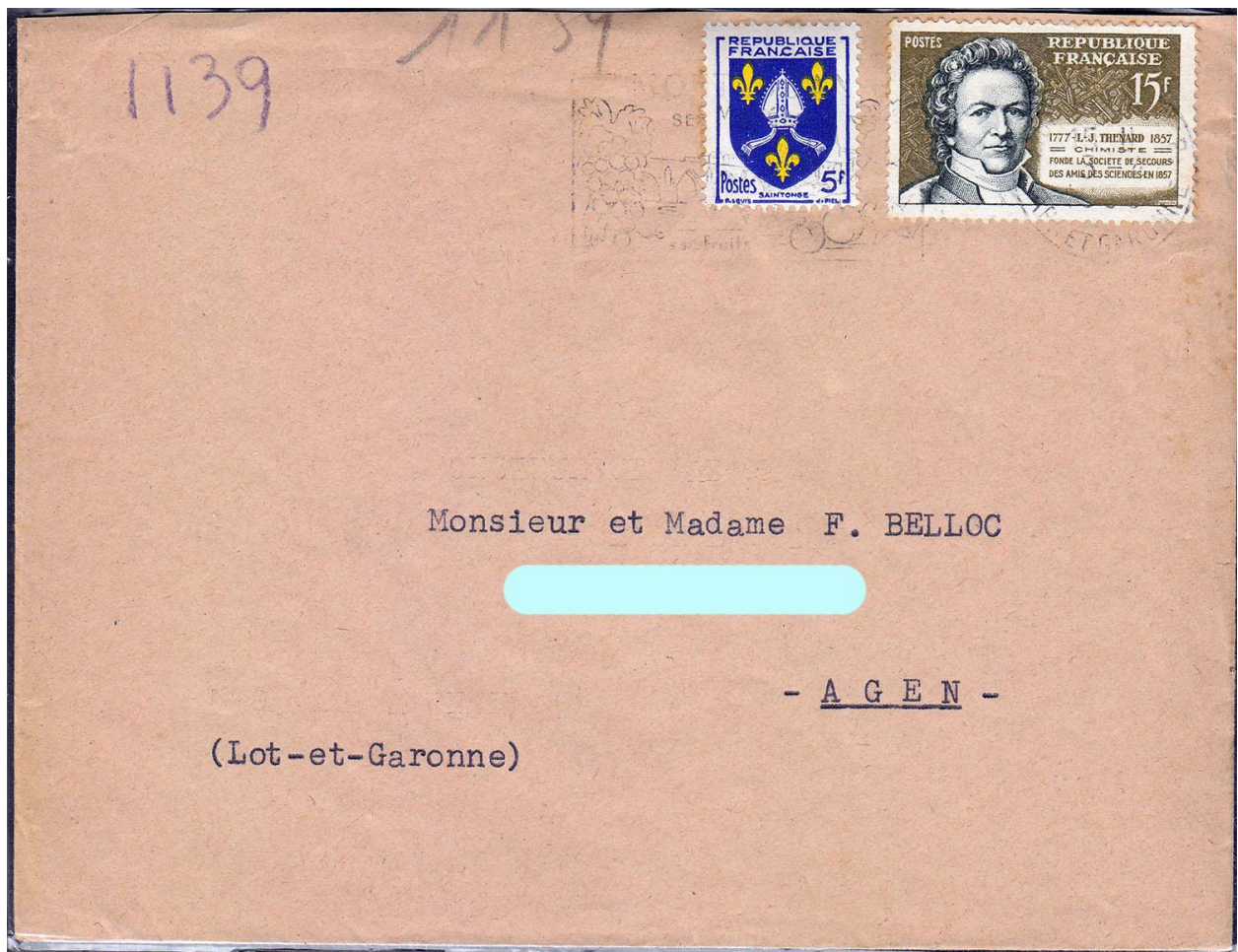
THE ORIGINS

The mineralogical theme in philately is a relatively young phenomenon: the first two stamps were issued in high denominations as part of the standard issue of Colombia in 1932. They showcase classic-cut emeralds: the country has long been renowned for its largest deposits of these gemstones. The mineralogical theme line was immediately marked by the overlap with "jewelry" through gemology (a commercial and scientific discipline that studies gems), which is still in force today. Curiously, "patriarchs" can be used for postal purposes even now, although such an undertaking cannot be called profitable from a commercial point of view.

Surprisingly, the world's first stamp with an explicit image of mineral crystals, issued in 1957 by the French post office (!), is little known to collectors of the subject. The stamp was issued on the anniversary of the death of the famous chemist Louis Thenard, and the background for the portrait is crystals of the mineral thenardite named after him. The name of the mineral itself is not imprinted, and the background is very discreet. This is the reason for this kind of "slumbering in semi-obscurity". (It should be noted that the Soviet series of 1947 with the portrait of the geologist A.P. Karpinskiy is sometimes considered a pioneer in this respect. Unfortunately, it is not possible to identify the specimen in question with anything in particular.)

However, four similar Swiss series published every year since 1958, belonging to the long-running semi-postal issue "Pro Patria" (the most intelligible translation seems to be "In favour of the Motherland"), are well known. These series are filled mainly with local (from Alpine occurrences) minerals, this time in full-color representation. The names of the minerals do not appear on the stamps themselves, but are available on the margins of the sheets. This is important, because in the absence of an external source of information it is not always possible to identify depicted minerals accurately.

The most exotic of all is the placement of mineral crystals on official coats of arms. For example, a 1960 stamp bearing the coat of arms of a province of Ecuador includes a pyrite crystal and a gold nugget.



France. Thenardite (15)



Switzerland. Almandine (30+10), quartz/rock crystal (40+10)



Switzerland. Tourmaline (20+10); quartz/amethyst (30+10)



Switzerland. Orthoclase



Switzerland. Fluorite



Ecuador. Pyrite + native gold (0.60)

The USSR

Geological science was one of the most important sciences for the Soviet Union in practical terms. The geological and mining subject was in great demand among Soviet collectors, with many postage stamps, envelopes and various philatelic products devoted to it. Even the monograph has been published (V.I. Feldman, A.G. Kats. "Geology in philately". 2000*). It is all the more surprising that the purely mineralogical theme as a section of geology is hardly touched upon in the issue of stamps of the USSR, with a few exceptions. Almost all of it is illustrated by the "Ural gems" series of 1963. The series uses only those "stones" that are traditionally considered "Russian" – though not all: alexandrite and amazonite, for example, are missing.

* the pdf download is available from the page: <https://www.geokniga.org/books/10849>

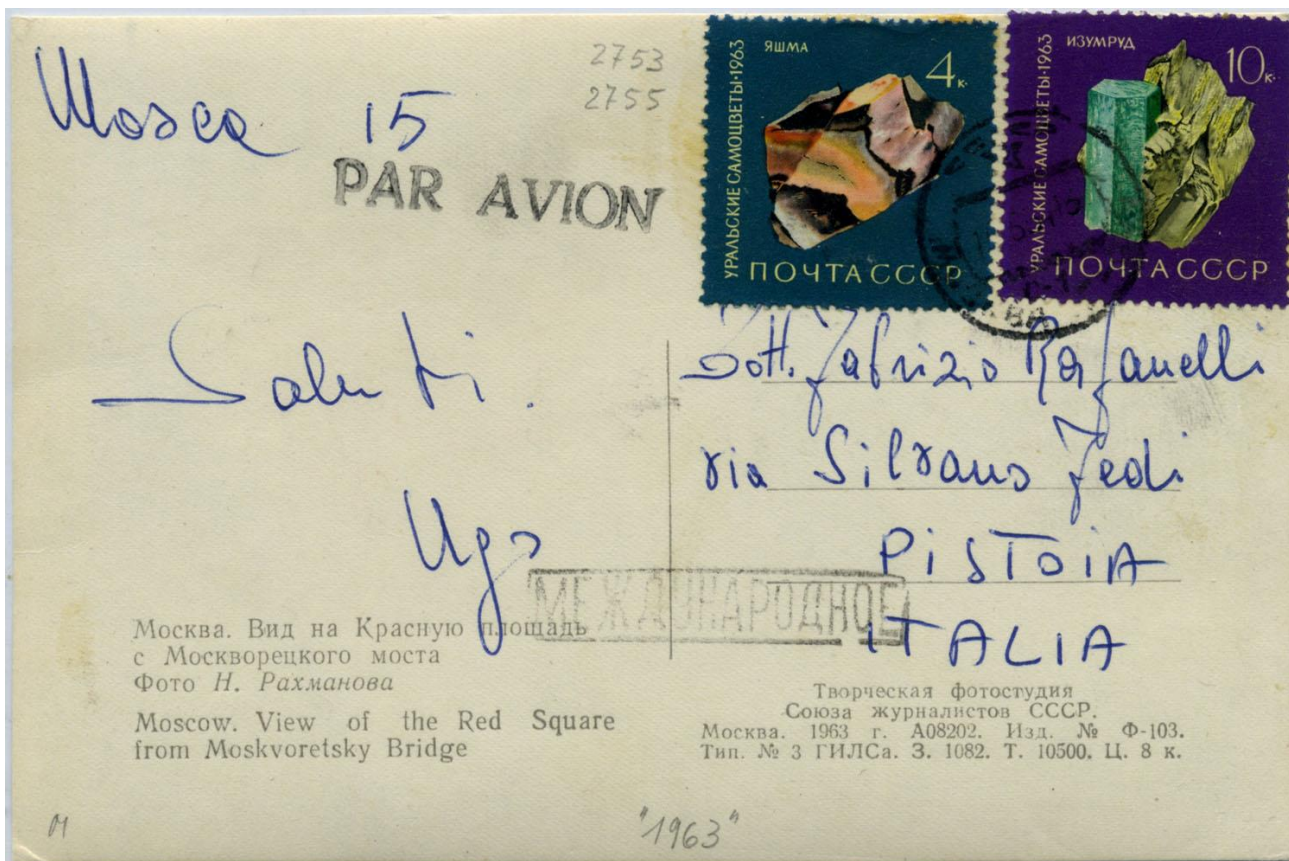
direct link: <https://www.geokniga.org/bookfiles/geokniga-geologiya-v-filateli-feldman-vi-kac-ag-2000.pdf>

Most of the Soviet material in the theme, however, is represented by jewelry with precious or semiprecious stones, from the collections of major state museums.





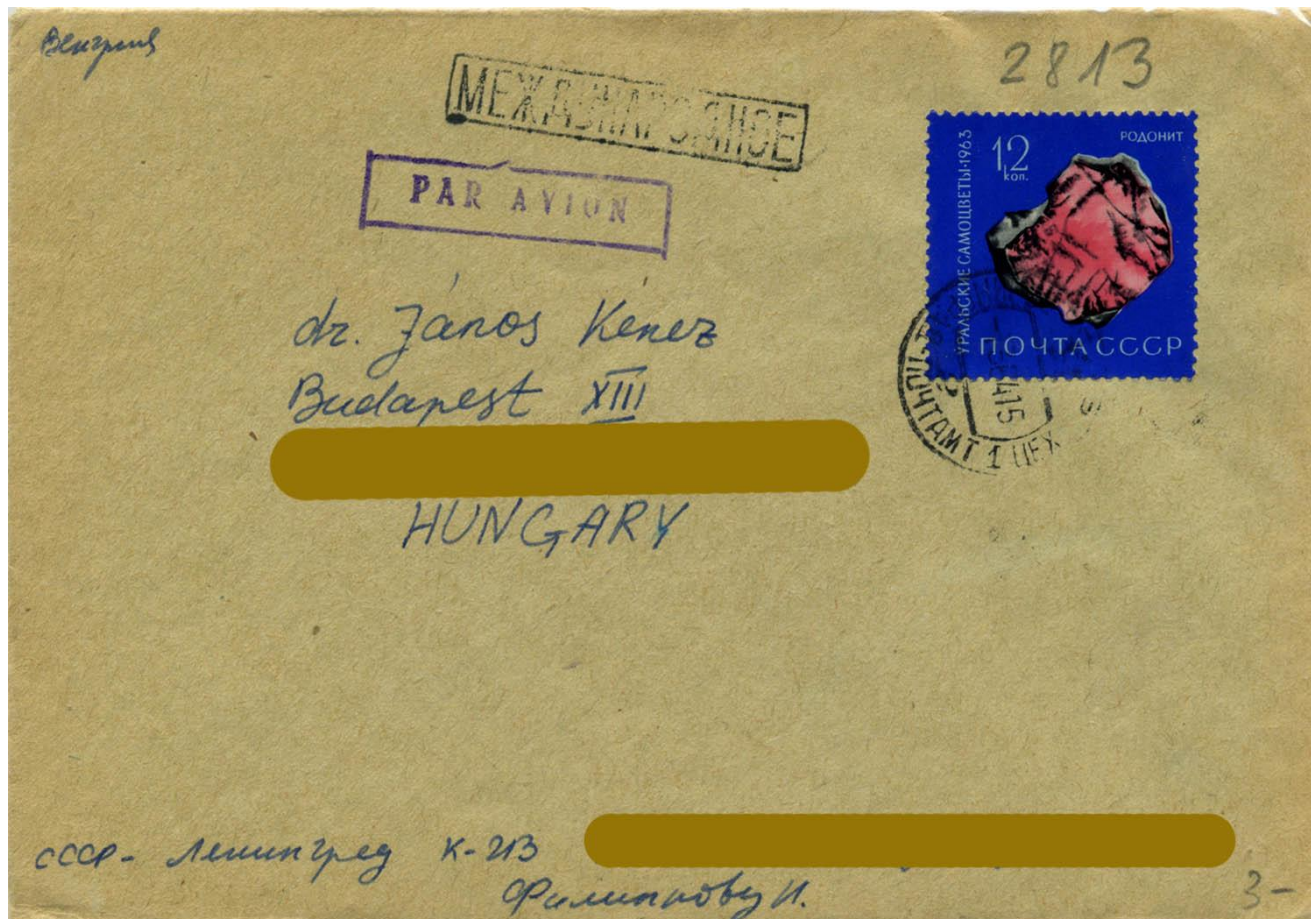
USSR. Topaz (2), beryl/emerald (10)



USSR. Jasper (4), beryl/emerald (10)



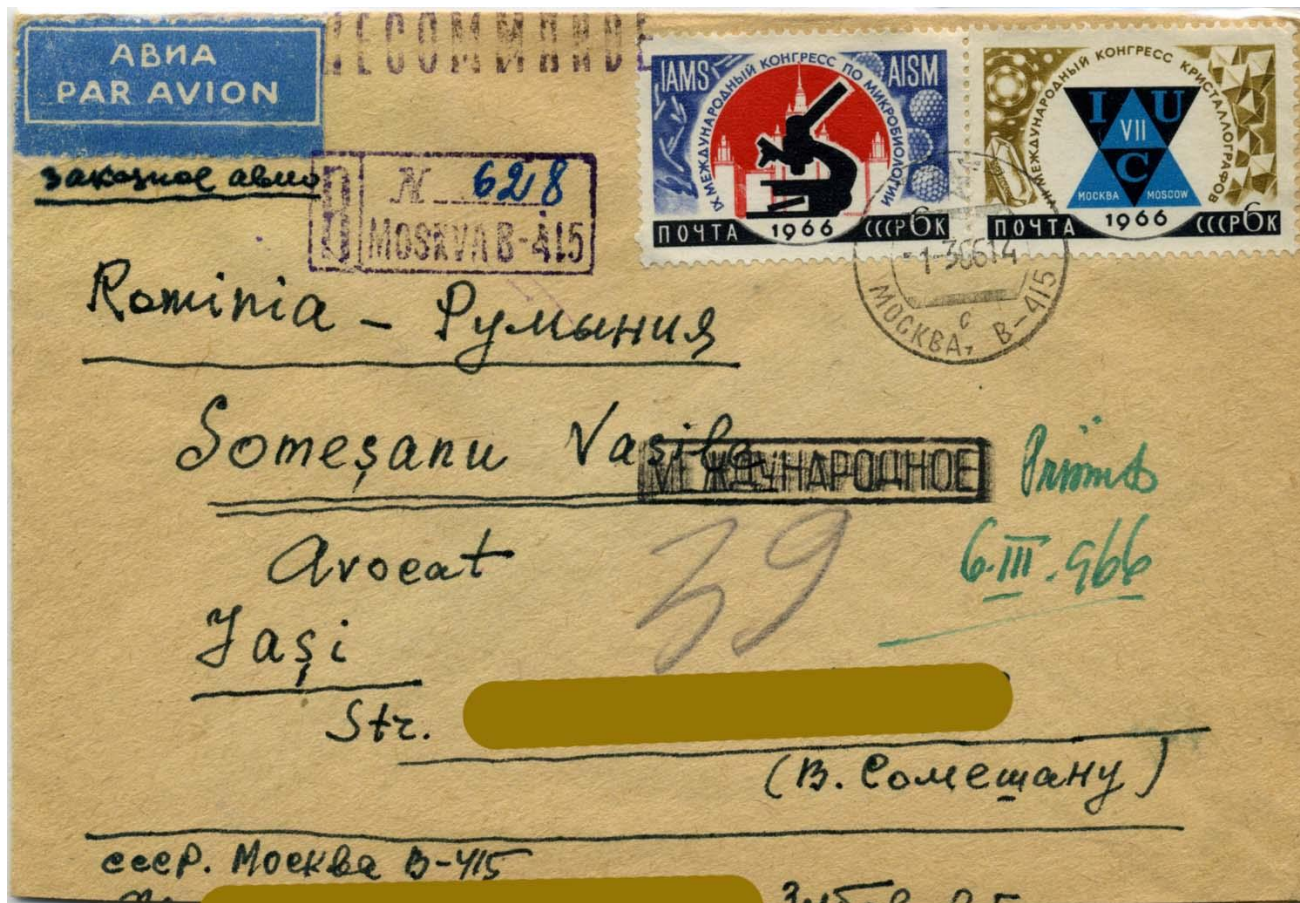
USSR. Quartz/amethyst



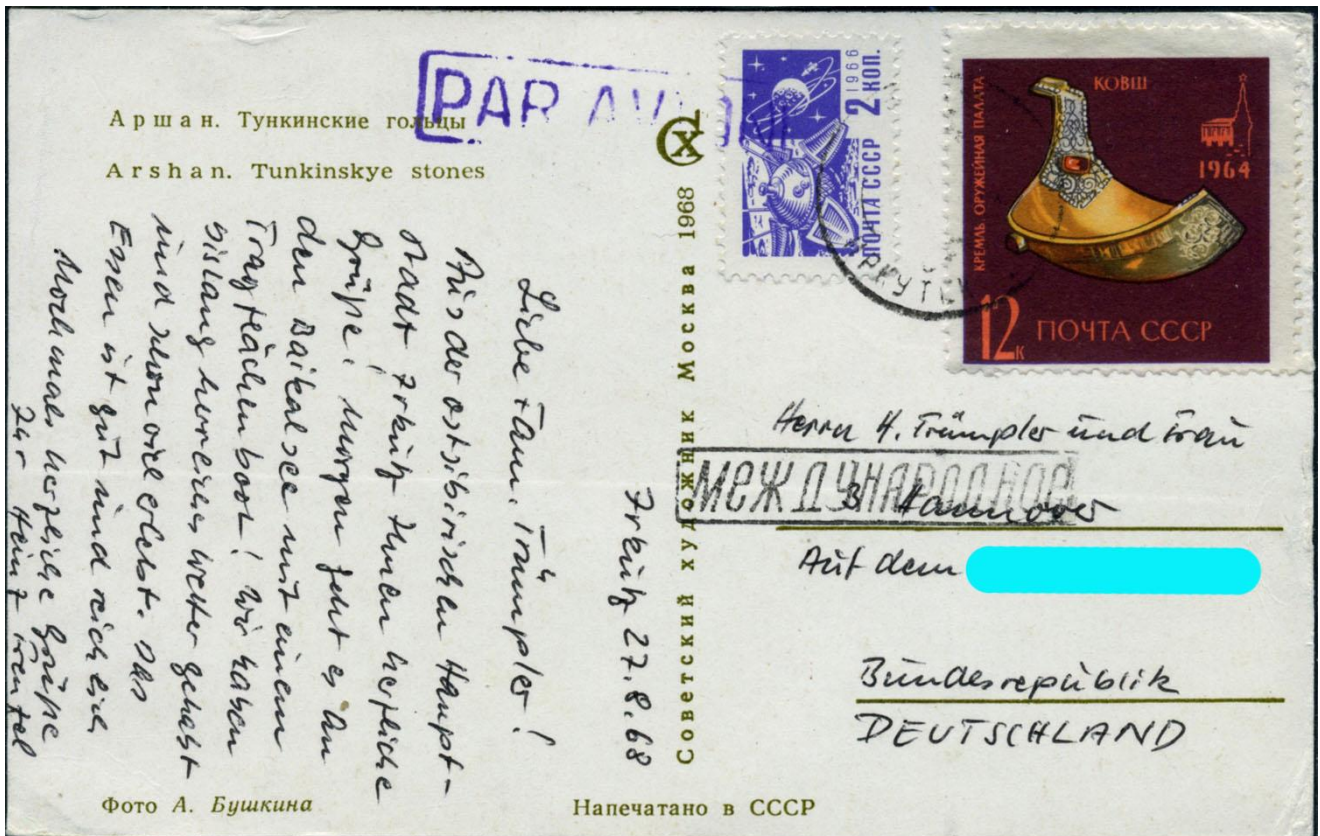
USSR. Rhodonite



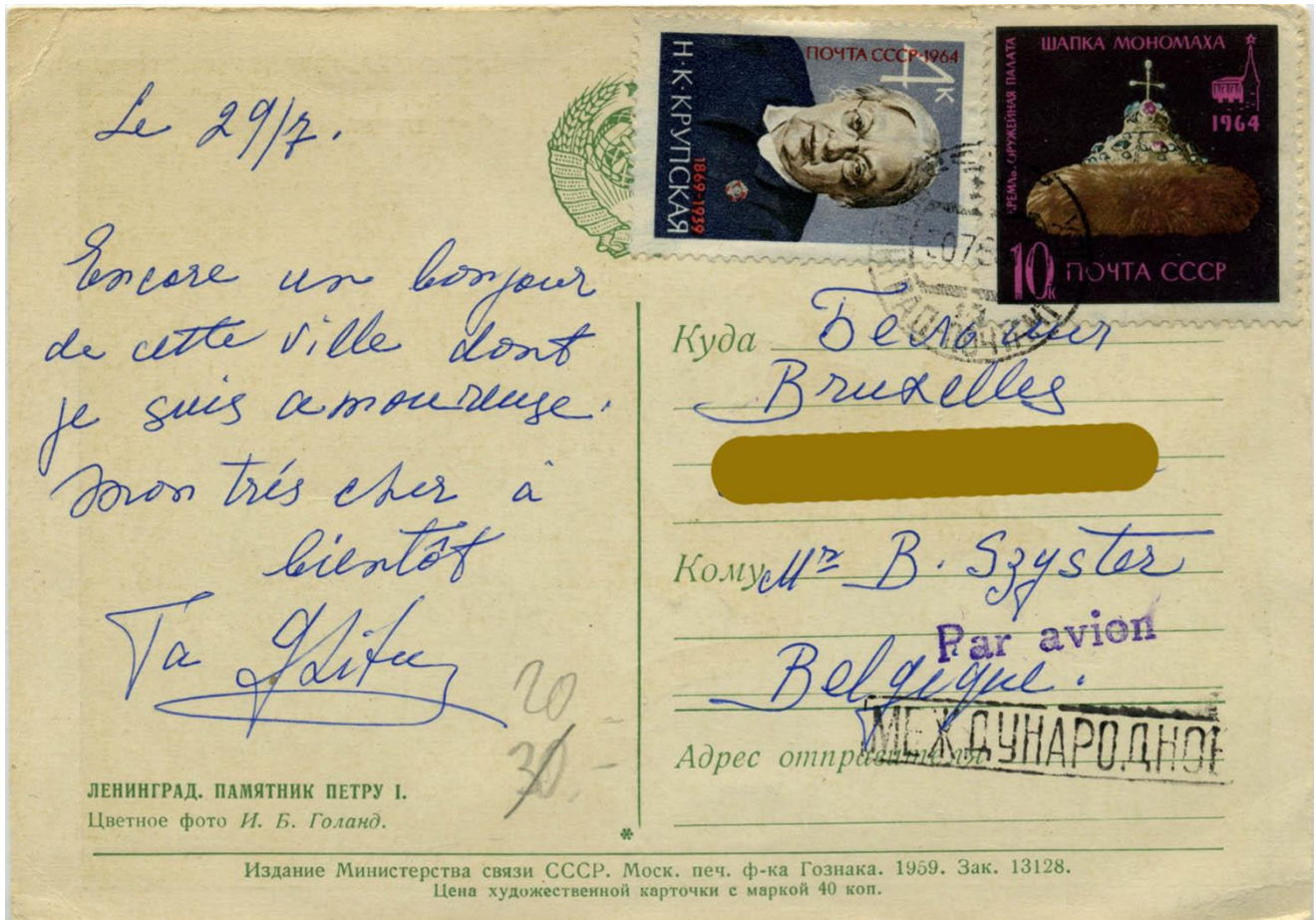
USSR. Malachite



USSR. Quartz (right)



USSR. Corundum/ruby (12)



USSR. Jewels (10)



USSR. Malachite (12)



USSR. Quartz (coupon), fantasy crystals (4)



USSR. Diamond (centre)



USSR. Quartz/amethyst (10)



USSR. Corundum/sapphire (10)



USSR. Diamond





USSR. Gems (see above)



USSR. Malachite



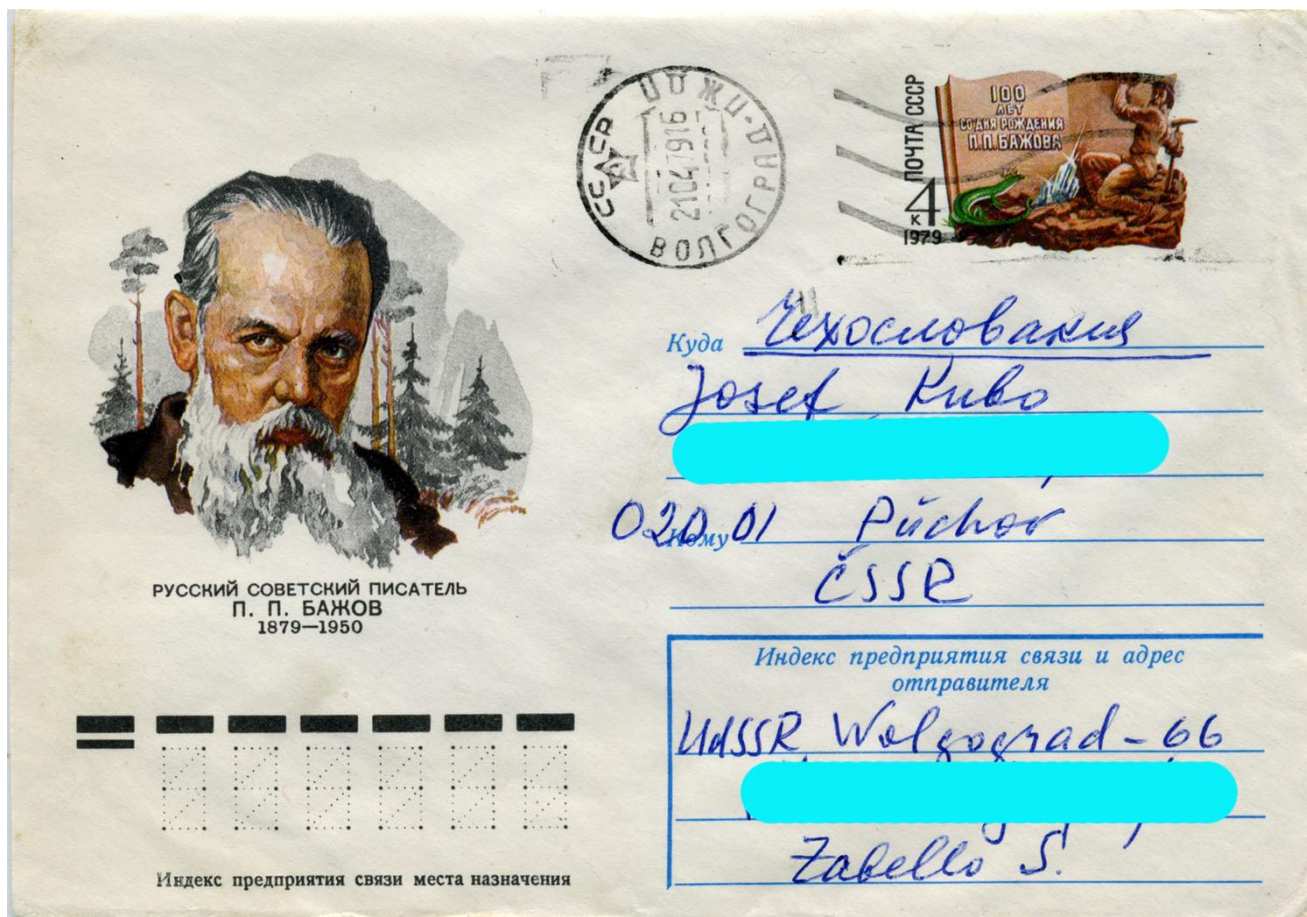
USSR. Gemstones (6)



USSR. Marble



USSR. Diamond (left)



USSR. ?Quartz/rock crystal



USSR. Diamond (bottom left)

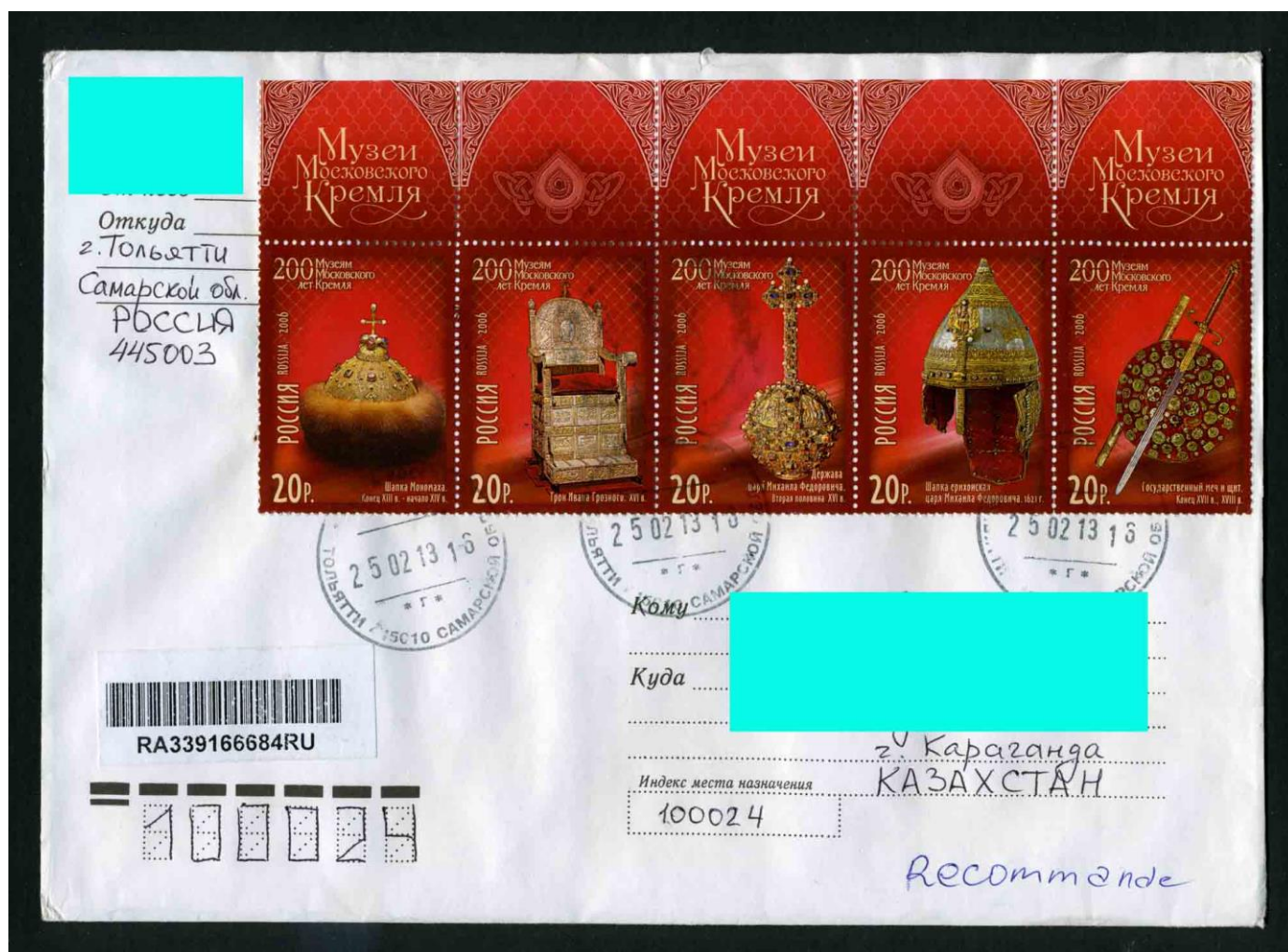


Russia. Lazurite (150), almandine (300)





Russia. Malachite (2; 4), calcite "simbircite" (illustration)



Russia. Gemstones (left; centre)



Russia. Tourmaline (left), corundum/sapphire (right)



Russia. Rhodonite

Отправитель Морову Владимиру
Адрес г Тольятти
Телефон Самарской обл.
Индекс 445003

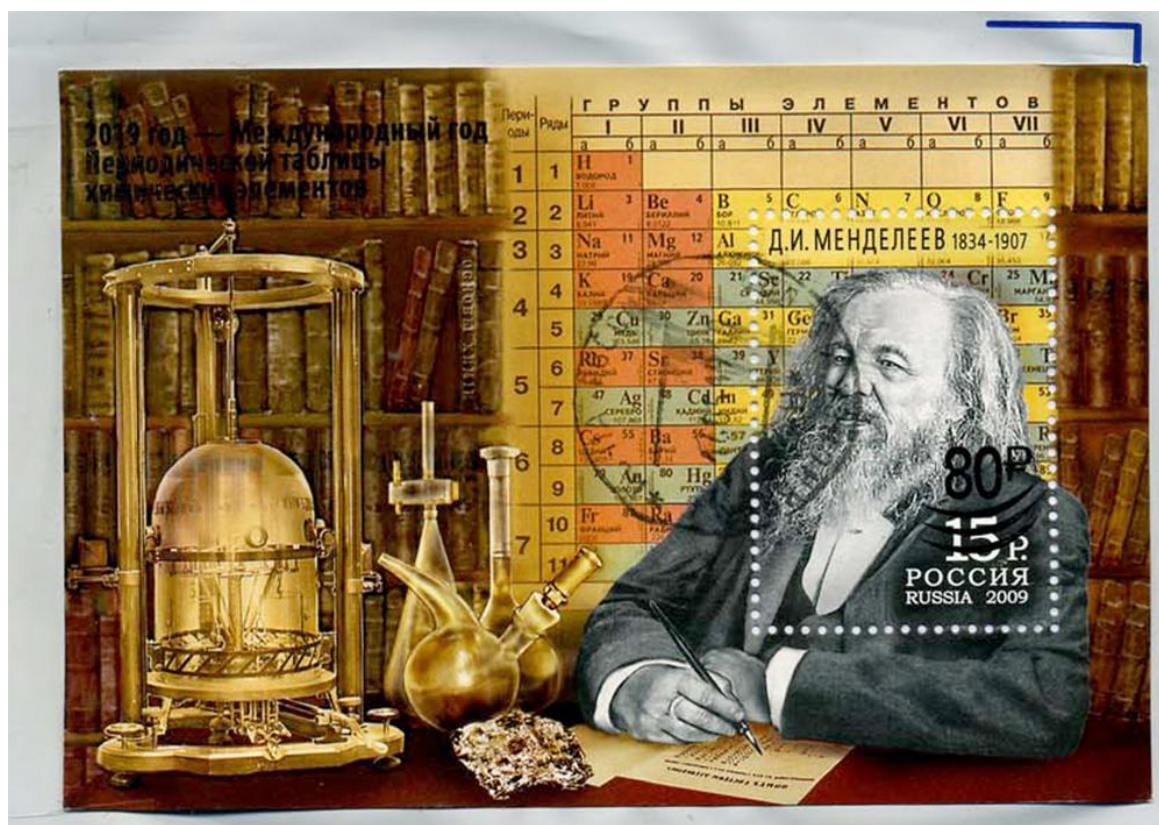
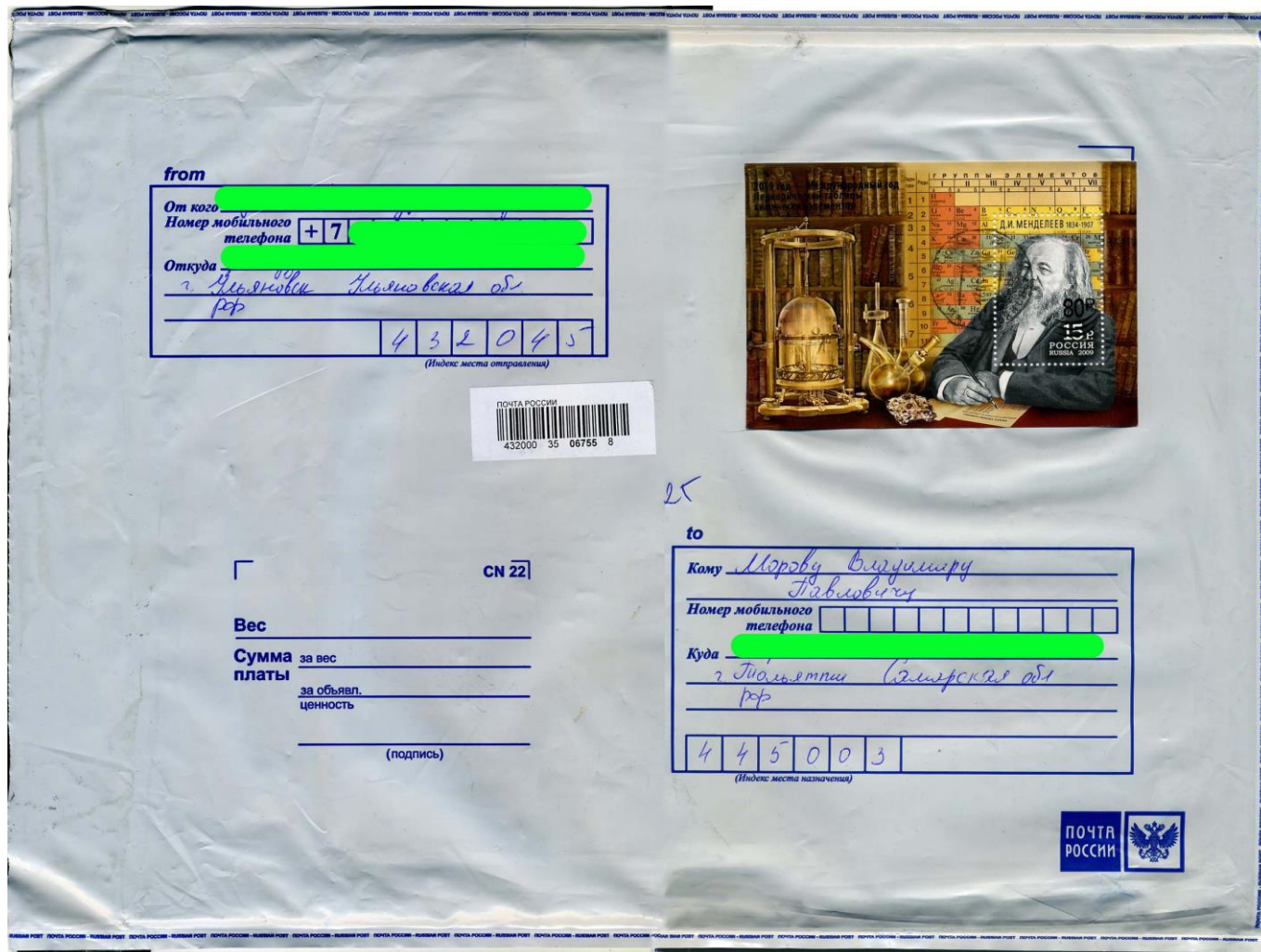


Получатель Лочеткову
Адрес Сергею Александровичу
г. Ульяновск
Телефон _____
Индекс 432027

8168



Russia. Coal/anthracite (4), spinel, diamond (50)



Russia. Quartz/rock crystal (margin)

The exposition is prepared



in conjunction with
Institute of Ecology
of the Volga Basin RAS –
branch of the Samara Federal Research Centre RAS



Russia

The philatelic mineralogy of modern Russia mirrors that of the Soviet Union. Similarly, while the country's mineral wealth is great, it is poorly reflected. Here, the only thematically complete series with minerals is the one published in 2000 for the anniversary of the Mining and Geological Service.

The design of many post-Soviet Russian issues, unfortunately, often leaves much to be desired. Thus, in both (4 + 4) issues of "Monumental Art of the Moscow Metro" the same pattern of Italian marble of the Rosso Levanto variety (really used at the Khoroshyevskaya station only), was chosen as the general background, despite the huge variety of domestic ornamental stone used in construction. Then, the depiction of crystals of a look that does not exist in nature is a tradition established back in Soviet times.

The country's gradual transition to Western standards has led to the predominant use of elongated "Euro envelopes" (E65).

Donbass republics

Almost since the declaration of the Donetsk and Lugansk People's Republics in 2014, the respective postal agencies have been formed. Given the ongoing hostilities and the front-line situation on nearly the entire territory, the role of written correspondence has become no less important than it was before the advent of e-mail. Almost all issues, despite their large number, had examples of postal circulation within both republics. Beyond their borders, authority was delegated to the Russian Post, and the DPR and LPR stamps were not used.

For obvious reasons, the miners' theme on the stamps of Donbass plays a crucial role. The author includes only material from it illustrating pieces of coal as a rock within the scope of his subject matter.

Transnistria

The Transnistrian stamps can also be used to pay for correspondence only on their own territory. But, unlike the Donbas republics, in practice their circulation is minimal.

Abkhazia

Here, they have gone a step further. Only official stamps can be affixed to a consignment, but they are not included in payment! Thus, their face value is fictitious and the stamps themselves are essentially vignettes. However, unlike in Donbass and Transdnistria, they are recognised by the International Federation of Philately.

Artsakh

The issues of this unrecognised republic are also recognised abroad. They are circulated along with Armenian stamps, including mixed franking.

Гарашуров В.А.

Зр



г. Терновка

ДНР

284637

3

284637



28463700003881

Усенов А.Т.

г. Ахтевск - 6

ДНР

94206

т. 0667608031

Donetsk PR. Hard coal

Страхов Михаил

204
26.11



г. Донецк, ДНР

283050

8/46



Деркач Иван

г. Донецк, ДНР

283008

Donetsk PR. Coal/anthracite



Lugansk PR. Hard coal



Artsakh. (left to right, upper): Petersite, quartz/morion, quartz, quartz/rock crystal + native gold
(lower): Quartz/amethyst, chalcantite, quartz/citrine, chalcedoni/carnelian



Transnistria. Flint (A; B)



Abkhazia. Hard coal (3.70, upside down)



Abkhazia. (left to right, 12): Chrysocolla, epidote, fluorite;
 (14): Calcite, ?grossular, minyulite, fluorite, rhodochrosite, fluorite

private post

Private post is mainly a relic of earlier eras. Nowadays this practice is confined either to the small postal operator (usually within a small area) or to issuing its own stamps, in which case often it is all that is being done. Occasionally, both these activities are aligned quite harmoniously.

Mineral stamps are known for private postal services in modern Germany. These include Blaue post, when operating in the East German town of Bernburg, and Infopost (renamed Dialogpost), which carried out nationwide mailings of advertising material of considerable circulation. Biber post, a private postal and parcel service operator in Saxony-Anhalt and eastern Lower Saxony, could also be included. However, it uses personalized issues much more extensively than the "official", i.e. announced issues, and all mineral issues belong to the latter category.

personalized stamps

Personalized stamps, aka personified stamps, are a major headache for modern philately. The bottom line is that in the twenty-first century, many national Posts are helping organizations and individual users issue their own stamps with mandatory design elements and certain content requirements. The denomination is usually linked to the postage rate. In some cases, "personalki" are used domestically (examples: Canada, India); in others, there are no restrictions (Austria, the Netherlands).

The statistics of images on personalized stamps of various countries presents a complex and long-standing unsolved philatelic problem. This problem is exacerbated by the fact that many philatelists – particularly those with traditional views – refuse themselves, on various pretexts, to recognize such issues as collectible objects. The main obstacle here is the negligible circulations. It goes without saying, that it is impossible to collect stamps systematically with 20 (twenty!) copies, and cataloguing of hundreds of thousands of miniature issues makes not much sense. On the other hand, examples of "personalki" can be a great addition to a collection, especially on narrow theme. Here one can admire.

postal history forgeries

The subject of counterfeit postal items is a goldmine not only for its manufacturers but also for researchers. There are many different ways to defraud postal operators and collectors alike. If you are very willing and lucky, you can send a letter franked with not only an illegal or defunct postage stamp (an example is the frequent use of non-postage stamps from Mexico), but with any piece of paper at all. More often, however, such handicrafts do not go through the post office at all, even though they have actual cancellations. The addressees, and even the addresses, are usually fictitious, for obvious reasons.

Of course, philatelic tricks such as CTO (stamping on demand) without passing through the post must not be equated with forgeries. However, the value of such material as postage is minimal. At the same time, it provides practical proof of the authenticity of postage notes whose franking samples are not available.



Germany/priv. Galena



Germany/priv./pers. Native copper

Dr. Eckart Bergmann
PF 13 08
99303 Arnstadt

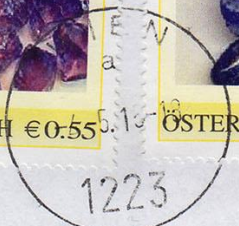


Manfred Baumbach

15 234 Frankfurt/O.

Germany/pers. Fluorite

PRIORITY
PRIORITAIRE



Vladimir Morov

Togliatti Samara reg. 445003
Russische Föderation

Austria/pers. Amethyst (centre), lazurite (right)



Austria/pers. Epidote (0.55)



Austria/pers. Quartz/amethyst, lazurite



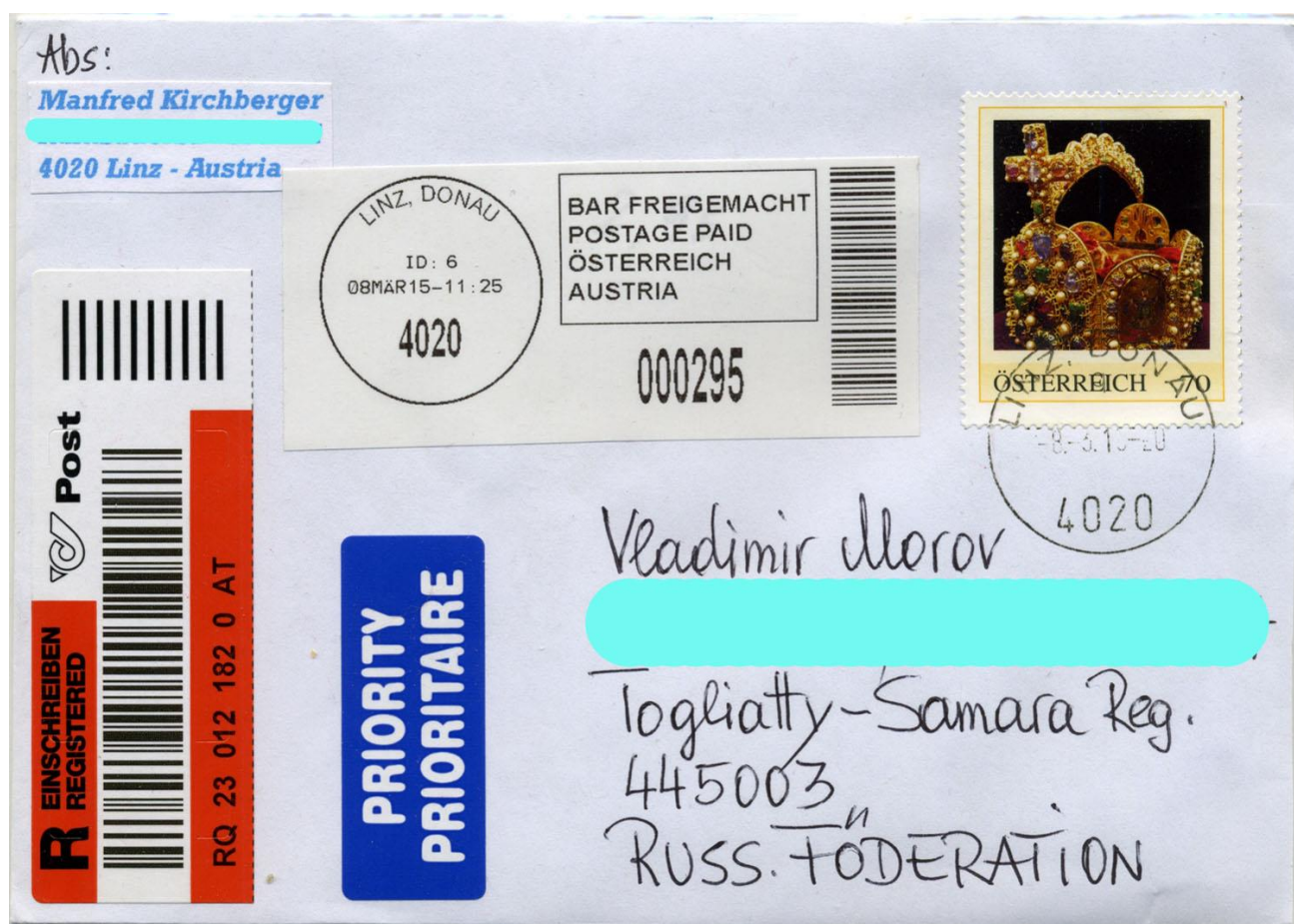
Austria/pers. (80, left to right): Quartz/rose quartz, quartz, quartz/?amethyst



Austria/pers. (68, up to down): Amethyst, malachite.



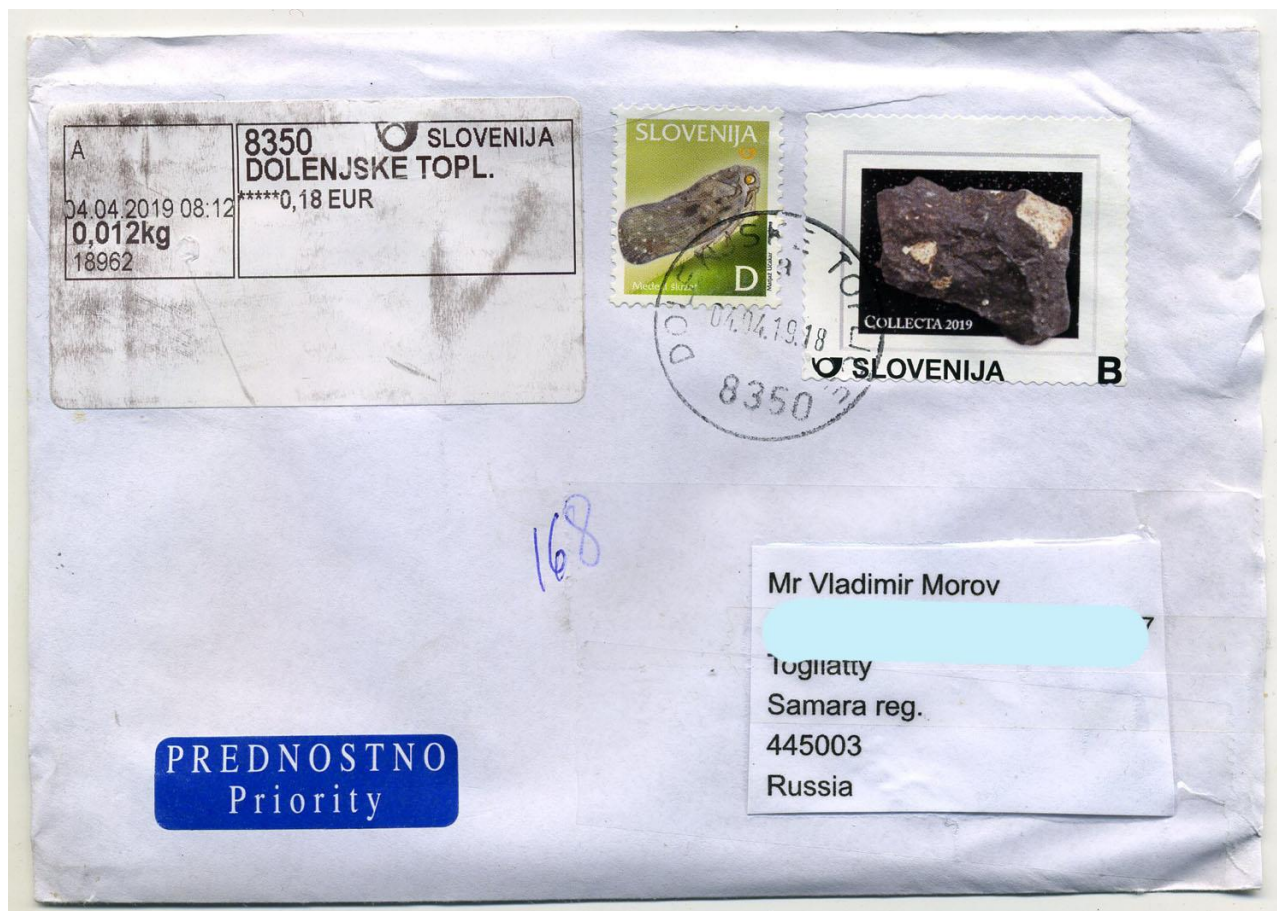
Austria/pers. Gemstones (55)



Austria/pers. Gemstones



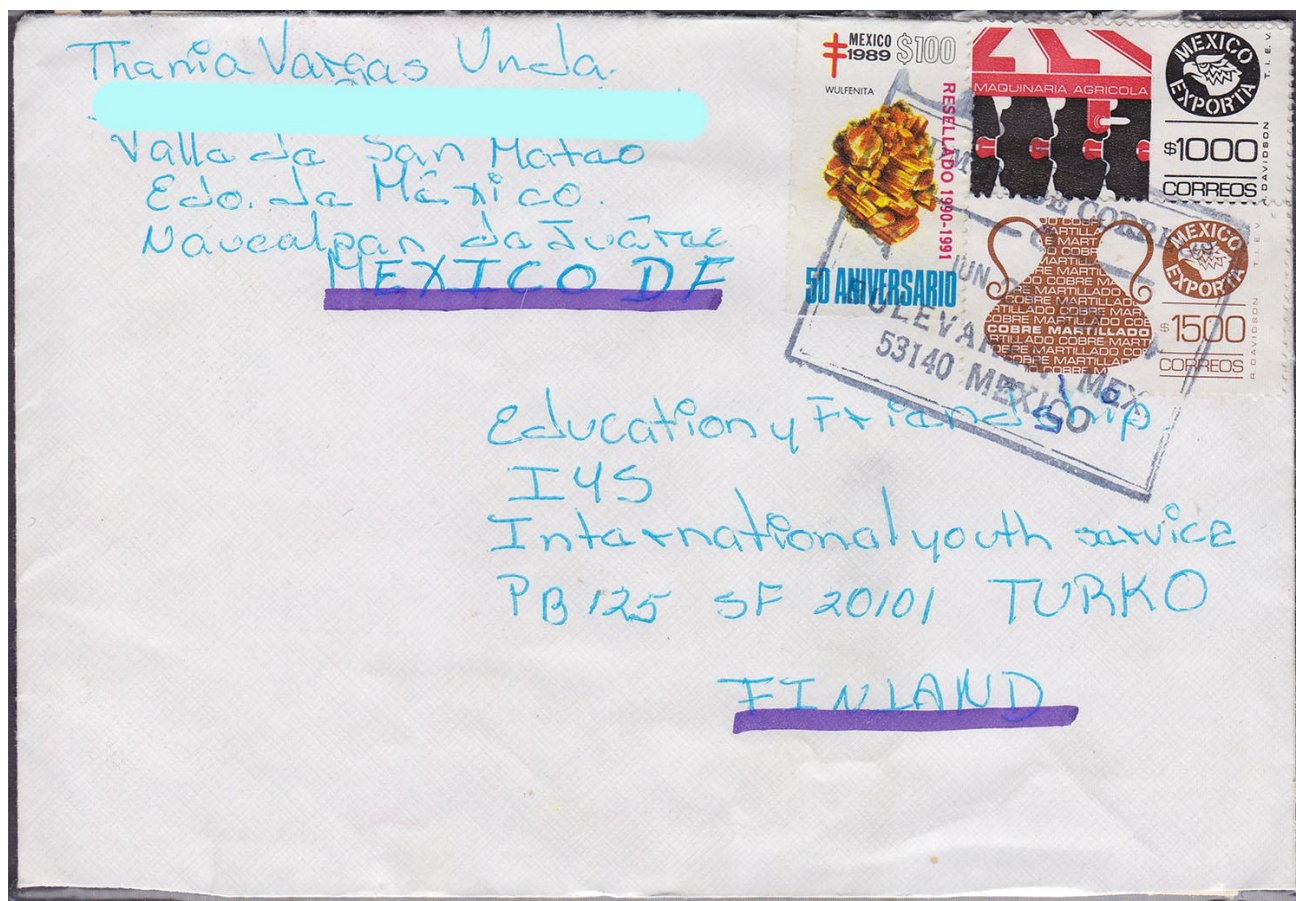
Netherlands/pers. Amethyst (1)



Slovenia/pers. ?Bauxite (B)



India/pers. Diamond



Mexico/non-postage. Wulfenite (100)



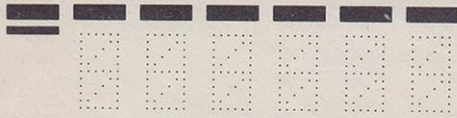
Герой Советского Союза
генерал-полковник В. Н. КОМАРОВ
1904—1976



Куда

Кому

Ураган, М. В. Б. л.
Кемешабо
до ботриб. Года Р.
Индекс предприятия связи и адрес отправителя
Нахичевань,
ул. Хокмел 6-17
Чопро А. С.



Пишите индекс предприятия связи места назначения

FALSE !



Куда

Кому

В. Дубов
ул. 19, 2000 Вильнюс, Литва



Пишите индекс предприятия связи места назначения

Индекс предприятия связи и адрес отправителя

Еврейская р.
Л. Бурдигал
ул. Мадрида 9-2
Миротвор Б. С.

former Soviet republics

Belarus has made a mark on the topic over the years of its independence, both in terms of mineral issues and in terms of several related ones.

Kazakhstan has shown considerable activity, as would be expected based on the state of its mineral resource base.

The Central Asian republics participated in different ways. Kyrgyz minerals are reflected quite decently on stamps. In recent years, in addition to the state postal service, the Kyrgyz Express Post has also issued its own stamps with minerals. Uzbekistan has only joined the subject in recent years, when the circulation of letter post has dried up, while the only Tajik issue was made just after the civil war and was probably not imported into the country at all.

Georgian, Armenian and Azerbaijani issues from nineties and early noughties are well known to collectors, but almost never circulated. In recent years Armenia has issued a standard representing the stamps of the ancient state of Urartu, made from a variety of rocks.

However, out of all the other former USSR republics two consecutive (2009 and 2010) miniature sheets of Ukraine should be given the highest score.



The Baltic states of Latvia and Lithuania, due to their almost complete lack of mineral resources, illustrated the theme almost exclusively with amber, crumbs of which are brought to them by the sea surf.

Of the other post-Soviet states, Estonia and Moldova were very sparse. It is Turkmenistan only, which did not fit into the theme at all.



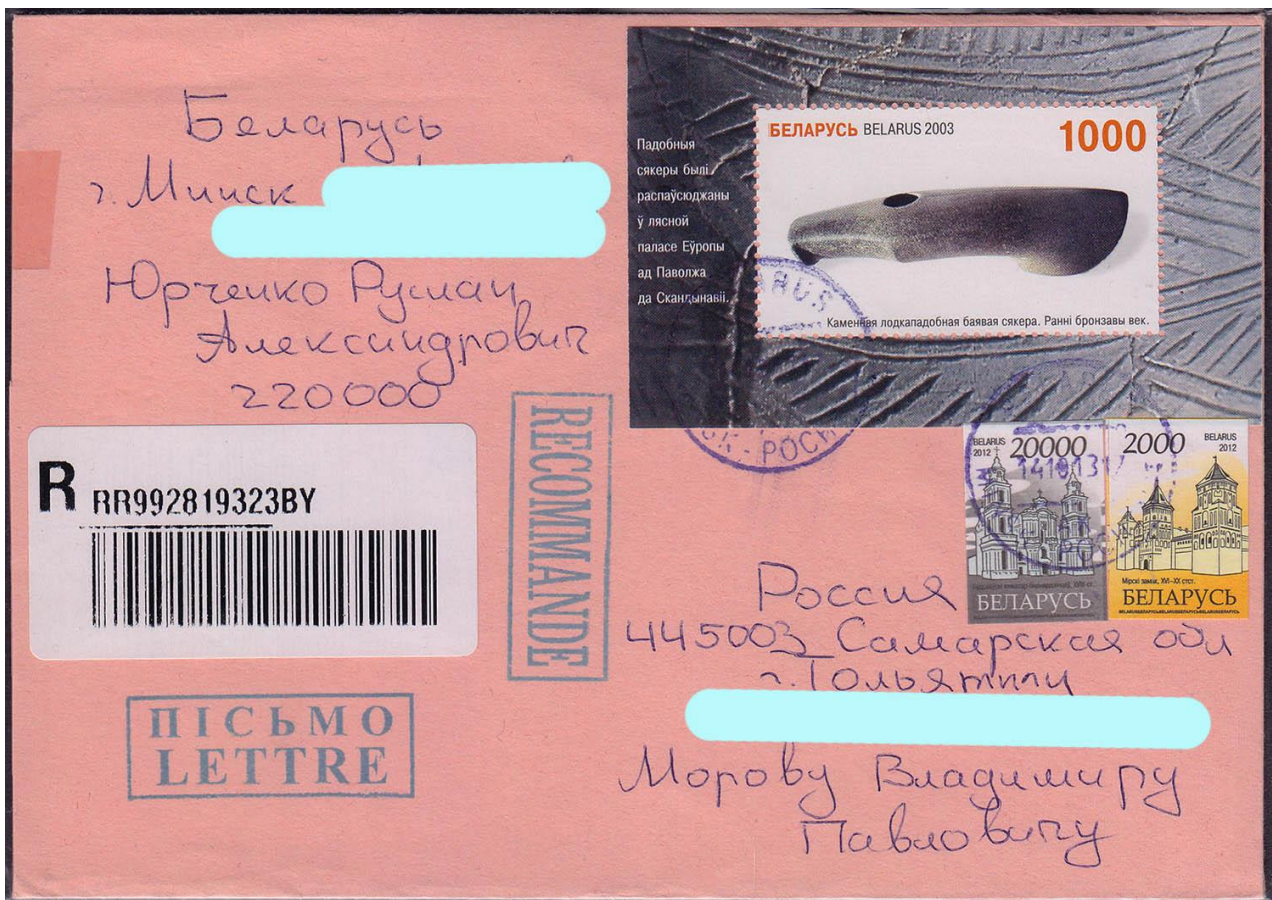
Belarus. Gemstones



Belarus. Gemstones



Belarus. Gemstones



Belarus. ?Sandstone



Lithuania. Amber



Lithuania. Amber (left, in the background)



Lithuania. Amber (1.55; margin)



Latvia. Amber



Moldova. Gemstones



Georgia. Gemstones (left: 20, 30, 40). (right): quartz/rock crystal (10), chalcedony/agate + quartz/amethyst (20), auripigment (30), realgar + auripigment (50)



Armenia. Basalt (0.40)



Armenia. Chalcedoni/agate

«Ղազարյան ընդ Փարթնըրս»
փաստաբանական գրասենյակ
ք.Երևան, Պոռչյան 2/1



«Մեկտ» հասարակական
Կ. Գ. Կեան, Օգոստոսի և 5 շաբաթ
բանաճ

Armenia. Serpentinite (50), agalmatolite (70)

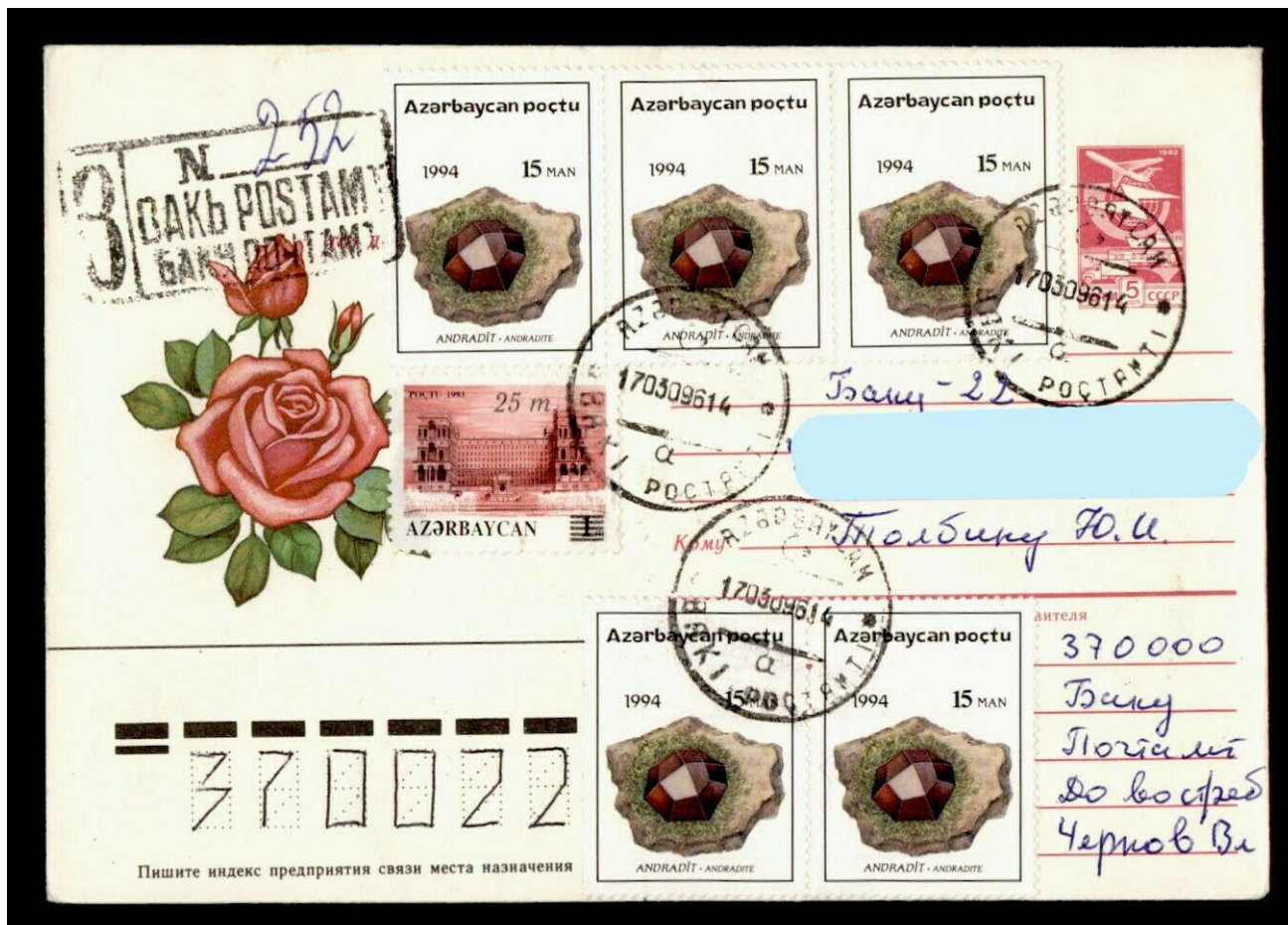
Կենտրոն Տեղյան 3, տարածք 39 «Մեյֆ»
ՍՊԸ

RR



23. Մալաթիա-Մեբաստիա
Ա-2 թ, Օհանովի 5 2
համատիրություն «Մակու»

Armenia. Chalcedoni (10), agalmatolite (70)



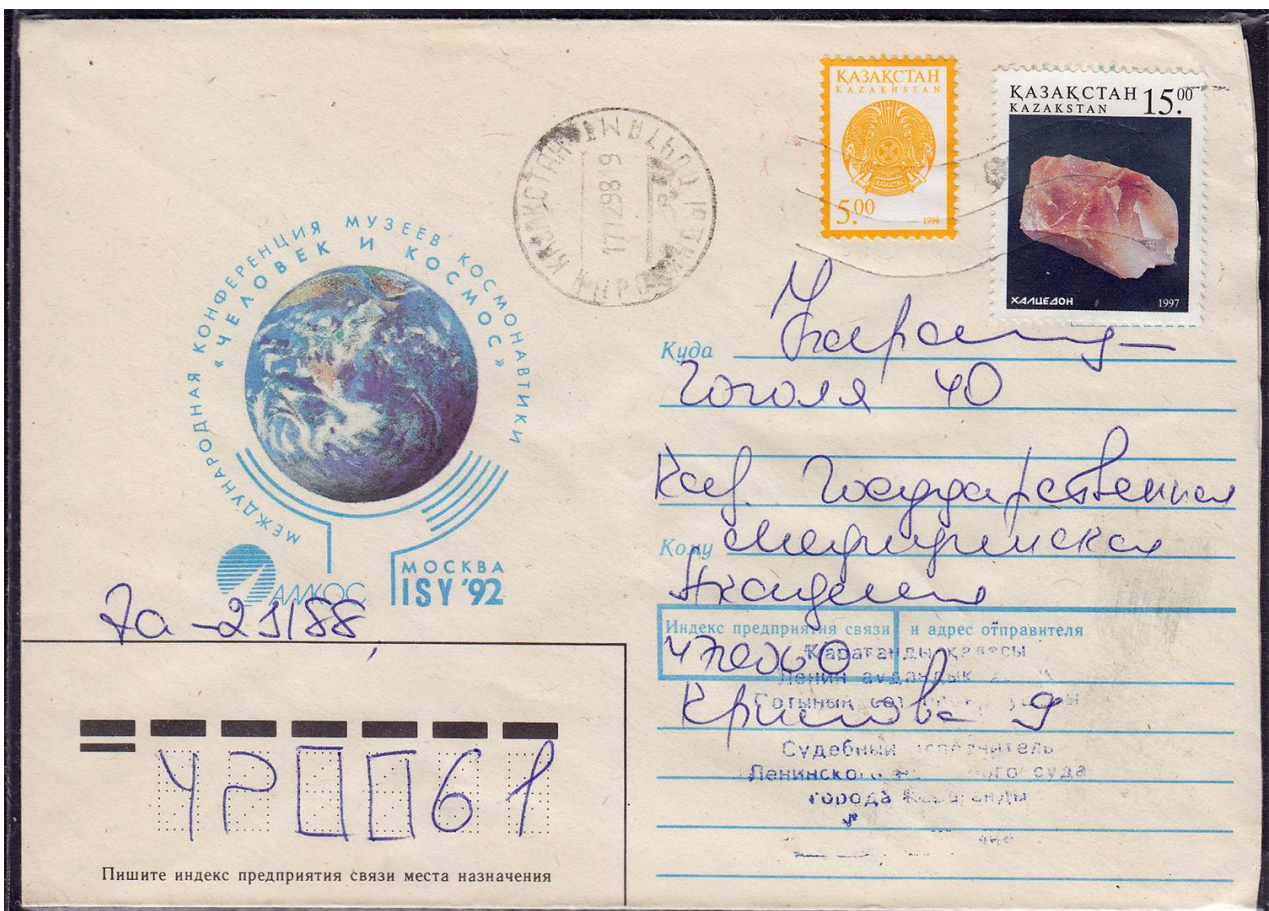
Azerbaijan. Andradite (15)



Kazakhstan. Azurite + malachite



Kazakhstan. Chalcedoni/moss agate (15)



Kazakhstan. Chalcedoni (15)



Kazakhstan. ?Chalcedoni/carnelian (30), diopase (50), chalcedoni/carnelian agate (70)



Kazakhstan. Chalcedoni/carnelian + turquoise (upper)



Kyrgyzstan. Native gold



Kyrgyzstan. Quartz/amethyst (36), zircon (46), tourmaline (98)



Uzbekistan. Corundum/ruby



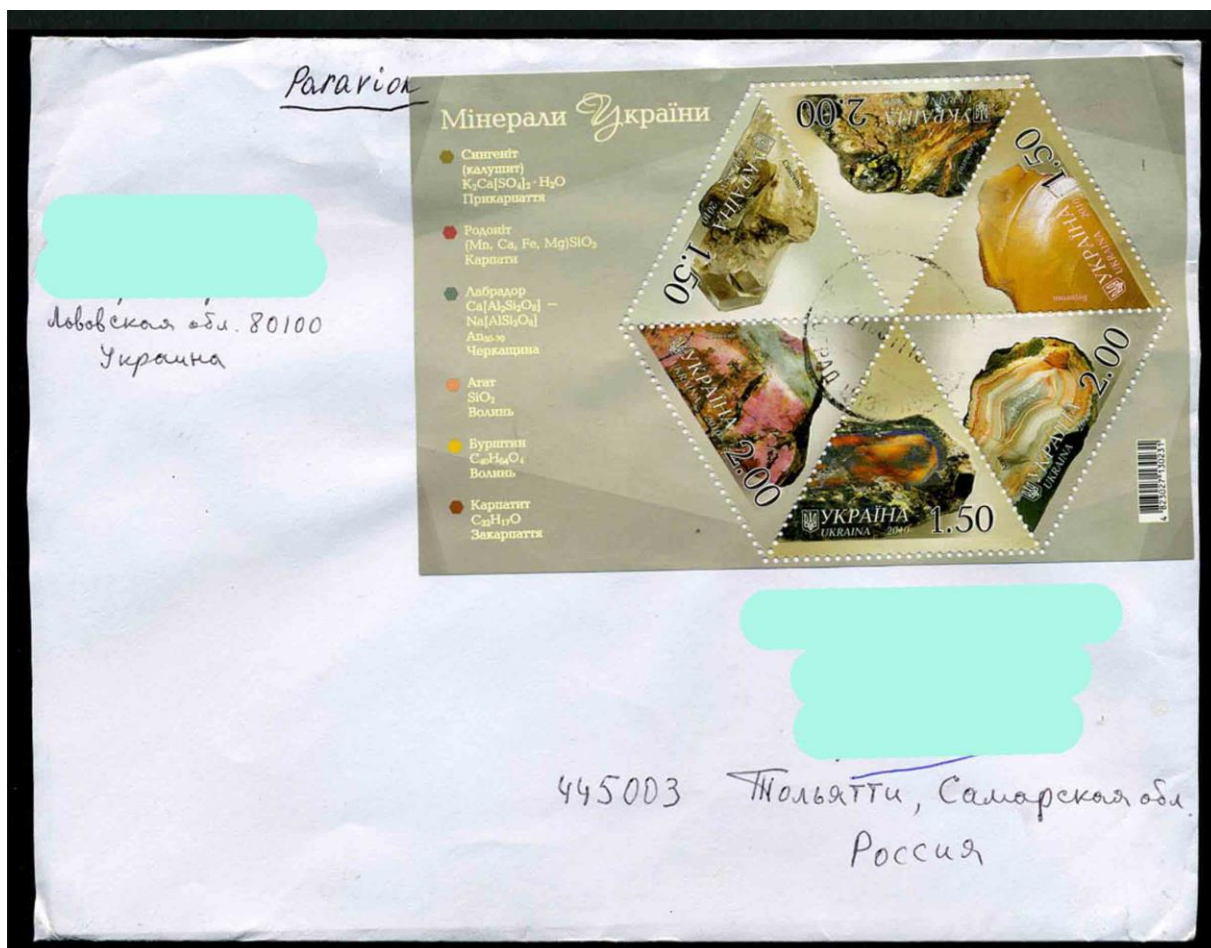
Uzbekistan. Fluorite + calcite (1800), calcite/marble onyx (3700), turquoise (6500 ; 10700). Gemstones (15)



Ukraine. Lazurite (upper left)



Ukraine. (from upper left clockwise): Quartz, native sulphur, topaz, beryl, quartz/tiger's eye, vivianite/kerchenite



Ukraine. (from upper left clockwise): syncheneite, labrador, amber, rhodonite, chalcedony/agate, carpathite



Ukraine. Beryl (4), amber (V)

MINERALS AND GEMSTONES ON THE ADDRESSED CORRESPONDENCE OVER THE WORLD

@ Vladimir Morov, Russia, Togliatti

(part 2)



Russia, 2018. Emerald (27, left)

SELECTED MINERALOGICAL OBJECTS

As there is never much exhibition space, several mineral forms were chosen to illustrate a particular theme on the world's postal items. Samples of these (mainly from the Middle Volga and the Urals) can be seen live in the showcase.

Emerald (variety of beryl) $\text{Al}_2\text{Be}_3[\text{Si}_6\text{O}_{18}]$

Emerald is the bright green variety of the mineral beryl. Its colouring is caused by impurities of chromium (vanadium in African deposits), and such combinations are very rare in geological settings.

It has been used for centuries as a valuable jewelry stone, and even a special "emerald" cut has been devised for it. Several countries have established the production of synthetic emeralds, which are increasingly difficult to distinguish from natural ones in spectral studies.

The most famous emerald mines on the planet are in Colombia, which also leads in their extraction, while the highest quality emeralds are mined in Zambia. Brazil, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Madagascar, Nigeria, Afghanistan and Pakistan also have considerable reserves. Small deposits and occurrences are also known in other countries.

In Russia, emeralds are received from the Malyshevskoe deposit, near Ekaterinburg, discovered in 1831. Stones of good quality are extremely rare here; most are only suitable for cutting into cabochons. In contrast, the pure bluish-green emeralds from the Urals are regarded as one of the finest and most valuable stones in the world.

The cutting and polishing of emeralds is mainly concentrated in Israel (raw material of medium and high quality) and India (cheap, low-quality raw material). Small cutting facilities are available in Germany and have been established in Russia.



Russia, 2018



Russia, 2017



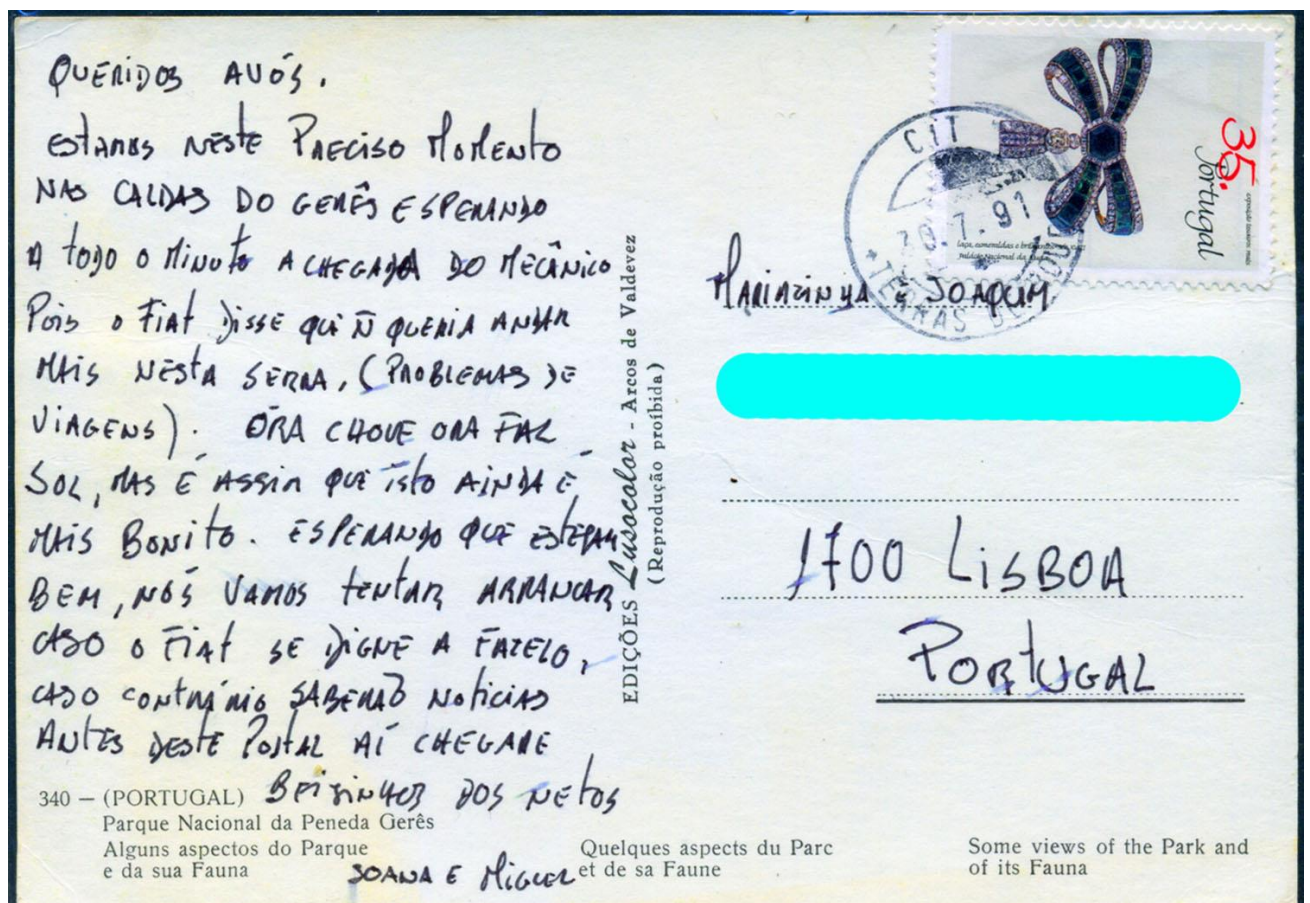
Germany, FR, 1987



Germany, 2012



Italy, 2009



Portugal, 1991



France, 2016



Israel, 1981 (right)



Southern Rhodesia, 1964



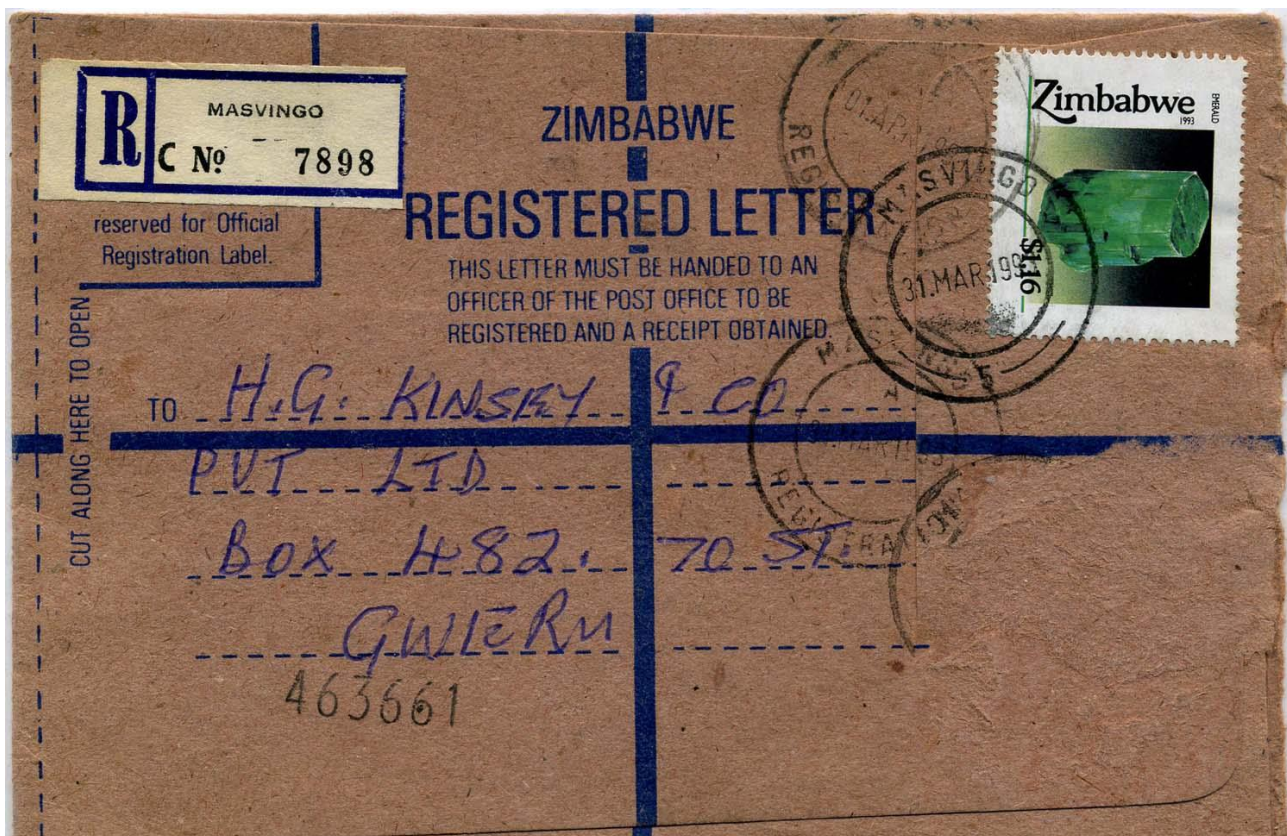
Rhodesia, 1966



Rhodesia, 1966 (1st edition printed in the UK)



Rhodesia, 1966 (2nd edition printed in the Rhodesia)



Zimbabwe, 1993



Zimbabwe, 2002



Austria/pers., 2004



Austria/pers., 2016



Uganda, 1988



Mozambique, 1987



Mozambique, 1998



India, 2000 (centre)



Jordan, 2013



Guinea Bissau, 2016 (right)



Sao Tome and Principe, 2007



Colombia, 1932



Colombia, 1972 (1.10), 2010 (5000)



Colombia, 1972 (1.10), 1989 (110), 2006 (2000)



Brazil, 1977



Bermuda, 1969



Cayman Islands, 1974 (8; 9)



Cambodia, 1998 (1000)

Calcium carbonate

CaCO_3

(Calcite, Aragonite)

This chemical compound is represented in nature by two minerals, calcite and aragonite. Both have the formula CaCO_3 , but aragonite is formed at higher temperatures or pressures. At normal temperature, aragonite slowly rearranges its crystal lattice and turns into calcite, but this process can be halted by some impurities.

"Icelandic spar", ideal calcite crystals (especially from Iceland and Eastern Siberia) are used in optical instruments. Aragonite is part of pearls. The ornamental stone is carbonate ("marble") onyx, based on both minerals.

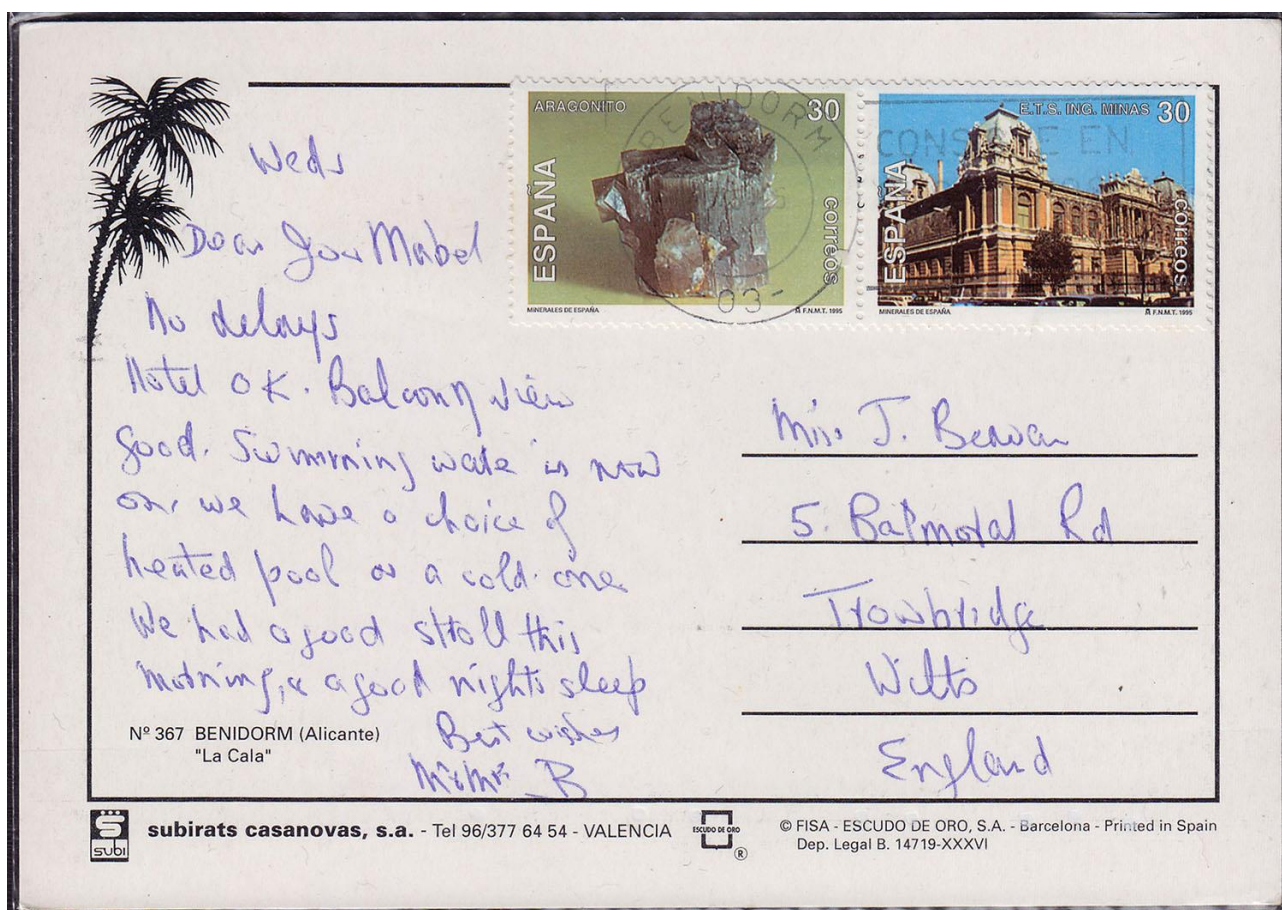
On the territory of the Samara Region, beautiful calcite crystals are abundant in limestones of the Zhiguli and Sokol'i mountains and some other places. Aragonite is known here in the form of paramorphosis only, when the crystal form is still aragonite, but the composition is already calcite.

Calcite is not only naturally occurring in the form of crystals, but it is also found wholly or partially in a number of rocks. Of these, limestone is the most common, and marble is formed when subjected to high temperatures and pressures. Both are used as a raw material in chemistry and metallurgy, as building stone and facing stone, while marble is also used as an ornamental stone. The examples of marble products on the world's postage stamps are innumerable, and so as not to 'flood' the collection, their presence has had to be severely restricted.





Germany, DR, 1969. Calcite



Spain, 1995. Aragonite



Hungary, 1969. Calcite (0.60, yellow)



Hungary, 1999. Calcite (27)



Hungary, 2013. Calcite



Slovakia, 1997. Calcite (6), aragonite (8)



Bulgaria, 1995. Calcite (5)



Romania, 2010. Calcite (2.40)



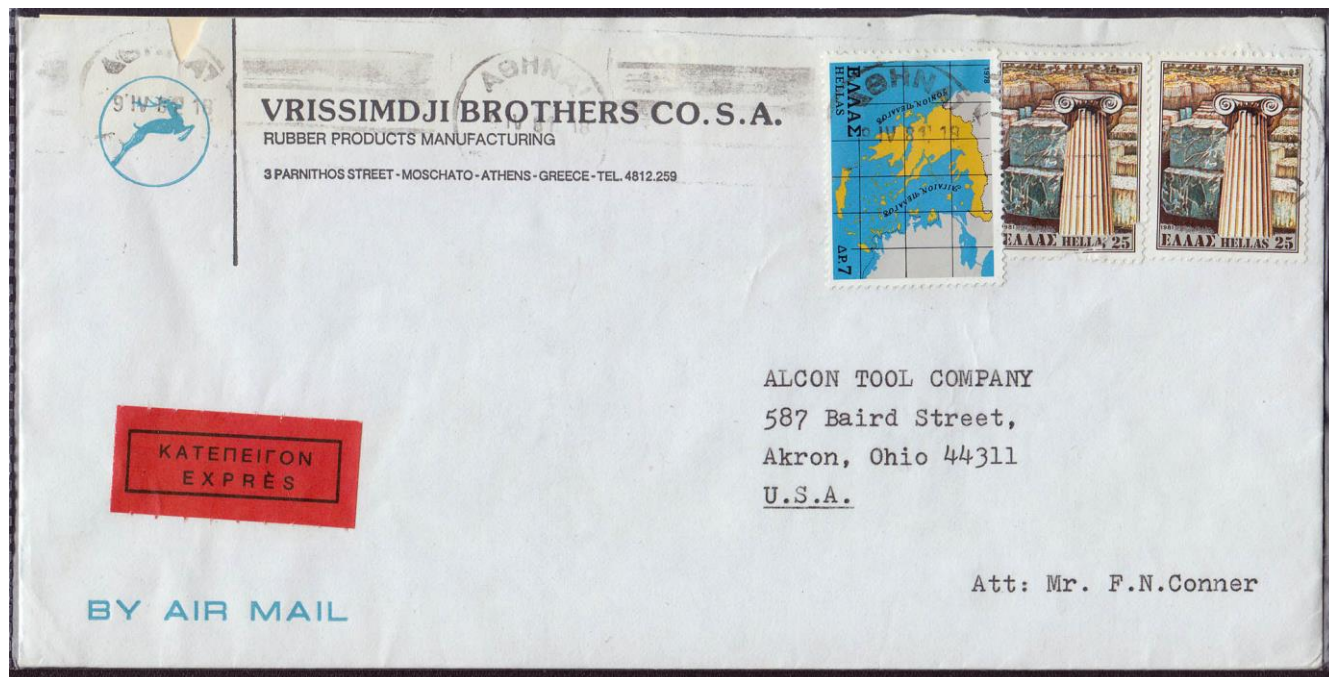
Romania, 2010. Calcite (0.50)



Romania, 2010. Calcite (both, + other minerals)



Bosnia and Gercegovina, Serbian, 2001. Calcite (right)



Greece, 1981. Marble



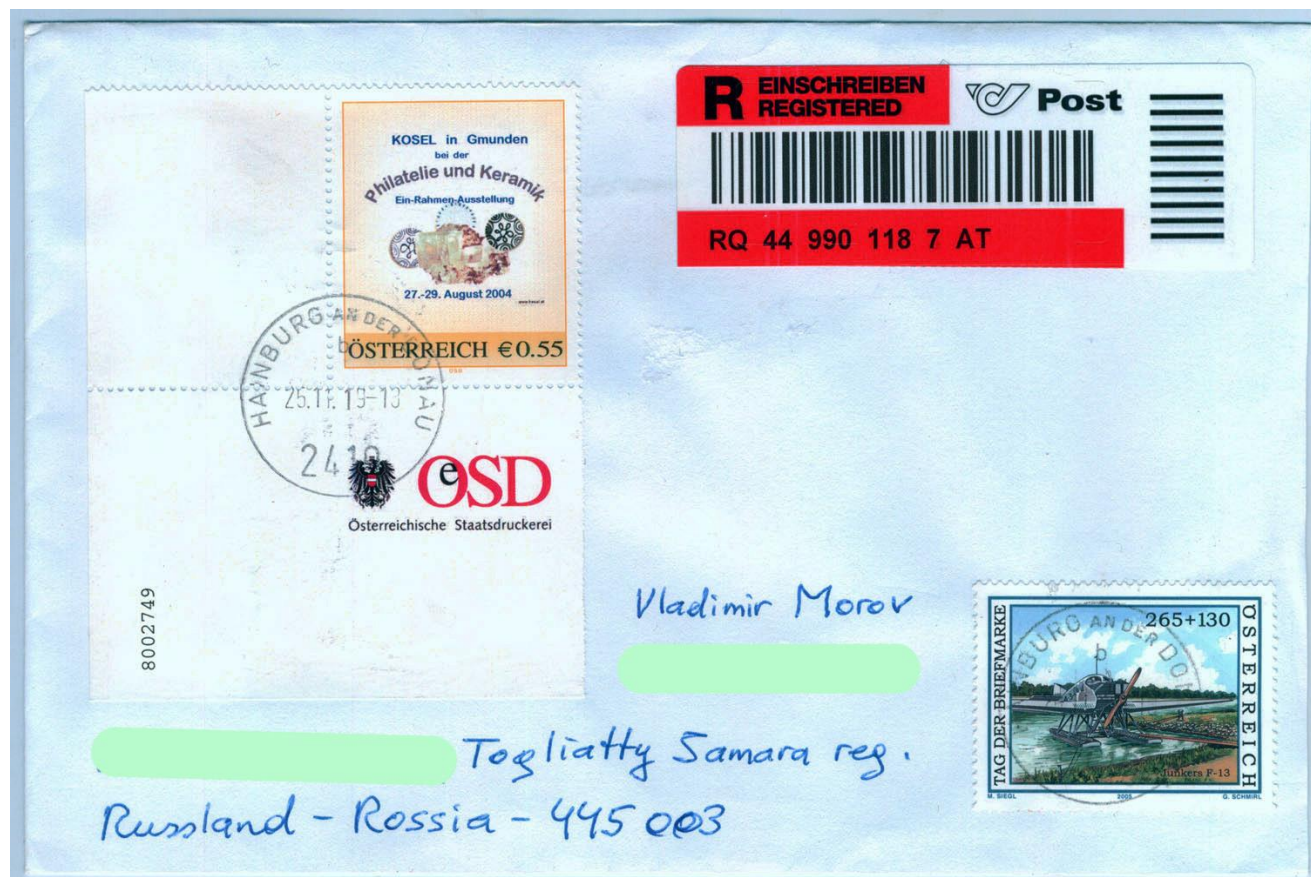
Liechtenstein, 1989. Calcite



Austria, 1984. Aragonite (3.50)



Austria/pers., 2004. Calcite



Austria/pers., 2004. ?Calcite



Belgium, 2003. Calcite (bottom)



Italy, 2003. Marble



Portugal, 1977. Marble



Portugal, 2010. Marble



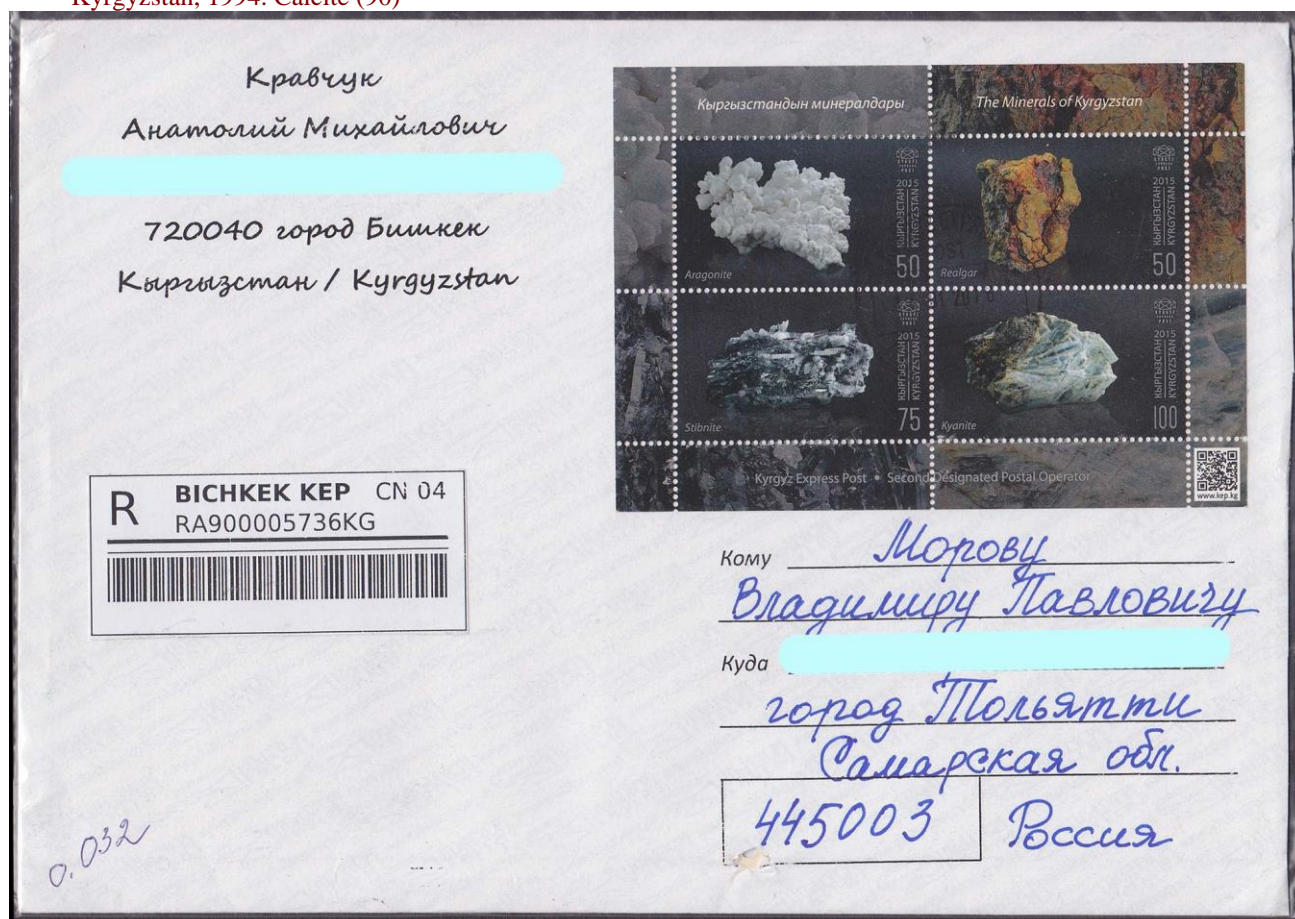
France/FSAT, 1990. Aragonite



Iceland, 1999. Calcite (40)



Kyrgyzstan, 1994. Calcite (90)



Kyrgyzstan/KEP, 2010. Aragonite (50, left)



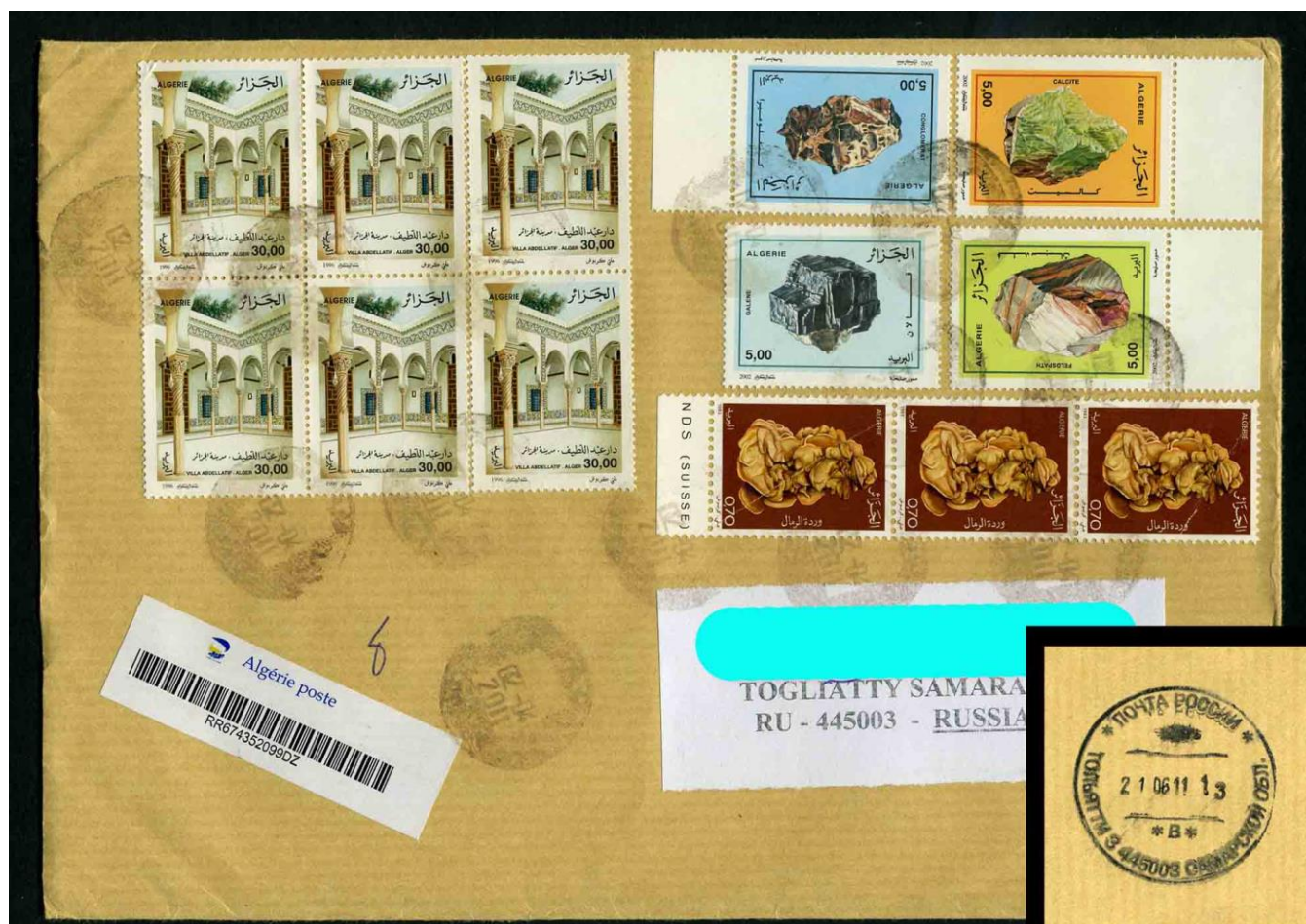
Korea, DPR, 2002. Calcite



China, Taiwan, 2010. Aragonite



Morocco, 1975. Aragonite



Algeria, 2002. Calcite (top right)



Ethiopia, 2004. Marble



Madagascar, 1976. Aragonite



Madagascar, 1971: Calcite (12). 1974: Marble (25).



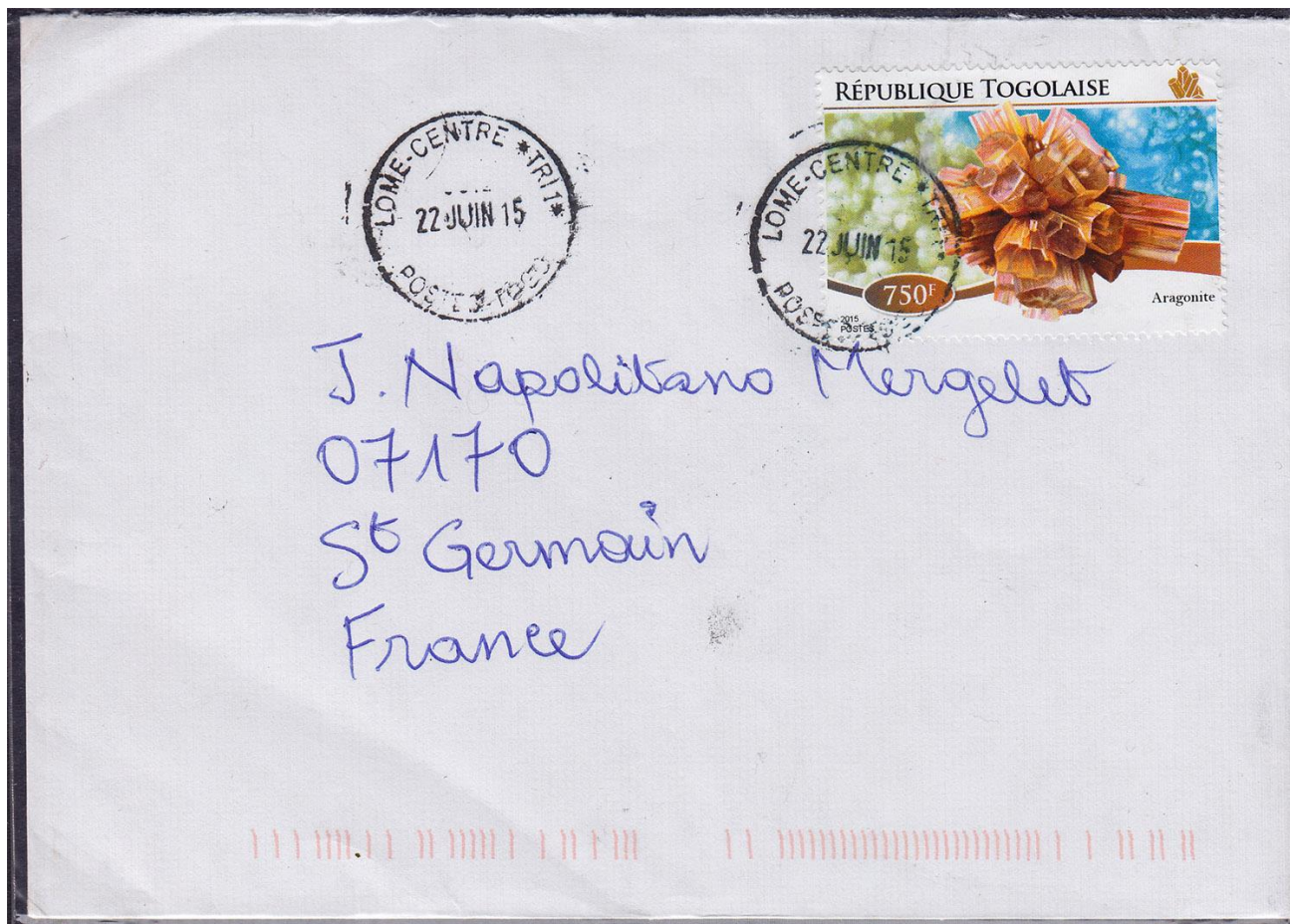
Madagascar, 1974. Marble



Togo, 2011. Calcite (white)



Togo, 2013. Calcite



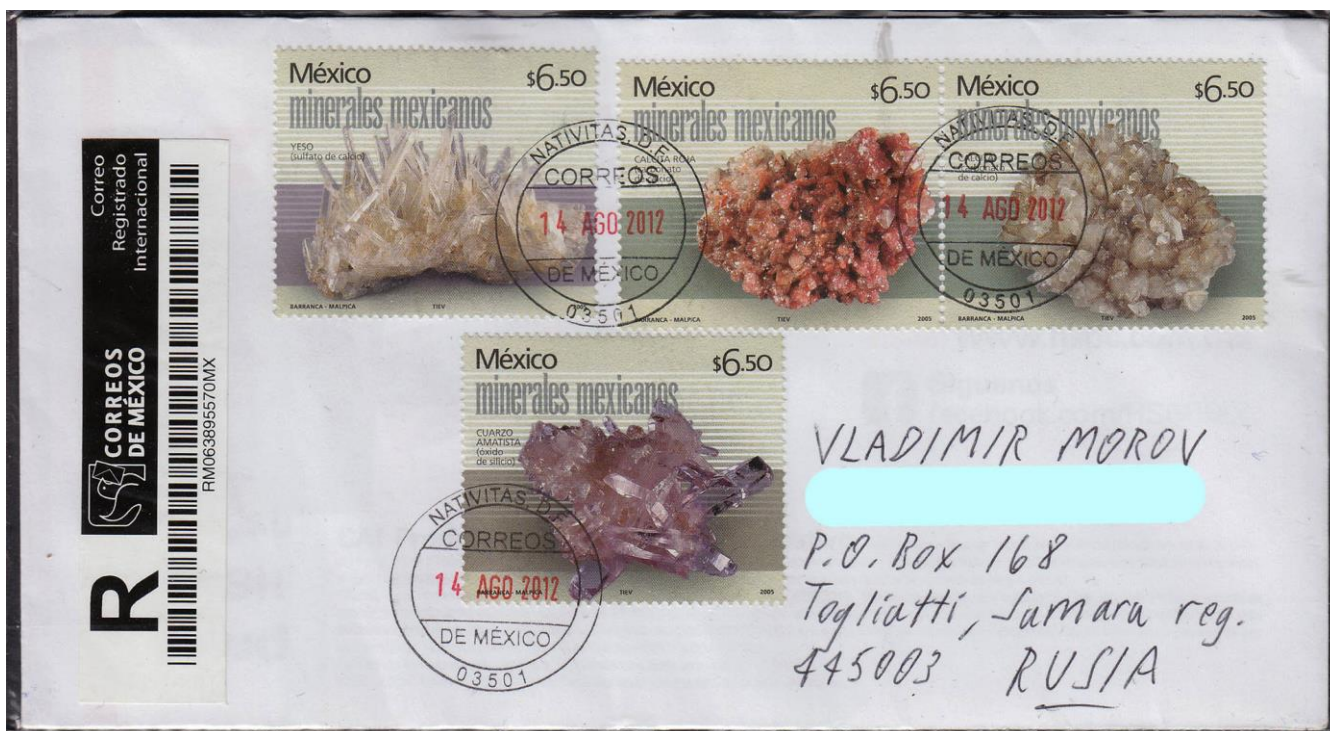
Togo, 2015. Aragonite



Guinea, 1998. Calcite



Tristan da Cunha, 1978. Aragonite



Mexico, 2005. Calcite (top center, right)



A new series is planned in a few months.
Welcome!



Photos by Roman Gunchin, Ekaterina Guseva, Tatiana Varenova

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